

as it is acceptedly called, as shown by figures derived from a study of Egyptian cotton by Balls (15) and of the Alabama upland plant by myself. Balls found that upwards of 90 per cent. of the bolls shed did so within three of four days after flowering. From a statistical examination⁶ of 579 shed bolls at Auburn, Ala., it emerged that the distribution of shed bolls, according to age, shows that the vast majority of bolls are shed at the ages of from three to seven days inclusive, and have at shedding a diameter of 12 mm. or less. In fact, 95 per cent. are shed before the end of ten days. (Figure 2).

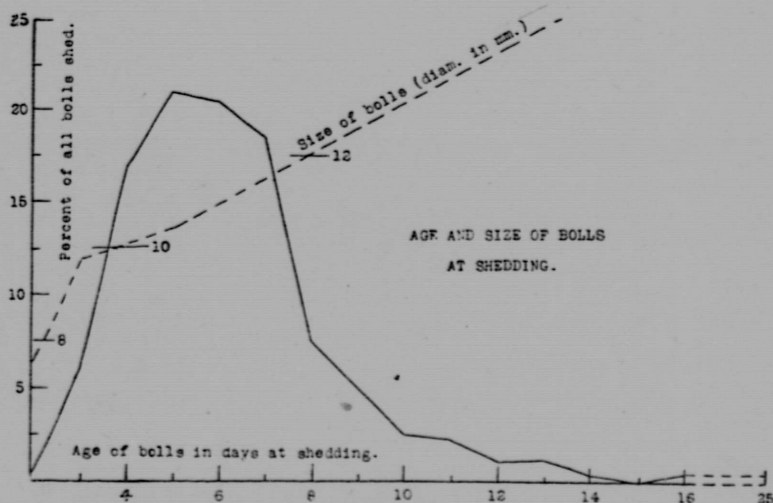


Figure 2. Graphs for age and size of bolls at shedding in percentage of the total shed. (*Gossypium herbaceum*).

The so-called "shelling" of grapes, which may greatly reduce the crop just at the period of maturation, appears to be the result of a definite abscission process comparable to the shedding of the cotton boll, except that the plane of separation occurs at the base of the ripened ovary and not at the base of the pedicel.

There are instances of indehiscent fruits in which exceptional behaviours may be seen, of which that of *Polygonum virginianum* and of the wild rice (*Zizania* spp.), may be quoted.

⁶ Based upon data collected by my then assistant, Mr. C. S. Ridgway, who has kindly referred them to me.