

number of cells in the species of *Pterospermum*. A number of parietal layers are formed and the megaspore-mother cells become deeply situated in the nucellus. Only one megaspore-mother cell is functional in all except in *P. acerifolium*, where two or three develop further. The formation of a linear tetrad has been observed in all. In *P. acerifolium*, due to the activity of two or three megaspore-mother cells, more than one tetrad is formed (Fig. 2).

The usual course of development follows and the normal eight-nucleate embryo-sac is formed. Gioelli (1932) working on some members of Sterculiaceæ, reports the occurrence of six-nucleate embryo-sacs, but such a case has not been found in any of the plants studied now. In *Pterospermum acerifolium* the multiple tetrads develop into double and triple embryo-sacs (Figs. 3, 4 & 5). The occurrence of double and triple embryo-sacs is reported for the first time in the family.

Meiosis in the microspore mother cells of *Sterculia acerifolia* and *Pterospermum reticulatum* has been studied and the haploid chromosome number in both is nineteen.

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### Albinism in Mustards.

MUSTARD work has been in progress for the last six years, and there are 132 strains isolated from different species of cultivated

Brassicæ—*Brassica juncea* H.F. and *Brassica campestris* L., *Brassica Napus* I *Brassica nigra* Koch, *Brassica rugosa* Prai A few albinatic plants appeared this year for the first time. It was interesting to find that these were confined to one strain of the lines of *Brassica Napus*. Cotyledons in these plants are normal and green while the subsequent leaves are completely albinatic and much reduced in size. The plants on the whole are very delicate. If they survive and are able to give some seed it will be interesting to study the inheritance of this character in their offsprings.

T. S. SARNIS.

Cawnpore,  
November 19, 1938.

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### *Gynura crepidioides* Bth. in China and Hainan.

THE record of this vigorously spreading weed from the mainland of Asia,<sup>1</sup> has been recently extended by Bor<sup>2</sup>.

Among a collection of duplicates recently received at Buitenzorg, I found specimens of *Gynura crepidioides* Bth. which represent as far as I know—the first appearance in China and Hainan, both collected in 1935. In the preliminary identifications it was mistaken—as is often the case in herbaria—for *Erechthites hieracifolia* Rafin.

The localities are the following:

China. Hunan Prov.: Ma-Ling-Tun Sinning Hsien, Oct. 16th, 1935, C. S. F. Y. V. Li No. 618, herb 2-3 feet tall, also shaded streamside, 600 m. alt.

Hainan. Po-ting, April 1935, F. C. H. 71591, herb on roadside flowers red.

C. G. G. J. VAN STEENIS.

The Herbarium, Botanic  
Gardens,  
Buitenzorg, Java,  
November 15, 1938.

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<sup>1</sup> *Curr. Sci.*, 1938, **7**, 21.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 1938, **7**, 116.