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Prof. T. A. Davis
Biometric Research Unit

26 March 1962

Dr. Grote Reber,
CSIRO, Stowell Avenue,
Hobart, Tasmania,
AUSTRALIA.

Dear Dr. Reber,

I have been informed of your interesting experiments on subjecting plants to various kinds of torsion to obtain greater growth. I shall be obliged to have more information and copies of published materials on this.

For the past ten years I have been connected with the physiology and genetics of the coconut palm (Cocos nucifera). I find that the leaves of the coconut are arranged along five spirals moving clock-wisely (left-hander) or conversely (right-hander). From over 13,000 palms observed in India, the right- and left-handers are distributed almost with equal frequency. Similar data obtained from over 20 other countries have also shown similar results. But this character is non-inherited and all parental combinations give almost equal number of lefts and rights. More interesting and intriguing is the fact that the left-handers give on an average 22% more number of nuts than their counter-part. This difference is highly significant and I shall be obliged if you can offer your comments.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

T. A. Davis
(T. A. Davis ^{27/3/62})