Classical and Molecular Genetic Studies of the Strong Greenish Yellow Seedcoat Color in ‘Wagenaar’ and ‘Enola’ Common Bean

Mark J. Bassett¹
Horticultural Sciences Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

Rian Lee,² Carla Otto,³ and Phillip E. McClean¹
Department of Plant Sciences, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105-5051

ABSTRACT. Inheritance of the strong greenish-yellow (SGY) seedcoat color in ‘Wagenaar’ common bean (Phaseolus vulgaris L.) was investigated. Line 5-593 is a determinate, Florida dry bean breeding line (with small black seeds) used as the recurrent parent in the development of many genetic stocks, e.g., g b v BC; 5-593. Through crosses with genetic tester stocks, the seedcoat genotype of ‘Wagenaar’ was confirmed to be C J g b v Rk. Three randomly amplified polymorphic DNA markers (OAP7850, OAP31400, and OU14950) that cosegregated with the G seedcoat color locus were developed from the F2 population derived from the cross g b v BC; 5-593 x G b v BC; 5-593. From the cross ‘Wagenaar’ x g b v BC; 5-593, 80 F2 plants were classified into 54 non-SGY and 16 SGY seedcoat color plants. When the OAP7850 marker was applied to that population, linkage was not observed with the non-SGY and SGY phenotypes. Conversely, a molecular marker (OAP12400, that was developed from the F2 from the cross ‘Wagenaar’ x g b v BC; 5-593) linked to the locus controlling the SGY phenotype segregated independently of the G locus. Therefore, SGY phenotype is not controlled by the G locus. An F3 progeny test of 76 F2 plants from the cross ‘Wagenaar’ x g b v BC; 5-593 confirmed the hypothesis that a single recessive gene (for which we propose the symbol gy) controls the seedcoat color change from pale greenish yellow (PGY) to SGY. Through crosses with genetic tester stocks, the seedcoat genotype of ‘Enola’ was determined to be C J g b v Rk. The test cross ‘Enola’ x ‘Wagenaar’ demonstrated that ‘Enola’ also carries the gy gene. The relationship of ‘Enola’ to the ‘Mayocoba’ market class of common bean and to ‘Azufredo Peruano 87’ is discussed.

Prakken (1970) summarized the genetics of seedcoat colors in common bean (Phaseolus vulgaris) other than red colors, and he reconciled the various systems of gene symbols used by various researchers. Subsequently, Prakken (1972) published his extensive work with red seedcoat colors and organized the entire body of seedcoat color genetics (Prakken, 1970, 1972) into two tables, one for the yellow-black series of colors and the other (a text table) for the red colors. One of the colors in the first table is pale greenish yellow (canary), which was also called schamois by Lamprecht (1932). The genotype of pale greenish yellow is P C J g b v Rk. The seedcoat color investigated in the present paper is a very much more intense color, which we will designate as strong greenish yellow (SGY).

The seedcoat genotype of ‘Wagenaar’ was studied by Prakken (1940) in the cross ‘Wagenaar’ x ‘Citroen’ and found to be P C D J g b v (using the gene symbols of Prakken, 1970). In subsequent work, Prakken (1972) used ‘Wagenaar’ in two diadelot crossing sets of four parents each, and he analyzed the 12 resulting F2 progenies. This work confirmed the previous genotype for seedcoat color, which is described as “shiny pale greenish yellow” with purple corona. The purple corona trait is controlled by the lae gene (Bassett, 1995a).

Prakken (1940) described ‘Wagenaar’ as a two-toned seedcoat (canary and schamois), which he interpreted as being always typical of the seedcoat genotype P C J g b v (or v<sup>lae</sup>). The senior author of this paper has never observed expression of the canary yellow seedcoat color in the genetic stock g b v BC; 5-593, which he describes as (very) pale greenish yellow (PGY). In this paper the canary color of Prakken (1940) will be called SGY.

