

Our thanks are due to Shri T. S. N. Murthy, of Southern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, for his sincere help in the positive determination of the species of snakes. One of us (BDS) is thankful to the Principal, Government College, Poonch, for his constant encouragement.

Department of Zoology,
Govt. College, Poonch,
(J & K State),
January 24, 1975.

B. D. SHARMA.*
TEJ SHARMA.**

* Head of the Department of Zoology.

** Present Address : Department of Zoology,
Government College, Poonch.

Triticale Mutants with Amber Coloured Seeds

Proper seed development with attractive colour of the seed coat is a major problem with the existing varieties of triticales. Efforts to solve this problem through pedigree and mutation breeding is in progress at Genetics Division, I.A.R.I. An encouraging result obtained through mutation breeding is reported here.

Seeds of triticale strain S. 141 developed here were treated with aqueous solution of nitrosomethyl urea (NMU). The seeds were soaked in distilled water for 16 hours. Then they were transferred into 0.01% of NMU for 6 hours. Then the seeds were thoroughly washed with water and sown in field to raise the M¹ generation, in 1971-72 rabi. M₂ pupulation of about 20,000 plants derived from selected seeds of 500 M₁ plants was critically screened for seed colour variation. Two plants could be identified which had attractive amber colour and better developed seeds. Isolation of such types marks a significant step in triticale breeding. This forms the first report on progressive mutants of triticale with amber and better filled grain.

Table I gives the comparative idea of the mutants and the control.

TABLE I

Comparison of triticale mutants with the control

Character	Control (S-141)	Mutant-I	Mutant-II
Plant height (cm)	132.50	125.00	130.00
Days to flowering	97	93	92
Days to maturity	159	149	157
Seeds/Spike	72	86	80
Fertility (as %)	61	75	72
Seed coat colour	Brown	Amber	Amber
Seed protein %	14.2	17.8	17.2

Stabilization and evaluation of these mutants is in progress. These are also being used in triticale improvement programme.

Division of Genetics,
Indian Agricultural
Research Institute,

V. RAMANATHA RAO.
M. G. JOSHI.

New Delhi-12, April 7, 1975.

1. Joshi, M. G., Bhopal Rao, J. V. R. and Tomar, R. S., "Progress in triticale breeding," Paper presented at The All India Wheat Workers Workshop, New Delhi, September 1973, p. 3.
2. Zillinsky, F. J., "Triticale breeding and research at CIMMYT," *Res. Bull. CIMMYT*, 1973, 24 (Mexico).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics

With the financial help of Mehta Trust and the grants from the Governments of India and Uttar Pradesh the above Research Institute has been started at 26, Dilkusha, New Katra, Allahabad-2. In the first phase (1975-78) the Institute will devote itself to the following branches of Mathematics :

(1) *Pure Mathematics :*

- (a) Mathematical Analysis,
- (b) Functional Analysis,
- (c) Theory and Methods of Solution of Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations, etc.

(2) *Applications of Mathematics :*

- (a) Environmental Dynamics,
- (b) Probability Theory, Stochastic Processes, Information Theory,
- (c) Mathematical Education,
- (d) Mathematical Models and Techniques in Educational Systems, Evaluation, etc.

3. During the second phase research facilities will be developed in the following branches :

- (a) Non-equilibrium Thermodynamics,
- (b) Quantum Physics, Phase Transitions,
- (c) Relativistic Mechanics, General Relativity.

4. Prof. P. L. Bhatnagar, who is known for his contributions to Applied Mathematics, has taken charge of the Institute as its first Director.