

1. INTRODUCTION

Canavalia ensiformis D.C. is a member of the papilionate Leguminosae. The genus is pan-tropical and C. ensiformis is widely grown as a cover crop. The bean may be eaten if the bitter testa is removed. The normal colour of the seed coat is white but coloured variants have been noted. Natural outcrossing is evidently rare and from a mixed population K. Shepherd (<sup>w</sup>unpublished) isolated pure lines. Using these pure lines as parents, crosses were made with a view to investigating the genetics of seed coat colour.

Seed coat colour is a maternal character and hence it is necessary to produce two complete generations. In the time available it has only been possible to obtain F<sub>1</sub> data.