

GENETIC VARIATION IN CARNATIONS; COLOR PATTERNS OF PETALS, NUMBER OF BUDS AND THE ARRANGEMENT OF FLOWER BUDS ON THE STEMS

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In segregation populations of carnations, new phenotypes were observed;

1. Plants with new patterns of colors which resemble the wing colors of exotic butterflies. These color combinations are based on variation in shape of the basal macule, and central spot on the petals, and their combinations with various colors and shades.

2. The number of flower buds per stem, before disbudding, varied from one to 30 and even more.

3. The variation in the arrangement of flower buds on the stem included standard and spray types. However, we also found stems with Clustered-Head of 2flowers, Cluster-Head-Spray, and even Compositated-Cluster-Head-Spray. Some genotypes had flowers' arrangement on very short secondary stems, giving a gladiolus type inflorescence.

These genetic variations will be presented, and its potential use for the creation of new cultural type and cultivars of carnations will be discussed.