

1. Indigenous races of maize (Brazilian Seed Center).

(A) New collections have been made, but give little new information. The Amazon Basin remains as the main gap, where collecting is extremely expensive and time consuming. Material from the Guianas showed that the coastal area belongs definitely to the region of the Caribbean Orange Flints, which extends south, along the coast) to the LaPlata. From the southern margin of the Amazon Basin, new material was obtained of races with interlocked kernel rows, which reduce row number by one half. The absence of a possible original type with regular rows, which should contain from 12 to 26 rows (the interlocked types have from 6 to 13 rows induces us to suppose, that this racial group with interlocked rows a really a very old one and that interlocking was present in the basic or original type with low row number. Such an "interlocking" is present in two ranked ears of corn and in *Euchlaena* and *Tripsacum*, where the alternating alveoli, on opposite flanks are always exactly in the middle between the next higher and next lower alveolus. When selection for higher row number was started by the primitive breeder, this must have been accompanied in most cases by a selection for a larger cob surface, either by an increase in rachis diameter or in rachilla length, while on a selection evidently did not occur in the interlocked group. Thus I consider now the interlocking as an old and primitive character, which explains both its very considerable geographical range and the absence of any limitation to cultivation by Indian tribes or ethnological groups. It should also be remembered, that the region considered as a possible center of origin of maize, on the eastern foothills of the Andes, falls into the present-day region of interlocked races.

F. G. Brieger