HYBRID VIGOR IN SOYBEANS

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Hybrid vigor has been noted by plant hybridizers from the very earliest to the late workers. East and Jones have published a complete review of the literature on this subject, presenting a large number of instances of vigor in F1 plants as well as a review of the theories on the cause of hybrid vigor, or heterosis. The writers of this paper, however, have not been able to find any such data for soybeans. This probably is due to the fact that the soybean is a comparatively new crop to the plant breeder, and also to the fact that very small numbers of hybrids have been produced on account of the difficulty of manipulating the flowers.

EXPERIMENTAL WORK

There is presented in this paper some data on the vigor of F1 soybean hybrids as compared to their parents. These hybrids were made in the summer of 1922 by William T. H. Ho. Nine different varieties were used in the crosses reported, in the following combinations.

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