

Iranian extraction.<sup>1</sup> BRETSCHNEIDER<sup>2</sup> annotated, "If the character *hu* occurs in the name of a plant, it can be assumed that the plant is of foreign origin and especially from western Asia, for by *Hu žen* the ancient Chinese denoted the peoples of western Asia." This is but partially correct. The attribute *hu* is by no means a safe criterion in stamping a plant as foreign, neither does *hu* in the names of plants which really are of foreign origin apply to West-Asiatic or Iranian plants exclusively.

1. The word *hu* appears in a number of names of indigenous and partially wild plants without any apparent connection with the tribal designation Hu or without allusion to their provenience from the Hu. In the *Li Sao*, the famous elegies by K'ü Yüan of the fourth century B.C., a plant is mentioned under the name *hu šen* 胡繩, said to be a fragrant grass from which long cords were made. This plant is not identified.<sup>3</sup>

2. The acid variety of *yu* 柚 (*Citrus grandis*) is styled *hu kan* 胡甘,<sup>4</sup> apparently an ironical nickname, which may mean "sweet like the Hu." The tree itself is a native of China.

3. The term *hu hien* 胡莧 occurs only in the *T'u kin pen ts'ao* of Su Suñ of the eleventh century as a variety of *hien* (*Amarantus*), which is indigenous to China. It is not stated that this variety came from abroad, nor is it known what it really was.

4. *Hu mien man* 胡面莽 is a variety of *Rehmannia*,<sup>5</sup> a native of China and Japan. The name possibly means "the *man* with the face of a Hu."<sup>6</sup> Č'en Ts'añ-k'i of the T'ang says in regard to this plant that it grows in Lin-nan (Kwañ-tuñ), and is like *ti hwañ* 地黃 (*Rehmannia glutinosa*).

5. The plant known as *ku-sui-pu* 骨碎補 (*Polypodium fortunei*) is indigenous to China, and, according to Č'en Ts'añ-k'i, was called

<sup>1</sup> "Le terme est bien en principe, vers l'an 800, une désignation des Iraniens et en particulier des Sogdiens" (CHAVANNES and PELLIOT, *Traité manichéen*, p. 231). This in general is certainly true, but we have well authenticated instances, traceable to the fourth century at least, of specifically Iranian plants the names of which are combined with the element *Hu*, that can but apply to Iranians.

<sup>2</sup> *Chinese Recorder*, 1871, p. 221.

<sup>3</sup> BRETSCHNEIDER, *Bot. Sin.*, pt. II, No. 420; and *Li sao ts'ao mu su* (Ch. 2, p. 16 b, ed. of *Či pu tsu čai ts'un šu*) by Wu Žen-kie 吳仁傑 of the Sung period. See also *T'ai p'in yü lan*, Ch. 994, p. 6 b.

<sup>4</sup> BRETSCHNEIDER, *op. cit.*, No. 236; W. T. SWINGLE in *Plantæ Wilsonianæ*, Vol. II, p. 130.

<sup>5</sup> STUART, *Chinese Materia Medica*, p. 372.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. analogous plant-names like our Jews-mallow, Jews-thorn, Jews-ear, Jews-apple.