Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Dr. Norman G. Anderson of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Biology Division brought a portion of your article "Exobiology: Approaches to Life beyond the Earth" which appeared in Science (8/12/60) to my attention. The part in which we were especially interested was the sentence in the section on experimental approaches: "Larger samples, collected by a soil auger, could be subjected to a preliminary concentration of nonmineral components by flotation in a dense liquid."

During the past two years I have worked on separating organic and inorganic components of river water and sedimented mud in density gradients trying to ascertain the distribution of radio-nuclides between these components. Thus far the method has been fairly successful and I have high hopes for future improvement when new density gradients, now being developed, are in full use.

Your article is one of the few I have come across suggesting the use of density gradients for the separation of organic from inorganic material. If you wish, I will be happy to send you more detailed reports of my own work along these lines, and I would very much appreciate any information you can send me about your work in this area.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Wm. T. Lammers,
Asst. Professor of Biology

* I would be delighted to see this.
We have had promising but erratic success with [blacked out] as a patent for raw soil. The results were much better with material pre-cooked with water. I do not know of any other literature quite comparable.