When ‘Wagenaar’ is grown in the greenhouse at Gainesville, Fla., or Fargo, N. Dak., the distribution of SGY on the seedcoats of ‘Wagenaar’ is often incomplete, i.e., part of the seedcoat has PGY and the remainder SGY. Our observations for two-toned color pattern are the same as those of Prakken (1940), but our genetic interpretation is different. We hypothesize that the genotype C J g b v gives schamois to (very) pale greenish yellow, but never the SGY color (canary) that Prakken (1940) observed in ‘Wagenaar.’ Furthermore, we hypothesize that an independent gene (tentative symbol Gy) with variable expressivity intensifies PGY to SGY in ‘Wagenaar.’ The same SGY color of ‘Wagenaar’ occurs with variable expressivity in the ‘Mayocoba’ market class of dry (common) bean (Bassett, unpublished observation). ‘Enola’, a patented dry bean cultivar, also has the SGY color with variable expressivity as shown in the color photograph included in the patent (Proctor, 1999). Therefore, the objectives of this work were to 1) determine the inheritance of SGY seedcoat color, 2) reexamine the full seedcoat genotype of ‘Wagenaar’, 3) test alternative hypotheses that propose that SGY is produced either by a mutant allele at the G (yellow seed color) locus or by a gene independent of G, using a combination of classical and molecular genetic approaches, 4) determine the seedcoat genotype of ‘Enola’ and the ‘Mayocoba’ market class, and 5) discuss the claims of the ‘Enola’ patent in relation to the findings of this paper.

Materials and Methods

Eight genes control seedcoat color in common bean, and very complicated epistatic interactions occur among those genes.
For this paper, only a brief introduction to the genetics of seedcoat color is needed. The cultivars tested in this paper all carried the dominant (wild type) allele at the P, C, J, and Rk loci, and those dominant alleles do not alter the color. Similarly, the cultivars tested all carried the recessive r allele at the R locus for dominant red color, which is closely linked to C. The genes G, B, and V are color modifying genes: G (from Gelbe, a German word) for yellow with G b v, B for mineral brown with G B v, and V for violet to black (anthocyanin pigments) with G B V. With g b v, the seedcoat is nearly colorless, shamois to (very) pale greenish yellow or cream color. This paper presents evidence for a ninth seedcoat color gene expressing SGY in the P [C r] J g b v Rk genetic background.

Seeds of ‘Wagenaar’ were obtained from H. Dijkstra, Collection Manager, Centre for Genetic Resources, Wageningen, The Netherlands. Prakken (1940) described a difference in the color of ‘Wagenaar’ (between the hilum side and the opposite dorsal (and lateral) side of the seed) as being characteristic. The hilum (ventral) side was canary yellow, whereas the dorsal side was shamois. The two color zones were not sharply separated, and transitional colors occurred. Prakken (1940) goes on to comment, “The canary yellow is extremely variable in its extension, even in seeds on the same plant; sometimes it is nearly imperceptible or restricted to very small ventral spots in the region of the germ root and near the caruncula; in other cases nearly the whole seedcoat can show the color.” This exact and detailed description fits perfectly the observed seedcoat color of ‘Wagenaar’ when grown at Gainesville, Fla., or Fargo, N. Dak.

Seeds of the ‘Mayocoba’ market class were obtained from the Los Angeles market by a source that cannot be disclosed due to contractual agreement. Seeds of ‘Enola’ were obtained from Mark Brick, Colorado State University, Fort Collins. Our dry bean breeding line 5-593 (Florida) has small seed size, with shiny coat and pattern phenotypes of the parental, F1, F2, and F3 seed were recorded. Plants of ‘Mayocoba’ were grown in the greenhouse along side ‘Enola’ plants in 1999. Plant type and seed color data were recorded and used to further compare ‘Mayocoba’ and ‘Enola’.

Test crosses for allelism of the SGY seedcoat color were made between ‘Wagenaar’ x ‘Mayocoba’ and ‘Enola’ x ‘Wagenaar’, and the F1 progeny were grown in the greenhouse at Gainesville, Fla. Data were recorded on seedcoat color. From the cross ‘Enola’ x ‘Wagenaar’, seeds were harvested from 10 F2 plants (bulked seed) selected for full SGY seedcoat color development. The SGY seedcoat color was characterized using two methods: 1) the Munsell Book of Color (1966 edition, 2.5R-10G, Munsell Color Co., Inc., Baltimore, Md.) and 2) a chromameter (model CR-200; Minolta, Ramsey, N. J.). For the latter technique, a seed sample was placed on a black table top as background. Data were recorded for both methods of characterization of SGY color.

