

observed in the top portion of the stem. Eightyfive varieties belonging to *S. Barberi* have been studied and in almost all of them a relatively large accumulation of starch has been noticed both at the base of the stem and at the top portion. Examination of 25 varieties belonging to *S. sinense* showed that in most of them the quantity is not so much as in *S. Barberi* but a fair quantity is present in all excepting 3 or 4 in which only traces have been met with. Twenty-six varieties belonging to *S. spontaneum* were studied and only small quantities of starch were noticed, though in 8 or 9 types a fair accumulation but lesser than in *S. sinense* and much less than in *S. Barberi* was noticed. Preliminary observations were also made on other genera and it was noticed that there was no starch accumulation in *Sclerostachya* and *Narenga*, while starch has been noticed in Guinea grass (*Panicum maxicum*), Napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) and *Sorghum*. Eight types of *Erianthus* have been studied and fair to large quantities of starch accumulation were noticed.

The observations have been restricted to the fully formed portions of the stem. Sections were taken at two points (1) at the bottommost joint above the ground and (2) the joint at the top next above the dead leaf joint, i.e., the oldest functioning green leaf. These observations were made on almost fully matured crop of about 11 months growth.

These studies are being continued. The indication at present is that the presence of starch in the fully formed internodes is a definite specific character for certain species of *Saccharum*. It is hoped to extend the studies to the numerous inter-specific and inter-generic hybrids at the Station to ascertain how this character is modified in these.

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### CHROMOSOME NUMBERS IN SOME ANGIOSPERMOUS PLANTS

ACCORDING to the information of the authors, the chromosome numbers reported here are new.

\*The morphological features of *Justicia adhatoda* Linn. is so different from other species that it was kept under a separate genus as *Adhatoda vasica* Nees. Its haploid

MELIACEÆ			
<i>Melia azadirachta</i> Linn.	2n=2s	Pathak & Singh	
POLYGONACEÆ			
<i>Rumex dentatus</i> Linn.	n=20	"	
APOCYNACEÆ			
<i>Allamanda grandiflora</i> Hook.	n=9	Pathak & Tiwari	
<i>Tabernaemontana coronaria</i> Willd.	n=11	"	
<i>Thevetia nerifolia</i> Juss.	n=9	"	
SIMURACEÆ			
<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb.	n=31	Pathak & Srivastava	
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i> Delice	n=9	"	
SIERCULIACEÆ			
<i>Pterospermum acerifolium</i> Willd.	n=19	"	
<i>Sterculia colorata</i> Roxb.	n=20	"	
ACANTHACEÆ			
* <i>Justicia adhatoda</i> Linn.	n=17	Pathak & Pande	
<i>Eranthemum variegata</i> Linn.	n=21	"	
<i>Daedalacanthus nervosus</i> T. Anders	n=21	"	
BIGNONIACEÆ			
<i>Tateiua pentaphylla</i> Gomez	n=20	"	
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> D. Don.	n=33	"	
RUTACEÆ			
<i>Murraya exotica</i> Linn.	n=9	"	
EBENACEÆ			
<i>Diospyros embryopteris</i> Pers.	n=15	"	

chromosome number 17 as compared to 14 of other species confirms this separation.

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### CULTURAL WORDS OF CHINESE ORIGIN: MONSOON

THE following information has been summarized from Yule<sup>1</sup> and Burnell, almost in their own words: "Monsoon is the name given to the periodical winds of the Indian seas—The original word is the Arabic *Mausim*, season, which the Portuguese corrupted

1. Alfaro, *Ann. Conf. Cuban Sugar Tech.*, 1928. 2. Carlson, M. C., *Bot. Gaz.*, 1929, 87, 64. 3. Haddon, E., *South African Sugar Journal* 10, 629. 4. Onslow, M. W., "The Principles of Plant Biochemistry," 1931, 25. 5. Weller, D. M., *Hawaiian Planters Record*, 1929, 3, 294.