

Some Abnormalities of the African Pearl Millet.

RECENTLY through the propaganda made by Kunwar Sursinhaji, Director of Agriculture, Jamanagar State, Kathiawad, an African variety of *Pennisetum typhoides*, Stapf and Hubbard, *vis.*, the "Jamanagar Giant" producing an ear-head of six feet length was distributed and grown under experimental conditions in several parts of

the Baroda State. Under local conditions the crop on the Baroda Agricultural Experimental Station and the surroundings was not able to produce the grain in spite of the profuse tillering—the factor of pollination being more or less interfered with. The "Jamanagar Giant" ear-heads resemble closely those figured by Rangaswami Ayyangar *et al*¹ and produce the same atavistic abnormal branching extending to an area up to six inches from the base.

Very often this basal branching was accompanied with the total bending of the ear-head (Fig. 1—1). Apical twining of the ear-head is represented in Fig. 1—2 and this twining is often associated with the bifid character of the ear (Fig. 1—3). Contortions, intricately interwoven, have been very common and the complicity may be witnessed from Figs. 1—4, 5, 6. Splitting or branching of the ear-heads which one comes across in local Bajri (Figs. 2—2, 3, 4) is also met with in "Jamanagar Giant" (Fig. 2—1) giving almost the form of fingers to the ear-head. Very typical basal branching along with leaf production is represented in number 5 of Fig. 2.

Branches from nodes on the same tiller were usual and two plants producing this branching with very simple and small types of ear-heads (Fig. 1—7) have been observed.



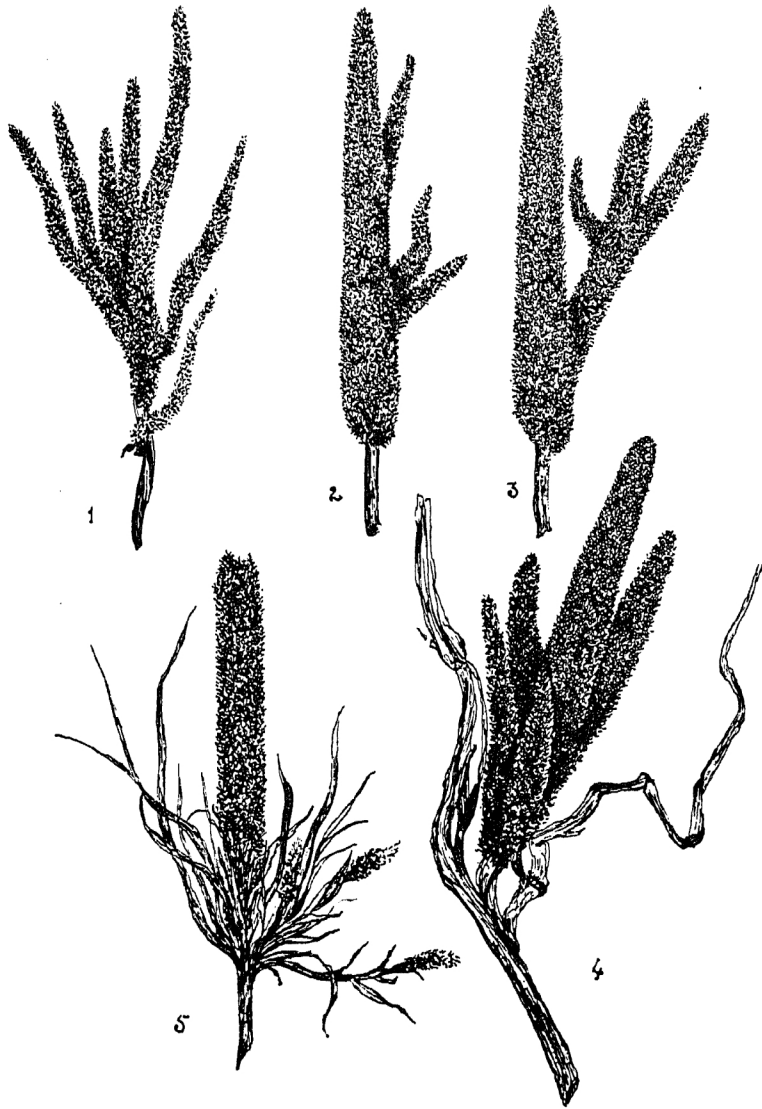


Fig. 2.

A few seeds from the latter are collected for further observations.

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¹ *Curr. Sci.*, 1935, 4, 237-238.