

AN ABNORMAL RICE PANICLE

An abnormal panicle was observed in the rice crop (Triveni) raised at the Institute of Agricultural Technology, Tavanur, Malappuram District, Kerala during Viruppu, 1980. The panicle had about 70 normal spikelets. The terminal end of the main rachis proliferated into a miniature rice plant with well developed leaves and a small earhead on the main tiller. This small earhead had flag lea also (Fig. 1).

The plant did not show infestation by insects or birds. Ramiah (1950) and Israel and Vedamurthi (1958) reported the tendency of branching of the culm consequent on the destruction of the terminal or axillary bunds. Padmaja *et al.* (1968) reported the case of two perfectly identical panicles with separate flag leaves on the terminal internode. This was considered to be a developmental abnormality in view of the fact that the phenomenon did not reappear in the selfed progeny.

Normally the terminal internode which is the longest carries the panicle. Development of a seedling from a mature spikelet on the panicle itself in non-dormant rice varieties like Ptb 10, a tall indica pureline, is a common feature. In this case, the plant produced a small rice plant at the terminal end of the main rachis suppressing about fifty per cent of spikelets that the panicle ought to have produced normally.

The present freak manifestation might be due to the transformation of one single spikelet at the terminal end into a whole plant consequent on developmental abnormalities.

സംഗ്രഹം

കതിരിന്റെ അഗ്രം മരൊരു നെൽച്ചെടിയിൽ രൂപാന്തരപ്പെട്ട് അതിൽ rolnm ഒരു ചെറിയ കതിർ ഉണ്ടായതായി 'ത്രീecuണി' ഇനത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട നെൽച്ചെടിയിൽ കണ്ടു. ഇടം പ്രഥമമായി റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്യുന്ന ഈ പ്രതിഭാസം ചെടിയുടെ വളർച്ചയിൽ സംഭവിക്കുന്ന അടിസ്ഥാനപരമായ മാറ്റങ്ങൾ നിമിത്തമായിരിക്കാമെന്നനുമാനിക്കുന്നു.

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Fig. 1 An abnormal rice panicle

