

## BIFURCATION IN CAPITULUM OF *TAGETES PETULA* LINN.- A TERETOLOGICAL REPORT

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*Tagetes petula* Linn., a common herb of North India is characterised by its capitulum inflorescence. Inflorescence is typically convex shaped having a large number of ray and disc florets. Single whorl of involucre is present as a protective appendage. One of the plants grown in a home-garden at Bharatpur showed the abnormal inflorescence (Fig.1) having four heads arranged in two groups of two each indicating that reproductive shoot apex might have been divided into two groups (Primary), in the very early stage of differentiation.

Both the apices showed bifurcation (Secondary). The primary branches are joined at the base having separate involucre, but secondary branches are joined together and have common involucre. Branching of inflorescence axis is dichasial hence, a new term is being proposed "Dichasial Head" to this type of inflorescence. The seeds have been collected for further investigations from this inflorescence to check whether it is a mutation or a variation and if a variation, it may be due to hormonal imbalance or due to a natural injury.

