



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung **Female Pioneers of Research**

Pt. 9

Nettie Stevens



BESSEr@KIT





Nettie Stevens (1861-1912)

Geneticist

After earning her Master's degree in Biology with a focus on Cytology in 1900, she was able to undertake research stays at the universities of Würzburg and Naples through a scholarship.



She was able to demonstrate that the determination of sex is not influenced by external factors on the embryo, but is related to the chromosomes.

In 1905, she published her findings, which showed that male mealworms produce two types of sperm: one with a large chromosome (X) and one with a small chromosome (Y).



Her findings disproved widespread misconceptions about inheritance.

However, the publication was delayed to the extent that her male colleagues were able to publish similar results before her.

T. Morgan received the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1933 for research based on her foundational work.



Her research established
Drosophila melanogaster as a
model organism in genetics.

In 1912, Nettie Stevens died of
breast cancer, not even reaching
the age of 51.



Even today, despite her
groundbreaking achievements, she
is rarely mentioned, with Google
being one of the few to honor her
with a Google Doodle
on her 155th birthday.

