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Jala maize - giant?

--Karl, JR

Jala is a race of maize that has the longest cobs (Collins, J. *Hered.* 9:147-154, 1918). It is not the tallest (Karl, unpubl.). Jala is topically from the town of Jala in the Jala Valley of the Ceboruco volcano in the southeast of the state of Nayarit in Mexico (Kempton, J. *Hered.* 15:337-344, 1924). Phylogenic evaluation suggests that the race has only been around for recent centuries (Duncan, *Crop Sci.*, 1968). Early publication regarding the race specified the plants to be "twenty feet or more" in height and ears "three feet in length" (Mangelsdorf, *Texas Ag. Exp. Sta.* 574:1-315, 1939). There has never been a cob documented that has exceeded the length, 24 inches, of those in the field of the town at that time. Multiple races have been grown there (Weatherwax, *MNL* 22:22-23, 1948). The race with the giant morphology was named by the scientific community after the town, but was known locally as Maíz de Humedo (Listman, *Diversity* 9:34-36, 1993). The cobs only reached this length indigenously, 15" otherwise (Kempton, J. *Agric. Res.* 29:311-312). After another race, Tampiqueño, began to be planted in the town before 1947, the cob length diminished to 15". A decade best has been 18". The tallest segregation group (exotically) has been 27' (Figure 1), the tallest individual plant has been at least 28.5'.

Figure 1. 29' stalk displayed at Canadian Royal Winter Fair, November 1999, right of center. 27.5' Jala stalk, left. (For full color, see p. 32.)

