

7th December 1962

Dr. Earl L. Core, Chairman
Department of Biology
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Core:

Thank you for your letter of 29th November. The most vocal disbelievers I've encountered are geneticists who fail to realize there is no genetics in the experiment. Others, with a more extensive background and open mind, concede there probably is something to the subject.

The production of anomalies by mechanical handling of plants is well known. Slender stalks of young apple and pear trees tied in an open knot will produce fruit earlier than normal trees. Sultana vines will hold fruit better if a ring of bark is removed from trunk. By the same operation, apple trees can be induced to bear earlier if the ring is replaced upside down. In Hawaii, I found the Filipinos used large clubs to severely bruise the trunks of sharamoya trees. This produced larger and better fruit earlier. It reminds one of the Old English rhyme: "A dog, a woman and a walnut tree; the more you beat them the better they be". The bean vine twining experiment seemed like an opportunity to test such a scheme quantitatively.

A wee-bit of genetics may be found in the table you now have. It will be seen that the Hawaiian black seed produced more black beans than the Hawaiian normal seed.

At the Statistical Institute of Calcutta I have a pen friend. He specializes in Cocos Nucifera and has a variety of extraordinary findings relative to spirals. Do you know any plant or vine which has voluntary random twist? That is, one half the population turning one way and one half turning the other way?

I am,

Sincerely yours,


Grote Reber