The cross ‘Wagenaar’ x g b v BC3 5-593 was made and 80 F2 plants were grown in the greenhouse at Fargo, N. Dak. All seeds from each F2 plant were harvested. The plants were also classified for flower color and seedcoat pattern. A complete genetic model for the phenotypic data was developed, and the genetic segregation data were analyzed using the orthogonal contrasts of Mather (1957). Genetic linkage was calculated by the maximum likelihood method and tables of Allard (1956).

All seeds from each F2 plant from the cross ‘Wagenaar’ x g b v BC3 5-593 began with a cross of ‘Calima’ ([C w] J g b v Rk) with G b v BC3 5-593 (Bassett, unpublished data). From this cross, a true breeding F3 progeny was developed with PGY seedcoat color ([C r] J g b v).

This F3 was crossed with G b v BC3 5-593 to create g b v BC3 5-593. In a similar manner, two additional backcrosses (with F2 selection in each cycle) to G b v BC3 5-593 were used to create g b v BC3 5-593 in Spring 1997.

Over the past several years, the genetic tester stocks P1, P2, P3, P4, and P5 (Table 1) were all crossed with ‘Wagenaar’, and the F1 progeny of the test crosses were grown in the greenhouse at Gainesville, Fla., to produce the most complete expression of the seedcoat genes involved. Data were recorded for flower color and seedcoat color and pattern of the F2 seed produced. During the greenhouse season of 1999–2000, ‘Enola’ was crossed with genetic tester stocks P1, P2, P3, and P5 (Table 1), and the F1 progeny of the test crosses were grown in the greenhouse at Gainesville, Fla. The F1 progeny of the ‘Enola’ test crosses were grown in the field in Spring 2000. Flower color and seedcoat color and pattern phenotypes of the parental, F1, F2, and F3 seed were recorded.

Table 1. Seedcoat phenotypes and genotypes of ‘Wagenaar’ and ‘Enola’ and the genetic stocks used in testcrosses to determine the seedcoat genotype of ‘Wagenaar’ and ‘Enola’ common bean.

| Parent no. | Stock name | Phenotype | Seedcoat color | Genotype | Reference |
|------------|------------|-----------|----------------|----------|-----------|
| P1         | Wagenaar   | Strong greenish yellow with purple corona | P C D J g b v<sup>sw</sup> | Prakken, 1972 |
| P2         | Enola      | Strong greenish yellow | Unknown |
| P3         | c bc 5-593 | Cartridge buff | P e D J G B V | Bassett, 1996a |
| P4         | c b v Rk 5-593 | Dark red kidney | P e D J G b v Rk<sup>4</sup> | Bassett, unpublished |
| P5         | [c R] b v BC3 5-593 | Oxblood red | P [c R] D J G b v | Bassett, 1996b |
| P6         | J BC3 5-593 | Dull dark purple with margo pattern<sup>3</sup> | P C D J G B V | Bassett, 1996a |
| P7         | d J BC3 5-593 | Dull dark purple with white hilum and corona | P C d J G B V | Bassett, 1996a |
| P8         | G b v BC3 5-593 | Yellow brown | P C D J G b v | Bassett, 1995b |
| P9         | g b v BC3 5-593 | Pale greenish yellow | P C D J g b v |

<sup>3</sup>Margo pattern has colored hilum ring, white (or nearly white) corona, and greater loss of dark purple color on the dorsal side of the seed than on the ventral side.
markers were developed from the F2 from the cross most closely resembling the bulked seed sample from selected F2 progenies grown, including a total of 670 plants. The mean F3 consisted of 8.8 plants, with the range of 1 to 27 plants.

Following the procedures of Brady et al. (1998), randomly amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) markers were developed for two seedcoat color genes: G and a putative new gene controlling SGY color and tentatively given the symbol Gy. The G locus markers were developed from the F2 from the cross g b v BC1 5-593 x G b v BC1 5-593 (P9). The genetic stock g b v BC1 5-593 is an earlier backcross version of P9 (Table 1). A RAPD marker for the Gy locus was developed from the F2 population of the ‘Wagenaar’ x g b v BC1 5-593 cross described above.

### Results and Discussion

#### Characterization of SGY seedcoat color

The observed color descriptors of the color tines in the Munsell Book of Color most closely resembling the bulk seed production of each plant was classified for seedcoat color by scoring all seeds individually. F2 plants that produced any seeds with SGY color were classified as SGY. There were 76 F3 progenies grown, including a total of 670 plants. The mean F3 consisted of 8.8 plants, with the range of 1 to 27 plants.

