

Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium

Sydney

6th. February 19 64.

Dr. G. Reber,
CSIRO,
Tasmanian Regional Laboratory,
Stowell Avenue,
HOBART,
Tasmania.

Dear Dr. Reber,

Many thanks for your letter of 31st. January covering transparencies and seeds of Bowiea volubilis.

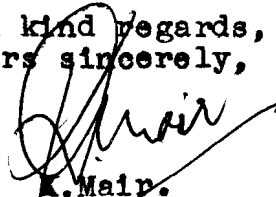
I am most interested in the photos which show the great length of stem and the quite heavy fruiting. Our plant at the Gardens has two stems each about 1.5 ins. high and no flowers appearing to date. My own plant at home, which I am now growing in a pot inside the house near a window after having it burnt off so many times outside in the sea-spray, is about 1.5 ins high also and has had one flower. I tried out self-pollination on this flower but it is too soon yet to say whether it will set any seed or not. However, I hope to have better growth in the next growing season. Both plants are growing in sandy soil with animal manure added as fertiliser, and mine at home has had a dash of sodium nitrate in weak solution as well.

I am not quite certain as to whether you wish me to retain the transparencies or whether we are to get duplicates made, and I am also unsure as to whether we are to grow any of the seeds. You may let me know what you would like us to do in this matter, or whether you require some of the seeds, or all of them, sent back to you for germination down there. It just occurs to me that you may be depending on later set seeds still on your plant to increase your specimens.

A few other species you may be interested in are Thunbergia alata (syn. T. gibsoni) which I have growing, and twines anticlockwise; Dioscorea bulbifera, which I also have, and twines clockwise; Anredera cordifolia (syn. Boussingaultia basselloides) which is a weed around Sydney suburbs, as it readily propagates from aerial tubers, and it twines anticlockwise. Other species that come to mind are Senecio mikanoides, Aristolochia elegans (Dutchman's Pipe) and Lonicera japonica (Honeysuckle) none of which I have checked on here so far.

I would be very pleased to hear from you soon as to whether we are to germinate the seed you sent us, as its viability may not be very great.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,



K. Mair.
SENIOR BOTANIST.