

GR/JW

11th May, 1964.

Dr. O.H. Frankel,  
C.S.I.R.O.  
314 Albert Street,  
EAST MELBOURNE C2.  
Victoria.

Dear Dr. Frankel,

Thank you for your cordial letter of the 5th. One of my pen friends is Professor T.A. Davis of the Indian Statistical Institute. He has published very flattering comments about my beans; so I thought I would patronize his journal.

Yes, the problem is one of translocation rather than genetics. It seemed worthwhile to try some plant far removed from beans. The plant should be annual with fast growth rate; have a high ratio (weight of dried seed)/(weight of casing); be susceptible to mechanical manipulation; be preferably a monocotyledon with uniform ancestry. Wheat satisfies these requirements, so I thought I would call the matter to your attention. The phenomenon I have encountered may be general throughout the plant world.

I have grown the Hawaiian type beans for several years with very uniform results. The variety seems pure and homozygous. Two years ago a mutation appears to have occurred on one plant. I carefully saved the seed and was delighted to find it fertile. The offspring have developed into several striking types. The phenomenon has never happened before nor since on the main stock so I do not believe it to be caused by heterozygous ancestors. Dr. Martin has suggested that I write down the details. This I intend to do in a few months after the present crop has been harvested and the results known. Do you have anyone on the staff who likes this kind of thing?

Sincerely yours,

G. Reber.