

GR/MLT.

18th October, 1962.

The Superintendent,
Santa Ana Botanic Garden,
1500 N. College Avenue,
CLAREMONT,
CALIFORNIA. U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

About two years ago I visited the Garden and enquired about a twining cactus named *Brodiaea Velutibilis*. It is one of a very few vines which exhibits both directions of turning. You provided me with small packets of seed from counter-clockwise (lower left to upper right) and clockwise (lower right to upper left) turning vines.

Unfortunately, this seed was stored in a dry place for a year or so before planting. Even so, the germination rate was very low at two different places and environments. In both cases only seed from the counter-clockwise packet sprouted. The clockwise seed was completely sterile. About half your original seed is still available. We plan to give it another try soon. Since not much is expected from this old seed I'd appreciate receiving some fresh seed at your convenience.

Enclosed is a short article on Reversed Bean Vines describing experiments performed at Green Bank, West Virginia during summer 1959. Similar experiments were done here last year with confirmatory results.

For some time I have been corresponding with people in Calcutta who study the direction of spirals of the leaves *Coccos Nucifera*. They find this quite random. The beans have a strongly inbuilt preference for direction. Please examine the vines of *Brodiaea Velutibilis* and let me know how many twine each way. It is already clear that circination in nature is due to several factors. Just what these are remains to be seen. Can you find any other plant which exhibits voluntary random direction of turning?

Your comments, suggestions and assistance will be much appreciated by me. I am,

Yours sincerely,

Greta Reber.