

DESIRABLE SEA BEANS OF SOUTH TEXAS BEACHESand the Probability of Finding Them



Sea Heart
1 in 2



Hamburger Beans
1 in 3



Sea Purses
1 in 11



Mary's Beans
1 in 36



Black Sea Biscuits
1 in 2,229



Calatola
1 in 938



Lantern Seeds
1 in 127



Bay Beans
1 in 220



Thick Banded Mucuna
1 in 215



Oxyrhynchus
1 in 238



Mucuna Holtonii
1 in 150



Cathie's Beans
1 in 8,916



Gray Nickers
1 in 85



Yellow Nickers
1 in 5,944



Brown Nickers
1 in 16

Sea beans travel on the Ocean currents from the rain forests of the Tropics to the beaches of South Texas. The hard-coated and attractive sea beans grow on large vines and bushes. These plants produce beautiful flowers and seed pods from a few inches to several feet long. When the pods burst and spread their seeds, some fall directly into the rivers and others are carried off by floodwaters during the rainy season. They float down these rivers to the Ocean where they may drift in the currents for many miles and months. Strong onshore winds cause large mats of sargassum to wash ashore forming a "wrack" line where these sea beans can be found by avid beachcombers. If you find one, cherish it, for it has made a long journey and is a token of good luck.

The numbers in this chart are based on records kept by Mike Ley, a Winter Texan from Littleton, Colorado, of over 17,800 desirable sea beans he collected and documented from beaches on the Gulf Coast of Texas from 2008 through 2015. Example----1 in 150 indicates that 1 seed was found for every 150 of the desirable sea beans referenced in this chart.

M Ley/Jan 2016