

## I. INTRODUCTION

The formulation of a rational banana breeding programme has been attempted by Dodds (1943). He concluded that "by concentrating present research efforts on the means of synthesising a suitable diploid male parent for the production of primary tetraploids from Gros Michel, not only will valuable data on the genetics of parthenocarpy, bunch-shape, fruit-size, etc., be obtained, but the breeder's objective - a commercially acceptable and disease-resistant substitute for Gros Michel - is more likely to be attained than by any other method immediately available".

The present work is directed towards this end. It attempts an analysis of certain diploid hybrids in respect of the two all-important factors in the genetic system of the banana complex - sterility and parthenocarpy.

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