

DM/PL.

7th June, 1963.

Prof. Dr. H. Walter,
Botanisches Institut,
Stuttgart - Hohenheim,
W. GERMANY.

Dear Professor Walter,

Our Dr. Reber has examined the 1962 edition of Volume 17 of Encyclopedia of Plant Physiology and found several interesting articles related to twining vines. Certainly a vast amount of work has been done during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries upon how a vine twines.

Peculiarly enough, the reaction of a plant to mechanical manipulations seems to be a vacant region of study. Only one reference appears on page 694; and that is to Reber's article in Castanea, 1960.

Another vacant region of study appears to be plants with a population having random spiral twist. The existence of such plants is mentioned a few times but nothing specific seems to be known of their performance.

Bowiea volubilis is said to be such a plant indigenous of Cape Town and environs. I have secured from Sydney one bulb of dubious origin, and species, which is purported to be this plant. While three years old, a long time will pass before any flower stalks appear. We are wondering if you could make a few inquiries while in Africa as to a source of supply of Bowiea volubilis. We wish to acquire a dozen or more mature large BULBS SUITABLE for prompt flowering, along with instructions on their growing environment. If any costs are involved, Dr. Reber will be happy to defray them.

We do not wish you to go to great effort or to inconvenience your trip on this matter, but would appreciate any assistance, comments or suggestions you care to make.

My wife and I send kindest regards to you and Dr. Walter.

Yours sincerely,

(D. Martin)
Officer-in-Charge.