

the character *swi* are given, also the synonymes *hian ts'ai* 香菜 ("fragrant vegetable") and *hian sün* 香蓼.¹ In Kian-nan the plant was styled *hu swi* 胡荽, also *hu ki* 葫薺, the pronunciation of the latter character being explained by 祗 *k'i*, *gi. The coriander belongs to the five vegetables of strong odor (p. 303) forbidden to the geomancers and Taoist monks.²

I have searched in vain for any notes on the plant that might elucidate its history or introduction; but such do not seem to exist, not even in the various *Pen ts'ao*. As regards the Annals, I found only a single mention in the *Wu Tai ši*,³ where the coriander is enumerated among the plants cultivated by the Uigur. In tracing its foreign origin, we are thrown back solely on the linguistic evidence.

The coriander was known in Iran: it is mentioned in the *Bündahišn*.⁴ Its medical properties are discussed in detail by Abu Mansur in his Persian pharmacopœia.⁵ SCHLIMMER⁶ observes, "Se cultive presque partout en Perse comme plante potagère; les indigènes le croient antiaphrodisiaque et plus spécialement anéantissant les érections." It occurs also in Fergana.⁷ It was highly appreciated by the Arabs in their pharmacopœia, as shown by the long extract devoted to it by Ibn al-Baitār.⁸ In India it is cultivated during the cold season. The Sanskrit names which have been given on p. 284, mean simply "grain," and are merely attributes,⁹ not proper designations of the plant, for which in fact there is no genuine Sanskrit word. As will be seen below, Sanskrit *kustumburu* is of Iranian origin; and there is no doubt in my mind that the plant came to India from Iran, in the same manner as it appears to have spread from Iran to China.

胡荽 or 荽 *hu-swi*, *ko(go)-swi (su), appears to be the transcription of an Iranian form *koswi, košwi, gošwi. Cf. Middle Persian *gošniz*;

¹ Two dictionaries, the *Tse yüan* 字苑 and *Yün lio* 韻略, are quoted in this text, but their date is not known to me. As stated in the *Pen ts'ao ši i* and *Ši wu ki yüan* (Ch. 10, p. 30; above, p. 279), the change from *hu swi* to *hian swi* was dictated by a taboo imposed by Ši Lo 石勒 (A.D. 273-333), who was himself a Hu (cf. below, p. 300); but we have no contemporaneous account to this effect, and the attempt at explanation is surely retrospective.

² *Pen ts'ao kañ mu*, Ch. 26, p. 6 b; and STUART, Chinese Materia Medica, p. 28.

³ Ch. 74, p. 4.

⁴ Above, p. 192.

⁵ ACHUNDOW, Abu Mansur, p. 112.

⁶ Terminologie, p. 156.

⁷ S. KORŽINSKI, Vegetation of Turkistan (in Russian), p. 51.

⁸ L. LECLERC, Traité des simples, Vol. III, pp. 170-174.

⁹ Such are also the synonymes *sūkṣmapatra*, *tīkṣṇapatra*, *tīkṣṇaphala* ("with leaves or fruits of sharp taste").