

Simple Software to Demonstrate Changes in Allele Frequency

Susan M. Schenk

Joint Science Department, Claremont Colleges
925 N. Mills Ave, Claremont, CA 91711-5916
sschenk@jsd.claremont.edu

A fast, simple program was written in DOS (author: John Moeur) to allow our Introductory Biology students to simulate the effect of changes in population size, initial value of q , selection against different genotypes, and breeding ratio on the frequency of alleles in a population. The program includes genetic drift in all simulations and maintains a constant population size during each simulation. The students collect and graph the data needed to answer a set of standard questions and one of their own devising. The program is used in conjunction with a set of problems which require the students to calculate values for allele and genotype frequencies in populations which follow the Hardy-Weinberg model.