

# CSIRO

DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY

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RDB:VT

Ref:

7th October, 1964

Dr. D. Martin,  
C.S.I.R.O.,  
Tasmanian Regional Laboratories,  
Stowell Ave.,  
HOBART. Tas.

Dear Don,

I am afraid that I am not going to be very helpful about Dr. Reber's beans, largely because from the data that is available it is not possible to come to any definite conclusions. It is possible to put up a genetic scheme which would account for the observed behaviour, but at least as far as we have considered the scheme it has some rather sticky points, e.g. it requires highly mutable loci and/or simultaneous mutation at a number of loci. However, we have not really attempted a thorough job largely because this would involve quite a bit of time and no one amongst our group is sufficiently interested to jump in and spend the time. None of us knows the literature on bean colour genetics and to become acquainted with this alone would take quite a bit of time. There are two possibilities that I would suggest if you or Dr. Reber want to take it further - One is to see if any of the people who work with beans (and would therefore know the literature) are interested. The most likely person would be Mr. H. Grossman, Department of Primary Industries, Brisbane. The other is to see if the Genetics Department of the University of Adelaide (Prof. H. Bennett) is interested. I suggest them because they have students and it might well form an interesting problem to throw at students.

It is very difficult to know whether it is novel until one has looked at it very closely and convinced oneself as to whether it is explainable on conventional systems or whether there is anything really new here. One thing that is certain is that if it involves conventional systems then these are complicated and will therefore take a lot of working out in detail.

... I am enclosing your two slides.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



(R.D. Brock)