

These preliminary results have indicated the suspicion to be correct. It is proposed, therefore, to repeat this experiment on *rahar* and extend it to other crop-plants during the ensuing season.

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<sup>1</sup> Singh, T. C. N., *Jour. Ind. Bot. Soc.*, 1930, 9, (4), 250.

<sup>2</sup> Singh, T. C. N., *Plant Breeding Abstracts*, 1933, 4, (3), 180.

<sup>3</sup> Anandan, M. and Krishnaswami, V., *Curr. Sci.*, 1934, 3, (1), 21-23.

#### A New Variety of Black Gram or *Urid* (*Phaseolus mungo*, Linn.).

TWENTY-FIVE types of black gram (*Urid*) have been described by R. D. Bose.<sup>1</sup> In the course of the examination of certain pulses at the Millets Breeding Station, Coimbatore, a new type from Malabar not described by Bose was met with. It is classifiable under "Section 2.—Black seeded types, sub-variety Niger (Bose)". The following is a detailed description of this type.

*Habit*: Semi-erect, profuse branching, stem furrowed, covered with long brownish hairs pointed downwards, stems green with purple splashes here and there. *Leaves*: Trifoliate, small, ovate, acuminate, leaflets ovate, entire, light green, petioles—long, hairy, channelled, sometimes purple streaked. *Flowers*: In axile racemes, peduncle purplish. Flowers lemon-yellow, back of standard purple tinged at the top, calyx purple tinged. *Pods*: Erect to sub-erect, cylindrical, unripe pods dark purple with a green tinge at the tip. Pods covered by brownish hairs pointed upwards. Dry pods dark brown in colour. *Seeds*: Oblong, small about  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch long, flattened at both ends, black, dull, (grey back-ground with heavy black marbling).

It will be noticed that this type is characterised by its purple pods. Purple colouring on the pods of pulses is common. Some red grams have this whole or in bands. Similarly in *Dolichos lablab* this colour is whole or localised in the periphery of pods. In green gram, purple along the suture line is noted. In cowpea purple podded varieties

are common especially from Malabar. These manifestations of pod purple are mendelian in behaviour. It is therefore interesting to record this new purple podded variety in black gram of potential use in hybridisation.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Indian J. of Agr. Sci.*, 1932, 2, 625.

#### A Rare Instance of Poly-Embryony in *Arachis hypogaea*, Willd.

THE occurrence of more than one embryo in a seed has been recorded by various authors from as early as 1719. Many species of various families in both Dicotyledons and Mono-cotyledons have been known to exhibit the phenomenon. It is prevalent among the common species like *Syzigium jambolanum* (*Myrtaceae*), *Syzigium* spp. (Tiwary, 1926), *Citrus aurantium* (*Rutaceae*) and *Mangifera indica* (*Anacardiaceae*). In *Papilionaceae*, poly-embryony has been noted in *glycine hispida* (Owen, 1928). But it has



A. Germinating groundnut seed showing two main roots.

not been noticed, till now, in the groundnut, even though about a million groundnut plants have been examined during the last five years. Earnst (1918), Coulter, Barnes, Cowles (*Text-Book of Botany*) recorded a number of instances of poly-embryony.