The next step was to develop a molecular marker linked to a gene for the SGY seedcoat color phenotype. One hypothesis suggested the novel seedcoat color phenotype was the result of a new gene that modified the PGY seedcoat color phenotype. Our first approach to testing the alternative hypotheses was to develop molecular markers linked to G and determine if they were linked to or cosegregated with the SGY phenotype.

### Table 2. Results of testcrosses between ‘Wagenaar’ common bean and a series of genetic stocks with known seedcoat genotypes.

| Testcross | Phenotype of seedcoats of seeds on F1 plants from the testcross |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| F1 x P9 | Black/cartridge buff marbled |
| F1 x P1 | Red/yellow brown (with red haze) mottle (subtle). At first glance the seed looks all red like the tester. A low contrast mottle pattern not typical for the C1/c1 interaction, i.e., this is a true C1/c1 mottle. |
| F1 x P5 | Pale violet/pale greenish yellow mottle; purple corona |
| F1 x P6 | Violet (yellow brown with reddish haze)/pale yellow brown mottle (very subtle); purple corona |
| F1 x P7 | Pale yellow brown, purple corona |
| F1 x P8 | Pale yellow brown, red mottle |
| F1 x P9 | Pale violet/pale greenish yellow mottle, purple corona |

The names, phenotypes, and genotypes of the parental lines (P9) are given in Table 1.

| Table 2. Results of testcrosses between ‘Wagenaar’ common bean and a series of genetic stocks with known seedcoat genotypes. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Testcross | Phenotype of seedcoats of seeds on F1 plants from the testcross |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| F1 x P9 | Black/cartridge buff marbled |
| F1 x P1 | Red/yellow brown (with red haze) mottle (subtle). At first glance the seed looks all red like the tester. A low contrast mottle pattern not typical for the C1/c1 interaction, i.e., this is a true C1/c1 mottle. |
| F1 x P5 | Pale violet/pale greenish yellow mottle; purple corona |
| F1 x P6 | Violet (yellow brown with reddish haze)/pale yellow brown mottle (very subtle); purple corona |
| F1 x P7 | Pale yellow brown, purple corona |
| F1 x P8 | Pale yellow brown, red mottle |
| F1 x P9 | Pale violet/pale greenish yellow mottle, purple corona |

Two seedcoat color genotypes, OAP7850, OAP31400, and OU14950, appear to cosegregate with G, and each individual lacking the fragment was the G− genotype, and each individual having the fragment was the G+ genotype. Recombination was not observed; and, therefore, the three marker fragments, OAP7850, OAP31400, and OU14950, appear to cosegregate with G. In addition, the three markers cosegregated with respect to each other.

### Table 3. Segregation for seedcoat color in F2 and F3 from the cross ‘Wagenaar’ x g b v BC1 5-593 (pale greenish yellow tester).

| F2 segregation | F3 segregation |
|----------------|----------------|
| No. of plants/ | No. of | 3:1 |
| plants | progenereses | P |
| 69 | 34 | 0.16 |
| 14 | 28 | 0.09 |

For the F2 segregation data 69 and 14, the (2.928, P = 0.09).

For the F3 segregation data 34, 28, and 14, the (15.79, P < 0.001).

GY = pale greenish yellow seedcoat. |

SGY = strong greenish yellow seedcoat.
the OAP12,∞10 marker was determined to be 7.5 cM. To further test the independence of G and the gene controlling the SGY phenotype, the G segregating population was scored with the OAP12,∞10 marker. The marker and the G locus segregated independently. These molecular genetic tests lead us to the conclusion that the SGY phenotype deriving from ‘Wagenaar’ is controlled by a genetic factor other than the G locus. At this point, the inheritance of this trait was studied in more detail.

