

## 2. Indigenous corn from Colombia.

The studies of material collected in 1949 and of samples received from my colleagues Drs. Chavariaga, Villamil, Alberto Gonzalez and Ernesto Villegas and also from Dr. Reichel-Domitoff, have now progressed sufficiently to allow some conclusions. Of these samples, the last mentioned lot from northern Colombia and the region of the Sierra de Sta. Martha has been especially interesting. The material grown in Arroyo Grande for Barranquilla market, in the valley of the Sevilla river near Sta. Martha, by the Chimilo and by the Motilones Indians show a perfect gradation from introduced races to pure indigenous material. From this material it seems quite evident that two racial groups: yellow-orange flint (often called "Cuba") and yellow or white dent are introductions, much favored by the white population, they are not really indigenous in the area, but a post-Colombian introduction. Among the numerous indigenous races some soft corn races with beaked kernels are especially interesting; they may or may not, be dented. There is also an interesting dent corn race, often called "Cariaco", with very long yellow kernels on short, cylindrical, many-rowed ears.

On the Pacific coast the Choco Indians cultivate a peculiar kind of small seeded pop corn, with tillering plants, small, many-rowed and somewhat conical ears. This race seems to be highly resistant to inbreeding, but shows pronounced vigor when outcrossed to other races of corn, a fact also observed with other races of maize from "backwood" areas such as the races from Assam.

In Central Colombia one finds a complex mixture of dent and flint corn in cultivation, which I think should be considered as mentioned above, as post-Colombian introductions. There are, however, at least two older races, though both of them have a distribution which reaches north into Mexico: both have generally large conical ears with pronounced butts. One called "Capiro" is a soft corn generally white and evidently identical with the Mexican Cacuhacintle and the corresponding Guatemalan race. The other old Colombian race has hard yellow flint kernels and may be called "Mountain Yellow". The latter seems not to penetrate further south while the Capiro reaches the Ecuadorian area.

Pop corn is grown though evidently not very extensively. The main type of white color corresponds very closely to the Central American "Reventador". Pop corn with conical ears, straight salient rows and beaked kernels was obtained only from the area of Boyacá.