

August 30, 1955

Dear Joe:

We enjoyed ourselves picking up miscellaneous soil samples during our trip to Colorado. Conceivably you will have received more returns from the distant tourist traps than the farms near home, but I made a point to look for some possibly marginal habitats. Such samples may be very poor, quantitatively, in actinomyces, but by the same token may be more likely to carry specialized varieties.

Is the supply of soils any problem to you? You probably had thought of it already, but you know that State labs. almost everywhere receive large numbers of soil samples to be tested for pH, nutrient minerals etc., and you probably could work out some arrangement to get sub-samples, either from the state or from other private testing labs., fertilizer companies, etc.

Climbing up the Rockies, we were of course impressed by the ecological clines in gross vegetation; I wonder if anyone has ever done comparable microbiological studies.

In my last record, I neglected to ask if you knew the chemical stability of azaserine. We had a small sample a while ago that seemed pretty inactive against *E. coli*, and I wondered if it had a reasonable storage life.

While I was away, there was some confusion about the cultures I had left instructions about, to send you; they will be forwarded shortly.

Sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg