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5. BLOCK-PRINTED LENGTH OF CLOTH

BADIN, SINDH, PAKISTAN, 1980S

Coarse cotton tabby. Pattern: Haidro. The resists and iron black were block printed; indigo blue and alizarin red were applied in dye baths.

The pattern was designed as little rows of flowers on stems with two sets of leaves that emerge symmetrically from the stem. The flowerheads have petals that spread out like a fan. The pattern was first printed with iron black, as shown by the contours of the stem with leaves and sepals, and by the black-and-white-striped border at the top and bottom of the fabric. The petals, a set of leaves on the stem, and beaded borders on the selvages were printed in resist. This preserved the white ground when the cloth was dyed with indigo. Another resist with alum ensured that the alizarin red was fixed. Each end of the fabric terminates in a 7-cm-wide alizarin-red border that overdyed the indigo-blue body color, as can be seen by the mottled bluish red on the back.

