Pinhead (pi) Lineage

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The pinhead (pi) mutation was discovered in the Fall of 1979 in spawn number 4885 by Fran Briggs. That spawn derived from animals, designated S18, given to the colony in early 1979 by J. T. Justus. Although the records are not clear, the S18 animals were probably members of Justus spawn number 21, which in turn derived from a colony animal (spawn number 3629) and another animal possessed by Justus. Other descendants from spawn number 3629 may also have been carriers of the mutation. Since 3629 animals were three quarters Tompkins, from recently imported stock, and one quarter DeLanney mixed stock, it is possible that the gene was carried by one of the original Tompkins animals imported in 1968 (See Axolotl Newsletter 1:6).

The figure shows the principal lines of descent for the pinhead gene. Only spawning numbers are shown. The mutation

segregated in boxed spawns.

