

G. A. STUART<sup>1</sup> has identified *a-yüe hun-tse*<sup>2</sup> with *Pistacia vera*, and this is confirmed by Matsumura.

The Japanese name *fusudasiu* or *fusudasu* is doubtless connected with Persian *pista*, from Old Iranian \**pistaka*, Middle Persian \**pistak*,<sup>3</sup> from which is derived Greek βιστάκιον, φιλτάκιον, πιστάκιον or ψιστάκιον, Latin *psittacium*, and our *pistacia* or *pistachio*. It is not known to me, however, to what date the Japanese word goes back, or through what channels it was received. In all likelihood it is of modern origin, the introduction into Japan being due to Europeans.

In Chinese literature, the Persian word appears in the Geography of the Ming Dynasty,<sup>4</sup> in the transcription [*ki-*] *pi-se-tan* [罽] 苾思檀, stated to be a product of Samarkand, the leaves of the tree resembling those of the *šan č'a* 山茶 (*Camellia oleifera*), and its fruit that of the *yin hin* 銀杏 (*Salisburia adiantifolia*).

The Persian word, further, occurs in the new edition of the *Kwan yü ki*, entitled *Tsen tin kwan yü ki* 增訂廣輿記. The original, the *Kwan yü ki*, was written by Lu Yin-yan 陸應陽,<sup>5</sup> and published during the Wan-li period in 1600. The revised and enlarged edition was prepared by Ts'ai Fañ-piñ 蔡方炳 (*hao Kiu-hia* 九霞) in 1686; a reprint of this text was issued in 1744 by the publishing-house Se-mei t'añ 四美堂. Both this edition and the original are before me. The latter<sup>6</sup> mentions only three products under the heading "Samarkand"; namely, coral, amber, and ornamented cloth (*hwa žui pu* 花蓋布). The new edition, however, has fifteen additional items, the first of these being [*ki-*] *pi-se-t'an*, written as above,<sup>7</sup> stated to be a tree growing in the region of Samarkand. "The leaves of the tree," it is said, "resemble those of the *šan č'a* (*Camellia oleifera*); the fruits have the appearance of the nut-like seeds of the *yin hin* (*Salisburia adiantifolia*), but are smaller." The word *pi-se-t'an* doubtless represents the transcription of Persian

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ferent plant,—*Torreya nucifera*. A revival on the part of the Chinese, of the good, old terms of their own language, would be very desirable, not only in this case, but likewise in many others.

<sup>1</sup> Chinese Materia Medica, p. 334.

<sup>2</sup> Wrongly transcribed by him *o-yüeh-chün-tzü*.

<sup>3</sup> These reconstructions logically result from the phonetic history of Iranian, and are necessitated by the existence of the Greek loan-word. Cf., further, Byzantine *pustux* and *fustox*, Comanian *pistac*, and the forms given below (p. 252). Persian *pista* is identified with *Pistacia vera* by SCHLIMMER (Terminologie, p. 465).

<sup>4</sup> *Ta Min i t'uñ č'i*, Ch. 89, p. 23.

<sup>5</sup> WYLIE, Notes on Chinese Literature, p. 59.

<sup>6</sup> Ch. 24, p. 6 b.

<sup>7</sup> The addition of *ki* surely rests on an error (SCHOTT also reads *pi-se-t'an*, which he presumably found in his text; see the following note).