‘Wagenaar’ test crosses. ‘Wagenaar’ was crossed to a series of genetic tester stocks with known genotypes. The F1 phenotypes (F1 seed) are described below (Table 2). The cross with P1 produced a marbled seedcoat with black and cartridge buff. The genetic interpretation is that ‘Wagenaar’ carries C (See, Bassett, 2000, Table 3, class 5). The interpretation of the test cross with P1 is limited to determining that ‘Wagenaar’ does not carry c or the classic c allele of Lamprecht (1932). The ‘Wagenaar’ C gene, nevertheless, carries a linked mottling function, as will be presented and discussed below. The cross with P1 produced a surprising result (Table 2). The expected yellow brown yellow color had a red haze, for which no hypothesis is pursued in this paper. The genetic interpretation is that ‘Wagenaar’ carries C. The test cross with P2 gave a nonallelic interaction, indicating that ‘Wagenaar’ carries J (Table 2). The test crosses with P3 and P4 gave allelic interactions at G and B, but not for the V locus. The presence of purple corona color indicates that ‘Wagenaar’ carries v. Thus, the genotype of ‘Wagenaar’ has been confirmed to be C J g b v^+, which is in agreement of the findings of Prakken (1972). Only the finding of the red haze over yellow brown in the test cross with P3 is a new result. Prakken (1972) also established that ‘Wagenaar’ carries the gene Rk at the red kidney locus, and our results are consistent with that genotype.

The F1 from the cross ‘Wagenaar’ × g b v BC, 5-593 (P1 x P9 of Table 2) produced the PGY (light pattern color areas of the seedcoat) of P9. This result supports the hypothesis that the SGY of P9 is a recessive trait. The segregation for seedcoat color in the F1 from the cross P9 x P10 fit a 3:1 ratio for PGY seedcoats to SGY seedcoats in F3 did so in a 3:1 ratio, respectively (Table 3). The remaining 34 F2 parents with PGY seedcoats were true breeding. The above three classes of F2 progenies failed to fit the expected 1:2:1 ratio for true breeding SGY, segregating progenies, and true breeding PGY progenies (Table 3). The failure was due to an excess of true breeding PGY progenies. Low F2 seed yield probably prevented the accurate F2 characterization of some PGY F2 individuals as heterozygotes. The hypothesis that the SGY trait is controlled by a single recessive-acting gene is supported by two results from the F3 test: 1) the SGY class was true breeding and 2) a 3:1 segregation ratio for PGY and SGY, respectively, observed for the heterozygous F3 families.

We propose the gene symbol gY for the SGY trait. Although current rules for gene symbol nomenclature in common bean usually require three letters for the gene symbol, an exception was made to avoid making strings of gene symbols for seedcoat color genotypes any longer than necessary. The Genetics Committee of the Bean Improvement Cooperative has approved the gene symbol gY for SGY trait. We avoided using the gene symbol sgy for good reason. Although seeds with genotype C J g b v have shamosi color, in this paper we retained the name pale greenish yellow (PGY) in deference to the summary table of Prakken (1972). In a future revision of this table the color name for genotype C J g b v shamosi should be changed to shamosi only.
progenies derived from SGY F2 parents. There was great variation from seed to seed within plants, from plant to plant within plots, and between plots for the frequency of extensively SGY colored seedcoats (data not presented). Although the data were not sufficient to develop a genetic model for the inheritance of higher and more stable expression of the SGY trait, the data suggested that other genetic factors may control higher expression levels.

For the cross ‘Wagenaar’ × g b v BC, 5-593, the F2 progeny had mottled pale violet/PGY seedcoats (Table 2), and the F3 progeny segregated for the same phenotype (Table 4). This mottled phenotype was not expressed well in the F2 progeny grown in the field, and no data were recorded for mottling in that generation. Although ‘Wagenaar’ has the dominant C gene (Table 2) (Bassett, 2001; Prakken, 1972), the mottling function (property) of the ‘Wagenaar’ C is designated by the symbol C (Table 4). Interestingly, the mottling effect from C does not express with gy/gy, and the SGY trait does not express (giving PGY by default) in the SGY genotype (Table 4). Two possible interpretations are that Gy may be 1 linked to C or 2 be an allele at C. Using the BAT 93 x Jalo restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) mapping system (Nodari et al., 1993), the sequence tagged site (STS) marker developed from the RAPD marker OAP12_196 was mapped to linkage group B8, showing two map units between the C and Gy loci (McClean, personal communication). Therefore, the data suggest close linkage, but not allelism at C. Similar procedures with the same mapping system demonstrated that V is located in linkage group B6. Hence, the weak linkage between Gy and V of about 35 cM (Table 4) was found to be artificial (McClean, personal communication).

