**A note on *Sxl* nomenclature regarding Bloomington's "*Sxlfs3*" line:**

As noted above, we use the *Sxlf18* designation for what you carry as a "*Sxlfs3*" stock (your #4594). Those who named *Sxlfs3* in 1990 (Oliver, Pauli and Mahowald, Genetics **125:**535), did so on the basis of their observation that mutant females are viable but sterile, and (as evidenced by clonal analysis) that the allele was defective in female germline function. Their naming took place two years before a new simplified *Sxl* allele naming convention was published in 1992 that we devised at the request of Dan Lindsley, a convention that eliminated the "female-sterile" designation that had already been used earlier by Hermann Muller himself in what turned out to be an unhelpful way. Unfortunately, some continued to use the *Sxlfs3* designation even after 1992 without ever articulating any objections to the new rules, and despite the fact that our renaming of Muller's "original" female-sterile allele, *Sxlfs1*, as *Sxlf2*, had been accepted. We gave *Sxlfs3* a standard "f" designation (*f18*) in 2002 (Starr, D. and T.W. Cline, Nature **414:** 76-79) when we ourselves published on (including a description of its molecular nature).

I came up with *Sxl* allele nomenclature conventions at the request of Dan Lindsley when he was revising the original "Red Book" of Drosophila genetic changes (published finally in 1992, although in progress for many years before that). He asked me to devise a set of consistent standardized nomenclature conventions for *Sxl* mutant alleles. After considerable thought and experience, I decided the best approach -- given the complexity of this gene and the processes that it controls -- was to limit the amount of information carried by the allele designation. I decided it best that the only information conveyed by the *Sxl* allele designation would be whether the allele was of the dominant haplo-X-specific-deleterious (gain-of-function) type ("M" for male-specific), or of the recessive, diplo-X-specific-deleterious (loss-of-function) type ("f" for female-specific). We added an "Mf" designation in 1999 (PNAS **96:** 14451-14458) to cover bizarrely complex mutant alleles that disrupted both male and female development (partial gain-of-function AND partial loss-of-function).

Our experience with the "original" female-sterile allele, *Sxlfs1*, which we ultimately renamed *Sxlf2*, informed our decision to limit naming in this way. Early on we discovered that what Muller had called a "female-sterile" mutant allele was simply a hypomorph that was defective with respect to a variety of both somatic and germline *Sxl* functions -- not at all germline (or even ovary) specific. Hence, the sterility of adult diplo-X mutant escapers was not a particularly informative aspect of its phenotype. Bloomington is currently using our simplified nomenclature for this mutant allele (stock #4593), as well that for *Sxlf4* and *Sxlf5* (#4597 & #4598), names we used for two other "female sterile" alleles whose phenotype resembles that of *Sxlfs3*. The problem is that "female sterility" can be caused by a wide variety of defects. Even if one wanted to draw attention to alleles that only affect *Sxl* germline function, establishing that ONLY germline function is affected is a non-trivial endeavor on which few are likely to embark. Ironically it was we who determined that the sterility *Sxlf18-fs3* is indeed ONLY due to its defects in female germline functioning (Sun and Cline, Genetics 181:1291), but even having done so, I remain convinced of the wisdom of this simplified approach to *Sxl* allele naming.

All that said, I have to confess that with modern computers and search programs, ans with the comprehensive "synonym" section of FlyBase available, such naming inconsistencies aren't nearly as much of a hurdle as they might have been back in 1992.