

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

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July 13, 1963

Prof. F.A. Davis
Biometric Research,Dr. Grote Reber,
Hobart,
Tasmania.

Dear Dr. Reber,

I thank you for your kind letter dated 5-7-1963. I am really sorry for not sending you earlier a reprint of my paper wherein your interesting work was commented. Your seeds will be sown very soon and observations made on the twiners.

I am glad to realise that I have a companion to roam along almost the same field of scientific void even though it appears like groping in the dark. A major part of my time is devoted for the study of 'Rights and Lefts' in plants. The cyclostyled copy of a Report may explain my finding on the right and left-handedness in the flowers of Malvaceae and a few others. You will note that the left-handers on the whole are slightly in excess of the rights. Two or more detailed papers may follow this.

From data contained in table 15 of my coconut paper, I presume you have overlooked ~~maybe~~ some valuable information. You will find that in the Northern hemisphere there is an excess of left-handers inspite of the aberrant figures for the Andamans. In the Southern hemisphere, the rights are clearly in excess. This hemispherical difference is statistically significant at 5 percent level. Of course, as you say, I have to get more data. If this indication is confirmed, then perhaps we may assume that the west-east spin of the earth has differentiated ~~the~~ effects on the hemispheres. Expecting this effect to be more pronounced on the sensitive and quick growing twining plants, I have started taking a census of the local twiners. Of the 50 species (under Aristolochaceae, Compositae, Biliaceae etc.) I have so far studied, 48 species twine counter clockwise and only 2 clockwise. I don't plan any experiment with them right now. I wish to know the situation in Southern hemisphere, say to begin with in New Caledonia or Australia.

If you have any plan to come to Asia, please visit me. I can arrange for your stay in our Institute for even upto two or three months. I may even induce the Institute for bearing all your local trips in India. Our Director, Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis, F.R.S. was a

L Papilionaceae, Convolvulaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Oleaceae turn over :...

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Professor of Physics at Calcutta for several years and he would be only pleased to meet you. He is also aware of your interest and guidance in my work. If you desire, you may write to him about the importance of this work.

I am again invited to Ceylon, and this time I may return via Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Rangoon, making further observations on the cocoon and looking for twining plants. I am really anxious to make a long trip to Australia and the Pacific Islands including the Philippines. Will it be possible for me to work as a guest in your Institute for about a month or so? I can give one or more lectures if necessary. In that case, our Institute may bear the cost and free air passage as long as it does not require foreign exchange.

May I request you to send me copies of your publications?

With kind regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

T. A. Davis
(T.A. Davis) 13/7/65