

81. BREGANEGA

bregane VL*breganega* V*breganege* VL, It

This word unattested otherwise, but occurring on three occasions in different Polian mss., certainly refers to the bamboo (the word «bamboo» was not known before the middle of the 16th cent.; the equivalence *wambasium* = bamboo in *Pa*, 327, although repeated in HALLBERG, 63, is of course wrong; see «Cotton»). The etymology is not known. I agree with PENZER (*Pe*, 208) in rejecting the Persian form **bargānaya*, «leafy», proposed by Sten KONOW, or the Hindustanī *bargā*, «poutre». PENZER himself, who knew only the «berganegas» occurring in SANTAELLA's Spanish version and in the English translation made from the Spanish by FRAMPTON, thought of a corruption of **bengalega*, a form possibly derived from Span. *caña de Bengala*, «cane of bamboo». Such a sense of *caña de Bengala* in Spanish, *cana de Bengala* and also *bengala* alone in Portuguese is well attested (cf. the examples in DALGADO, *Glossário Luso-Asiático*, I, 116-117; the word is not in LOKOTSCH, *Etym. Wörterbuch*), but *breganega* recurs in too many instances to be regarded as being altered from a hypothetical **bengalega*. Moreover, «caña de Bengala» and «bengala» are purely Spanish and Portuguese terms, not older than the 16th cent., which can have no bearing on the etymology of an Italian mediaeval word. PENZER's mention of DIEZ, *Etymol. Wörterbuch der roman. Sprachen*, without indication of catch word or of page, seems to refer only to *cana de Bengala*. Venetian *brega*, «net», leads us nowhere. One might think of German **brekan*, «to break», from which several Provençal forms beginning with *brega* are derived (cf. VON WARTBURG, *Franz. Etym. Wörterbuch*, I, 511); the name may be attributable to the «crackling» of the bamboo under the action of fire. But I am afraid this is only a wild guess.

82. BRIUS

briuis VA*brunis* TA¹, TA³*ligays* LT*brius* F, FA, FB, P, L, VB,
VL, R, S*brus* Z

Here practically all the mss. agree (except that a reading «Brins», the only one given in *Pa*, 386, is sometimes possible according to *B*¹, 439, and *Z* has «Brus»); and the name can only apply to the Upper Yang-tzū, before its confluence with the Min River at Hsü-chou (the Sui-fu of our maps).

Writing about 1730, Orazio DELLA PENNA gives to the Upper Yang-tzū the name of «Bic'iu»,