

Memo from  
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To: Donald R Kirk  
Biology  
Shasta College  
Redding, Calif.

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"W. 16 Edible Plants of the U.S."

— I found to be most enjoyable and  
informative. May I make just two com-  
ments:

(1) The recording of medicinal attributes  
is interesting, and for some purposes  
useful. But I fear some of your readers  
may take folk remedies far more seriously  
than you intend — and with serious harm  
or neglect to their own health. I would  
urge a clear cautionary note.

(2) Bracken fern is well documented  
to contain a carcinogen — with grave  
dangers that may not be manifest for  
many years, nor in every one who  
eats it. Your strong "bill of good health"  
(p. 18) may be an insidious body trap: you  
manifestly shoulder a grave responsibility!

Sincerely,

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