Dear Dr Reber 1/8/64

Thanks you for your letter & your paper from Castanea arrived this morning. I was told of your paper on the beans first by T.A. Davis, with whom I also have corresponded. We have a common friend in J.B.S. Haldane. Quoting your results, he referred to them as "fantastic". But I wrote back that I did not think them fantastic at all. It is, I think, commonly known to plant growers that a winding shoot that has wound up a support in the natural way is physiologically different from one that has only been tied up passively. Especially its stem becomes much stronger, and it continues elongating indefinitely. This observation was put on a scientific basis by a German worker who published in one of their well-known periodicals in (I think) the 1890's or early 1900's. He found that it was the normal contact with the support that was effective in this respect, though winding plants ~~are~~ had usually been considered insensitive to contact.

If I could get back to the botanic library of my old university of Oxford, I think that I could find the paper again, probably in the "Berichte". But I am now retired and have of recent years been, unfortunately, unable to get about easily on account of various illnesses. However I will hope to be able to do so, and will in that case let you and Davis know the reference. Or perhaps a friend in the botany department might look it up for me.

The relevance is that your method of winding the shoots round the support the wrong way would, I think, probably be equivalent to tying them up passively. Consequently less nutritive material would go to strengthening the stems, and more might be available for the fruits. Such, at least, is my suggestion.

Your last remark about the black beans in a pod puzzles me. There is normally, of course, segregation of factors between different seeds in a pod; so I do not see how your identical twins would be achieved. Is it not more probable that the colour of the testa depends on the genetic constitution of the parent plant, which has made a local somatic mutation?

Is the Tasmanian address your permanent address? I will assume so.

Yours sincerely, R. Snow.

DM:JKB

20th August, 1964.

Mrs. A.T. Lee,
National Herbarium,
Royal Botanic Gardens,
SYDNEY ..... N.S.W.

Dear Alma,

Looking at Pitt. I note that the Botanic Gardens are listed as having Vols. 1892-1912 of Bericht, Botanic Gardens of Humboldt Museum, Berlin.

Would you be kind enough to look at these and see if there is an article about manipulating twining plants. If so would you please have it photocopied for us.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

D. Martin.
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE.

DM:JKS

27th August, 1964.

Mrs. A.T. Lee,
National Herbarium,
Royal Botanic Gardens,
SYDNEY ... N.S.W.

Dear Alma,

Twining Plants.

Further to my last letter I have had more definite information on the possible publication on this article. It was in the Library of the Botany Department, Oxford. This library does not hold the Humboldt Museum's Berichte but the old Berichte der Deutschen Botanischen Gesellschaft which is at the Fisher Library.

If you have the time and inclination to do a bit of sleuthing there in the period 1890-1910 we would be grateful.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(D. Martin.)
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE.

Tasmanian Regional Laboratory 27-8-64

Mrs. T. Rungkat,
Library,
HEAD OFFICE.

Thank you for your memorandum of 25th August and the trouble you have taken in this matter. It is almost certain that the publication is Berichte der Deutschen Botanischen Gesellschaft.

I now recall that my old Botany lecturers always referred to this publication, and this one only, by the affectionate diminutive Berichte.

I will write to a friend in Sydney who is a botanist to go to the Fisher and try and find the article.

Best wishes to all at H.O. Library.

(D. Martin.)
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE.

Department of Agriculture
New South Wales

TEL: 20536 EXT 242
243
244

IN YOUR REPLY, PLEASE

QUOTE THIS NUMBER

Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium
Sydney

..... 19

With compliments of the Librarian and Royal Botanic Gardens

Read Gardens

Gradmann H. (1928b).

Observations on Turning Plants.

Berichte der deutschen Botanischen Gesellschaft. 46 348-354

Sydney. Vne

Gradmann H (1928a)

The lateral movement in twining plants

Jahrbuch für wissenschaftliche Botanik 68: 46-78

Victoria Univ.

" 1929

The twining and climbing Plants.

~~Ergebnissen Bot.~~ 5. 166 — 218

A. PE.

Ergebnisse der Biologie 5: 166-218

Canberra

requested 9/9/64.