

from

Parchment Scalpel Rock:

What's Up, Doc?

George Ttoouli and Charlotte Allender

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What's up, Doc?

by George Ttoouli and Charlotte Allender

selections curated by Charlotte Allender & George Ttoouli,
from material by George Ttoouli, edited by Charlotte Allender

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the illustrations are based on drawings of typical carrots by an anonymous biologist
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Long Orange



not knowing which plants will taste best I bite
each carrot in the field before sending to market

a slow dive into a desertifying hole no root can sate
you hunted for gold but found the late Anthropocene

500 years of breeding efforts focused on root traits qualify
petiole leaf rosette stem & flower for the buyer's eye

an angel called diversity hiding in our gene pool twamps
& twudges & twudges & twamps through acres of monoculture

you recall uniformity's more than carrots in consumers' eyes
machines drag standard orange from the fields by faster lines

but is a high-quality genome assembly
really qualified to decide on our diet's future?

Berlikum



The Modern Carrot : domesticated in Central Asia, ca. 938
weaponised by Wabbit in *Porky's Hare Hunt*, 1938

yet the luddite in me wishes we'd return to hand-picked work
machines accelerate deserts wages don't cost the earth

you recall uniformity's more than carrots in consumers' eyes
machines drag standard orange from the fields by faster lines

between half-summer and late winter carrots
crop wild relatives and feed them from the grounds

not knowing which plants will taste best I bite
each carrot in the field before sending to market

In 2D you sketch a typical *D. carotus* subsp.
sativus in 3H graphite and salivate

Autumn King (Flakkee)



a slow dive into a desertifying hole no root can save
you came for gold but found the late Anthropocene

The Modern Supermarket : domesticated in the UK, 1948

The Modern Foodbank : European expansion ca. 2006

the alternative to us talking about crop improvements :
mass famine brunt borne by the least well-off

an outcrossing diploid → a storage root morphology
selective breeding → improved root uniformity

one of *our* wild relatives in deep times past : the rabbits
that we were : twitched ears / played with TNT / ate carrots

a plateaued inversion of becoming what you eat :
you can't handle your fear of dustbins full of meat

Nantes



Wabbit pulls itself out of a hat, lights a cigar and asks,
So how you going to solve this climate crisis, Doc?

if only it were a *choice* : I'd eat only wonky carrots /
grow only cookie-cutter carrots

intrinsic plant properties are more resilient than pesticides :
Physician! Grow thyself a non-autonomous DNA transposon

Horns: Late Half Long / Early Half Long / Early Short
but which will your hornéd Mammonite market favour?

something *awfully scwewy* about Wabbit wising
from the ground munching on a *Daucus*

In 2D I sketch a typical *D. carotus* subsp.
sativus in 3H graphite and salivate

Imperator



though bolting warps the texture of the carrots
the woody woots will wear the wudent's teeth

not knowing which plants will taste best I bite
each carrot in the field before sending to market

to determine which traits are affected by environmental
variables put a carrot on your tongue see if it melts

The Modern Supermarket : domesticated in the UK, 1948
The Modern Foodbank : European expansion ca. 2006

Wabbit pulls itself out of a hat, lights a cigar and asks,
So how you going to solve this climate crisis, Doc?

our genebanks and other *ex situ* collections, glutted with seed
avoiding bottlenecks in cultivated carrot breeds

St. Valery



genebanks are magicians' hats from which all researchers
can magic the whole genepool's variation when they need

and if *only* it were a choice : give suboptimal portions
to our world's starving poor / make them *just* poor

What's more magical than a carrot in the shape of your future?
the rabbit asks, munching on Queen Anne's Lace

Horns: Late Half Long / Early Half Long / Early Short
but which will your hornéd Mammonite market favour?

to assuage the Wabbit I'll set my fields' fringes for fodder
or else buy lots of carrots stock for loss in winter

genotype-by-environment (g-by-e) relations explained : Wabbit-
carrot / carrot-human / Wabbit-carrot-human / human-
shotgun-Wabbit

Amsterdam



Glires / Leporidae / Lagomorpha lively since the Eocene
But when did you learn to use dynamite? (A: Anthropocene.)

to determine which traits are affected by environmental
variables I put a carrot on my tongue see if it melts

intrinsic plant properties are more resilient than pesticides :
Physician! Grow thyself a non-autonomous DNA transposon

inbred carrots lose their vigour over generations
but what happens when a human misses their five-a-day?

we owe the overlooked roots an 'oh!' when left
to rot on a market shelf : root for them!

Wabbit wants to know what youse gots to eat what
ain't orange? You've only cake / coleslaw / baby food / etc.

Danvers



if only it were a *choice* : I'd eat only wonky carrots /
to grow only cookie-cutter carrots

but unlike the carrot, Wabbit shows a tendency toward
repeated selfing during breeding programs

the mean percentage of polymorphic loci segregating
within a cultivar showing you extreme insertional polymorphism

genebanks are magicians' hats from which us researchers
can magic the whole genepool's variation when we need

What's more magical than a carrot in the shape of your future?
the rabbit asks, munching on Queen Anne's Lace

fresh outta carrots Wabbit drives into the future
in an F3 car with a steering wheel made from carrots

Chantenay



the mean percentage of polymorphic loci segregating
within a cultivar showing extreme insertional polymorphism

a plateaued inversion of becoming what we eat :
we can't handle our fear of dustbins full of meat

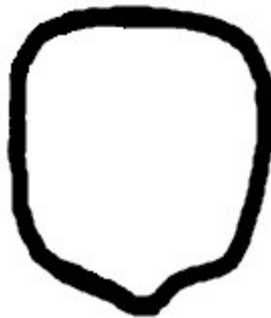
Glires / Leporidae / Lagomorpha lively since the Eocene
But when did you learn to use dynamite? (A: Anthropocene.)

what can the carrot do to become resilient
to Wabbit in the mask of a western longhorn?

Alternaria : deuterio-mycetes/-nomy : a nomad pathogenics
turns your carrot wilderness to cattlefeed / biogas / manure

I explain *genotype-by-environment* (g-by-e) relations thus :
Wabbit-carrot / carrot-human / Wabbit-carrot-human / human-
shotgun-Wabbit

Paris Market



cannibal carrots / cannibal rabbits : humans
tricked into eating ourselves to save the rest

hunting where power concentrates in the whole supply chain
you boil your carrot smoothie down and find the secret pulped

genebanks and other *ex situ* collections, gluttoned with seed
avoiding bottlenecks in cultivated carrot breeds

The Art of the Suboptimal : you buy perfection with your eyes
uniformity trumps nutrition the rest go to hell in a handbasket

For I was hungry and you gave me [carrots] to eat
1200 food banks later : our pissed-on hungry / tired / poor

the landrace for perfect *D. carotus* subsp. *sativus* runs off a cliff
its dustcloud splash portends the future's desert(ifi)ed fields

Guérande (Oxheart)



a mitzvot to not let the rot into the carrot
the prof(et) exhorts : *let zygotes be zygotes*

an angel called diversity hiding in your gene pool twamps
& twudges & twudges & twamps through acres of monoculture

we owe the overlooked roots an 'oh!' when left
to rot on a market shelf : root for them!

one of *our* wild relatives in deep times past : the rabbits
that we were : twitched ears / played with TNT / ate carrots

consumers never take suboptimal products, which are
destroyed / transformed you favour perfect forms

despite unfavourable field conditions the entire trial
will be repeated climatic ordeal fuelled by harvest machinery

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*That's
all,
folks.*