

understanding of « d'Ely »; the confusion with [Rāman]taḷi accepted in *Pe*, 251, is most unlikely. R has already « Dely » in Polo, perhaps under the influence of the « Deli » he gives in Conti's text; cf. HALLBERG, 196-197.

The Mussulman texts write *هيلي* Hīlī (= Hēlī); there is no basis for the transcription Hāilī, frequently adopted. We find in the early 15th cent. 曷立 Hsieh-li, Hēlī, in the Chinese map of Mussulman origin reproduced by PHILLIPS in *JNCB*, XIX, 223; it is correctly placed south of Mangalore. ROCKHILL (*TP*, 1915, 453) has also seen Eḷi, Hēlī, in the 下里 Hsia-li, *Hali, of the *Tao-i chih-liao* of 1349-1350; he may be right, but then the position given in the text, between Quilon and Calicut, is wrong; this mention would be interesting as showing an initial *h*-independently from Mussulman cartography. Cf. also *TP*, 1933, 289, but taking into account that, geographically, Quilon may be said to border on Cochin, not on Eli; Fei Hsin repeats here the error of *Tao-i chih-liao*; for other mentions of Hsia-li in Fei Hsin's work, cf. *TP*, 1915, 448, 462.

Hīlī is mentioned in *Fe*, 281, 526, 540; but p. 281, a text from Ibn Al-Bayṭār († 1248) refers to « Sindāpūr, in the territory of Hīlī ». FERRAND makes no comment, but this localization is impossible, as « Sindāpūr » is the old name of Goa (cf. *Hobson-Jobson*², 837-838). Incidentally I may remark that there is no ground for transcribing *سنداپور* or *سنداپور* as « Sindāpūr ». The real form is Śindābūr (and Sindābūr), or even Śandabūr (and Sandabūr). The Catalan Map has « Chintabor », the Medici « Cintabor ». YULE has already supposed an initial element « Chandā° ». This is confirmed by the Chinese map of the 15th cent. where we find a 纏打瓦兒 Ch'an-ta-wa-êrh, *Āndawar, not identified by PHILLIPS (*JNCB*, XIX, 63), but certainly identical with the so-called « Sindāpūr ».

219. ERCOLIN

archoline, arcoline L

archolini VB

arcolini L, VA; R

arculini VL

choccholini TA¹, TA³

cucullini G

ercolin, erculin F

ercolini, erculini Z

herculini LT, P

Three times, in his notices on the Kingdom of «Conci», on the Land of Darkness, and on Russia (cf. Vol. I, 472, 473, 474), Polo gives an identical list of furs, twice in the order «sables, ermines, squirrels, ercolins and [black] foxes», and once in the order «sables, ermines, ercolins, squirrels, and foxes». In the original French text, the word here rendered «squirrel» is *vair*; although more or less obsolete in French and English, it might have been retained, as it has been by YULE, RICCI-ROSS, and, under the Italian form *vaio*, by BENEDETTO. As to the «ercolins», their name has not been traced elsewhere hitherto.

«Vair» (< Lat. *varius*, «variegated», > Fr. and Engl. *vair*, It. *vaio*, pl. *vai*) was used in mediaeval French as the designation of a particular colour of eyes, of the coat of various animals, but, above all, of certain kinds of squirrels and their furs. There are three main names of squirrels in mediaeval texts: «vair», «gris», and «écureuil» (ordinary squirrel, *Sciurus Vulgaris*). The