

28th July, 1964.

Professor T. A. Davis,
Indian Statistical Institute,
205 Barrackpore Trunk Road,
Calcutta 35,
INDIA.

Dear Professor Davis,

Thank you for your interesting letter of the 22nd and enclosure. More than a year ago I searched the nineteenth century literature to learn if anyone had performed experiments similar to mine. I seem to have missed the German paper mentioned by Snow and am writing to him for details.

According to "Manual of Cultivated Plants" by Bailey, Mikania scandens is native of eastern North America. Perhaps it was accidentally introduced to India and has gone wild. I will be pleased to receive a quantity of seed and try to grow it here.

Enclosed are about two hundred seeds of the Flinders Island vine. Their fertility is quite low. I soak them for a week, freeze in ice compartment of fridge for three months, thaw, put in Petri dish and hold at 25° to 28° with plenty of moisture. About a quarter of seeds sprout. You might like to try some in Petri dish without the preliminary freezing. I use black soil mixed with twice as much very fine sand. A large excess of water is applied to give a very sloppy mix and prevent breaking root of sprouted seed which is placed flush with surface. The young plant should be given a moderate amount of light and kept warm with plenty of moisture. After two years it will grow ten feet or more high and fruit. A mature plant has large root system and can survive severe drouths. The farmers use it for rough green feed when grass, clover, etc. all dry out.

My past two years' results on beans will appear in the next issue of the Journal of Genetics. I'll send a reprint in due time.

Sincerely,

Grote Reber.

GR:MER

Dr. George Robert Snow.

Born 19th January 1897

Fellow of Oxford.

Member of
the British
Society

His papers appeared in Proc Roy. Soc.
the Phytologist etc.,

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