

3rd April 1962

Prof. T. A. Davis
Indian Statistical Institute
203 Barrackpore Trunk Road
Calcutta 35, India

Dear Dr. Davis:

Thank you for your interesting letter of 26/3/62. I am pleased to learn of someone else actively working on circination in nature. Unfortunately, I don't have any suggestions to make on palm trees. However, it might be enlightening to see if your findings apply to other plants showing right handed and left handed natural turning. The only vines which I have found to exhibit both directions of turning are Brodiaea Volubilis (a type of cactus) and Macquarie Vine (a type of bind weed). Seed of the former I secured from Santa Ana Botanical Garden, Claremont, California, U.S.A. Seed of the latter, I collected from the west coast of Flinders Island, Bass Strait north of Tasmania. So far, neither has prospered in a domestic environment. Perhaps you have other suitable plants of India to experiment on. The number or weight of seeds could provide an index similar to your number of coconuts.

The experiments described on enclosed reprint were conducted at Green Bank, West Virginia, U.S.A. during summer 1959. Presently, I am harvesting another crop here to test other aspects of the matter. It will be some time before final results are available. However, examination of the field data shows the present crop confirms the results of the Green Bank experiments.

Can you find me an annual vine in India which turns like a left hand screw thread?

I am

Sincerely yours,

Grote Reber
Grote Reber