

5. Distribution and origin of dent corn.

The situation with regard to dent corn races is quite different from that of pop corn. First it must be noted that denting is not caused by the presence of some corneous starch. South American (Caingang) dent corn is a typical indented flour corn. On the whole throughout all the South-American area, genes for denting occur in a scattered fashion, and may be accumulated by selection directed towards pronounced denting. Thus we may assume that dent corn races appeared when, for some reason, the indigenous breeder started selecting in their favor, as occurred evidently in at least two widely separate areas: the Paraná basin and in Mexico, besides some minor unconnected areas between these extremes. Wherever, on the contrary, the selection was in favor of flint corn, as in the cases of the North-Eastern Little Flint or the Caribbean and South-American Yellow-Orange Flints, it was carried out in the extreme, eliminating all genes for denting.