‘ENOLA’ TEST CROSSES AND RELATIONSHIP TO ‘MAYOCOBA’ The cross P1 × P1 gave F2 seeds with dark mineral brown/cartridge buff marbling, which is interpreted as a C gene in ‘Enola’ (Bassett, 2000) although a black/cartridge buff marbling is expected (Table 5). The cross P2 × P2 gave F2 seeds with black color without pattern (a nonallelic response to the j in the tester), which is interpreted as a J gene in ‘Enola’ (Table 5). The cross P3 × P3 gave F2 seeds with yellow brown/cartridge buff marble with no purple corona, which is an allelic response for b and a nonallelic response for r k and r k (Table 5). Surprisingly, the cross P3 × P3 gave F2 seeds with violet/pale greenish yellow marble and no purple corona, which is an allelic response for g, b, and v (Table 5). No hypothesis for the violet color will be pursued in this paper. The pink flower color of ‘Enola’ indicates that ‘Enola’ carries v (Prakken, 1970). The cross P2 × P2 gave F2 seeds with SGY color, which is an allelic response indicating that ‘Enola’ also carries gy. Thus, the seedcoat genotype C J g b v gy Rk gy for ‘Enola’ has been demonstrated.

‘Enola’ has pink flowers that are known to result from expression of the gene v, but the seedcoat does not have the purple corona color produced pleiotropically by v (Bassett, 1995a; Prakken, 1970). Both the corona and hilum ring of ‘Enola’ are either SGY or PGY, whereas the hilum ring color produced by C J g b v is brown and by C J g b v gy is dark purple (Prakken, 1970). The test cross ‘Enola’ × ‘Wagenaar’ produced F2 seed with SGY corona and hilum ring (data not presented). Similarly, the test-crosses P1 × P2, and P2 × P3, failed to show the purple corona but, on the other hand, the flower color phenotypes for the four test crosses with ‘Enola’ support the hypothesis that v is present in ‘Enola’ (Table 5). Our hypothesis is that ‘Enola’ carries an unknown, dominant epistatic gene that suppresses the expected dark purple corona and brown hilum ring.

Both ‘Enola’ and ‘Mayocoba’ have the same SGY seedcoat color as ‘Wagenaar,’ and both cultivars express the same SGY color in the corona and hilum ring in the presence of gene v. The test cross ‘Wagenaar’ × ‘Mayocoba’ produced F2 seeds with SGY color, purple corona, and brown hilum ring (data not presented). Thus, although ‘Enola’ and ‘Mayocoba’ both carry the gy gene for SGY, our hypothesis is that ‘Mayocoba’ carries an unknown, recessive epistatic gene that suppresses the expected dark corona and brown hilum ring in ‘Mayocoba’. A full investigation of the interaction of v (and the C and J genes for hilum ring color) with both dominant and recessive epistatic suppressor genes is beyond the scope of this paper.

Comparison of the plant structure of ‘Enola’ and the ‘Mayocoba’ stock used in this paper showed that they were virtually indistinguishable (data not presented). These appearance similarities are consistent with the hypothesis that ‘Enola’ is a selection from one of the pure-line commercial cultivars of the ‘Mayocoba’ market class grown in Mexico for export to the United States market. In the 1960’s, or by early 1970 at the latest, the land race Canario (same as U.S. ‘Mayocoba’ class) was sent from Peru to Mexico (O. Voysest, personal communication). This was the first time that ‘Mayocoba’ beans were introduced into Mexico. The Mexicans crossed ‘Canario Divex 8120’ × ‘Canario 107’ and released the derivative cultivar ‘Azufrado Pimono 78’ in 1978. This began a new commercial class in Mexico, which they designate ‘Peruano’ (Voysest, 2000). In the early 1980’s the name of ‘Azufrado Pimono 78’ was changed to ‘Mayocoba’. This very popular Mexican cultivar name was, thereafter, used to denote the market class in the United States. More than five other Peruano cultivars were developed in Mexico after ‘Mayocoba’. In 1987, Mexican bean breeder Ingeniero Salinas and colleagues released ‘Azufrado Peruano 87’, a Peruano class bean cultivar (Kelly, 2000). After the ‘Enola’ patent (Proctor, 1999) was issued, a biotechnology laboratory in Texcoco, Mexico, determined by DNA analysis of ‘Enola’ (seeds obtained from the U.S. Patent Office) that ‘Enola’ was derived from ‘Azufrado Peruano 87’ (Kelly, 2000).

