VICINAL AND NONVICINAL HETEROGRAMS

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A vicinal, as defined in Dave Morice’s *The Dictionary of Wordplay*, is a word in which each letter has an alphabetic neighbor; that is, each letter in the word occupies a position in the alphabet next to another letter that appears in the word. (The term was created by Eugene Ulrich in the August 1983 Kickshaws.) Let us write the alphabet in a circle, regarding A and Z as alphabetic neighbors as well. Here is a collection of heterograms (words with no repeated letters) that are vicinals:

2 pairs
abed abut adze azon bade balk balm bars bast bats beat bona bras chid daze done dope duct duets faze fest fets hide hied hist hits hong hopi join lamb meld mend nimh node nots onyx oped opts polk post pots pout pros reds refs rust ruts serf shit shri sith snot somn spot stab stop Styx tabs tabu teds this thug tons tops tuba unto vugh xyst

1 pair, 1 triple
abuts bacon banco block brats chide coden coned coped crabs demon drest ducts duets duvet educt fetus frets girsh monde morns mount norms notum ohing plank ponds ports pouts prost puntu puton shirt sight snort snout sport spout stoup strop tabus thugs tonus tuba tubas upton

3 pairs
ambled aplomb ardebs badmen balked bardes barons basted batons beards bedamm bedlam beldam blamed breads brons cobnut debars depots despot dopers drones fetish fisher flambé Fresno habits habitu hagbut hiders histed hognut hoiden honied jerids joined joints jurist kiblah klutzy lambed nought pedros phobia phobic posted pouted prosed quartz rhinos sabred serdab shedir shirer Shinto snored soften sonder sorred spored stoned stoped tabued thongs tonish updove
2 triples
bracts educts girths griths homing hoping jutish mounts puntos putons rights sacbut unstop
1 pair, 1 quadruple
abduct dolmen duster fights Proust rudest rusted sprout stupor

2 pairs, 1 triple
abdomen bedfast bighead bingham carbons chiders clomped clonked cobnuts corbans counted dabster deports demount dissect ditches dithers docents dustmen endmost foment fonest frontes gabfest gunshot habitus hagnuts hedonic herdics hognuts holking horsing hosting Jacobin moderns mounted mulcted noughts plonked ponders redfish redtops respond rodents rodmen scoring shifted shifter shoring shotgun snorted snouted sported spouted thouing throngs unmoved
1 triple, 1 quadruple
abducts compend crudest crusted frights nostrum
1 pair, 1 quintuple
blackened menfolk
4 pairs
bandores banjoist Brahmins broadens confuted habitude halutzim hedonist hoatzins hordeins joinders pibrochs spheroid
1 pair, 2 triples
contused demijohn demounts ditchers document forspent gunsmith mordents mouthing mudstone outspend portends shorting shouting
1 triple, 1 quintuple
fighters freights refights
3 triples
documents
1 pair, 1 triple, 1 quadruple
undermost
2 pairs, 1 quintuple
absconder bedchairs scrambled
3 pairs, 1 triple
adsorbent basketful bismuthal blacktops construed Dobermans eastbound habitudes obscurant outshined thumbnail thyroxins
5 pairs
rhapsodize
2 pairs, 2 triples
blackshirt blacksmith chondrites hindermost thumbnails
1 pair, 3 triples
Christendom
2 pairs, 2 quadruples
flourishment

In a nonvicinal, no letter has an alphabetic neighbor. Here is a small collection of heterograms of nine or more letters that are nonvicinals. (The maximum possible length is thirteen.)

9 Letters
Berkowitz capsuling carpeting certainly clavering coxalgies craveingly expulsing flowchart franticly interplay lacewings lawyering neuralgic overmatch packeting paltering panegyric parceling parleying pecuniary picayunes preacting prelaunch privately puckering racketing repacking replacing replating replaying sluiceway Spaulding squawking squeaking squealing traveling unshapely vectorial

10 Letters
caperingly lacqueying taperingly