

THE INSTITUTE OF PAPER CHEMISTRY
APPLETON, WISCONSIN

February 13, 1948

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

We are sorry that you could not come here at the time planned, but no difficulties were caused. It might be best to postpone the visit to the latter part of March if that will be agreeable for you.

As you note, the nomenclature of arabinose is somewhat confusing. The compounds with the same structure for carbon one are β -D-galactose and α -L-arabinose, using the accepted Hudson system of nomenclature. In the literature arabinose has been given several names, but at the moment there seems to be agreement again. The names used on p. 708 of the Bureau of Standards Circular 440 are correct and you wish the α -L-isomers of arabinose: methyl α -L-arabinoside of $[\alpha]_D + 17.3$.

I do not have any L-arabinosides. You might be able to obtain samples of methyl α -L-arabinoside from Dr. Hudson. Its preparation would take time but is not difficult; for the purpose, the Koenigs-Knorr synthesis from the common form of tetracetyl arabinosyl bromide should be used.

Cordially yours,

Ward Pigman /em.

Ward Pigman
Research Associate

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
The University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Madison 6, Wisconsin