

2-4) Cross-Sterility of Pop corn. This very interesting character has been studied recently in great detail by Nelson (1952). We found that cross-sterility occurs sporadically in South American pop corn races, both from Colombia (Pira) and from Brazil (Pointed Pop corn). A test is under way, and will be harvested in a few weeks, for about 20 different South American pop corn races with regards to the frequency of cross-sterility and the possible influence of the male parent of the cross. The occurrence of these cross-sterility factors in the oldest racial group, the pop corns, may become of importance for the question of origin of corn as already pointed out by Nelson. The thesis should also be remembered stated by Fisher (1941) for heterostylous plants, that any recurrent mutation altering reproduction may cause gene changes, without special selecting tendencies operating, and its extension by Brieger (1952), that any recurrent mutation, favoring reproduction by selfing or by consanguineous matings, in an originally random mating population, should become accumulated automatically, unless counterbalanced by heterotic mutations occurring or present at the same time. Thus the occurrence of the cross-sterility genes in maize requires special attention.

J. T. A. Gurgel