

1. Races of maize in Central America.

In cooperation with the National Research Council, we have made a collection of the maize of the countries of Central America. The collection comprises 1,148 entries, representing all the countries from Guatemala to Panama.

Preliminary studies of the collections looking toward classification and a description of the races has begun. Although there is a wide diversity of maize in Central America, especially in Guatemala, it turns out that the majority of types in Central America have already been recognized elsewhere, either in Mexico or in Colombia.

We now recognize fifteen races, of which six are predominantly highland, and nine lowland. The list follows.

Highland Races

1. Serrano, which is a counterpart of the Colombian Sabanero and the Mexican Cacahuacintle. It has six sub-races.
 - a. Cristalino Amarillo
 - b. Cristalino Blanco
 - c. Harinoso Blanco
 - d. Harinosa Negro
 - e. Grueso (fasciated, a Guatemalan development)
 - f. Salpor (fasciated, a Guatemalan development)
2. Sanmarceño, a race common in San Marcos in Guatemala and intermediate in its characteristics between Serrano and Oloton.
3. Oloton, previously described for Mexico and a close counterpart of the Colombian Montaña.
4. Comiteco, a race previously reported in Mexico.

5. Punta, a race still not well defined, with small, sharply tapering ears. This may be an ancient indigenous race. Only a few collections of it have been made.
6. Harinoso Occidental, not found in pure form but the influence of such a race is evident in many collections. It is probably the parent of the race Salvadoreño, and probably came originally from South America.

Lowland Races

7. Nal-tel, one of the ancient indigenous races of Mexico.
- 7a. White Nal-tel, similar to Nal-tel, except that it has white endosperm. This, rather than yellow Nal-tel, is probably one of the ancestors of Dzit-Bacal.
8. Punta (lowland), similar to the Punta from the highlands. More collections are needed to define this race.
9. Tepecintle, previously reported from Mexico, although it probably originated in Guatemala. This race is believed to be one of the ancestors of most of the modern dent corns in Mexico and the U.S.
10. Dzit-Bacal, previously described from Yucatan and Campeche in Mexico.
11. Salvadoreño. This race, especially common in Salvador, has a white flour corn as one ancestor. The other ancestor may be Nal-tel or a form of Punta.
12. Clavillo, a slightly modified counterpart of the Colombian Clavo, a slender-eared corn with flexible cob.
13. Panama 8-rowed. An eight-rowed flint, of which there are only a few collections.
14. Lowland Elotes, white dent corns with colored aleurone, used primarily for roasting ears.

15. Tuxpeño, previously described from Veracruz in Mexico. It is probably a fairly recent introduction.

Table 1. Races of maize of Central America compared in knob numbers.

HIGHLAND RACES			
Races	Altitude (Feet)	Average Knob Number	Races
1. Serrano			6. Nal-tel
a. Cristalino Amarillo	9,026	3.24	a. Yellow
b. Cristalino Blanco	9,275	3.49	b. White
c. Harinoso Blanco	8,087	4.69	
d. Harinoso Negro	8,557	3.39	7. Tepecintle
e. Grueso	7,087	5.60	
f. Salpor	7,980	2.82	
2. Sanmarceño	7,841	4.31	8. Dzit-Bacal
3. Oloton	6,189	3.96	9. Salvadoreño
4. Comiteco	5,819	5.34	From Salvador
			From Honduras
			From Nicaragua
5. Punta	6,426	6.78	10. Clavillo (Costa Ri
			11. Panama 8-rowed
			12. Lowland Elotes
			13. Tuxpeño

Table 2. Races of maize of Central America compared in external characters of the ears.