The patent for ‘Enola’ (Proctor, 1999) claims that ‘Enola’ seedlings possess a unique yellow color, but the results given above demonstrate that the well-known ‘Wagenaar’ bean cultivar, as well as all the Peruano market class cultivars of Mexico, have the same seedcoat color. When ‘Enola’ and ‘Mayocoba’ are grown together in the same greenhouse in Gainesville, the SGY seedcoat color of both cultivars is strongly expressed and covers the entire seedcoat of nearly all seeds when plants mature in December; but when the same cultivars mature together in March, the seedcoat color is distributed incompletely on the seedcoat and is weaker in expression. This seasonal variation is also typical of ‘Wagenaar’ when grown in greenhouse culture and is typical for a trait with variable expressivity. The ‘Enola’ patent (Proctor, 1999) also claims that the yellow color of the seed remains uniform and stable from season to season, but our results do not support that claim. The ‘Enola’ patent (Proctor, 1999) makes an exclusive property claim to all bean cultivars with the seedcoat color of ‘Enola’ (referred to as SGY in this paper) based on “invention” of that seedcoat color, but we assert that the program (described in the patent) of several successive cycles of self-pollination and selection from yellow bean materials purchased in Mexico did not create or invent the seedcoat color of ‘Enola’, i.e., the “invention” has no basis in fact.
Literature Cited

Allard, R.W. 1956. Formulas and tables to facilitate the calculation of recombinational values in heredity. Hilgardia 24:235–278.
Bassett, M.J. 1994. The genotype for seedcoat color of breeding line 5-593. Annu. Rpt. Bean Improvement Coop. 37:244–245.
Bassett, M.J. 1995a. The dark corona character in seedcoats of common bean cosegregates with the pink flower allele vlae. J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 120:520–522.
Bassett, M.J. 1995b. A new recessive allele at the C locus for seedcoat color in common bean. J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 120:896–899.
Bassett, M.J. 1996a. The margo (mar) seedcoat color gene is a synonym for the Joker (j) locus in common bean. J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 121:1028–1031.
Bassett, M.J. 1996b. A complex C region genotype [? R] that with GB vlae produces dark seal-brown seedcoat color in common bean. J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 121:594–598.
Bassett, M.J. 2000. A test cross protocol for determining the seedcoat genotype at the C locus in common bean. HortScience 35:286–289.
Bassett, M.J. and A. Blom. 1991. A new genotype for white seed coat discovered in 'Early Wax' snap bean. J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 116:131–136.
Brady, L., M.J. Bassett, and P.E. McClean. 1998. Molecular markers associated with T and Z, two genes controlling partly colored seed coat patterns in common bean. Crop Sci. 38:1073–1075.
Kelly, J.D. 2000. Enola yellow bean patent. Michigan Dry Bean Dig. 24(3):2–3.
Lamprecht, H. 1932. Beiträge zur Genetik von Phaseolus vulgaris. Zur Vererbung der Testafarbe. Hereditas 16:169–211.
Mather, K. 1957. The measurement of linkage in heredity. 2nd ed. Wiley, New York.
Nodari, R.O., S.M. Tsai, R.L. Gilbertson, and P. Gepts. 1993. Towards an integrated linkage map of common bean. II. Development of an RFLP-based linkage map. Theor. Appl. Genet. 85:513–520.
Prakken, R. 1940. Inheritance of colours in Phaseolus vulgaris L. I. Genetica 22:331–408.
Prakken, R. 1970. Inheritance of colour in Phaseolus vulgaris L. II. A critical review. Meded. Landbouwhogeschool Wageningen 70-23:1–38.
Prakken, R. 1972. Inheritance of colour in Phaseolus vulgaris L. III. On genes for red seedcoat colour and a general synthesis. Meded. Landbouwhogeschool Wageningen, 72-29.
Proctor, L.M. 1999. Field bean cultivar named Enola. U.S. Patent No. 5,894,079 (13 Apr. 1999). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Wash., D.C.
Voysest, O. 2000. Yellow beans in Latin America. Michigan Dry Bean Dig. 24(3):4–8.