

## CHIVE, ONION, AND SHALLOT

10. Although a number of alliaceous plants are indigenous to China,<sup>1</sup> there is one species, the chive (*Allium scorodoprasum*; French *rocamboles*), to which, as already indicated by its name *hu swan* 胡蒜 or *hu 葫* ("garlic of the Hu, Iranian garlic"), a foreign origin is ascribed by the Chinese. Again, the worn-out tradition that also this introduction is due to Čaň K'ien, is of late origin, and is first met with in the spurious work *Powu či*, and then in the dictionary *T'an yün* of the middle of the eighth century.<sup>2</sup> Even Li Ši-čen<sup>3</sup> says no more than that "people of the Han dynasty obtained the *hu swan* from Central Asia." It seems difficult, however, to eradicate a long-established prejudice or an error even from the minds of scholars. In 1915 I endeavored to rectify it, especially with reference to the wrong opinion expressed by Hirth in 1895, that garlic in general must have been introduced into China for the first time by Čaň K'ien. Nevertheless the same misconception is repeated by him in 1917,<sup>4</sup> while a glance at the *Botanicon Sinicum*<sup>5</sup> would have convinced him that at least four species of *Allium* are of a prehistoric antiquity in China. The first mention of this Central-Asiatic or Iranian species of *Allium* is made by T'ao Huň-kiň (A.D. 451-536), provided the statement attributed to him in the *Čen lei pen ts'ao* and *Pen ts'ao kaň mu* really emanates from him.<sup>6</sup> When the new *Allium* was introduced, the necessity was felt of distinguishing it from the old, indigenous *Allium sativum*, that was designated by the plain root-word *swan*. The former, accordingly, was characterized as *ta swan* 大蒜 ("large *Allium*"); the latter, as *siao 小 swan* ("small *Allium*"). This distinction is said to have first been recorded by T'ao Huň-kiň. Also the *Ku kin ču* is credited with the mention of *hu swan*; this, however, is not the older *Ku kin ču* by Ts'ui Pao of the fourth century, but, as expressly stated in the *Pen ts'ao*, the later re-edition by Fu Hou

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. *T'oung Pao*, 1915, pp. 96-99.

<sup>2</sup> BRETSCHNEIDER, *Bot. Sin.*, pt. III, No. 244.

<sup>3</sup> *Pen ts'ao kaň mu*, Ch. 26, p. 6 b.

<sup>4</sup> *Journal Am. Or. Soc.*, Vol. XXXVII, p. 92.

<sup>5</sup> Pt. II, Nos. 1-4, 63, 357-360, and III, Nos. 240-243.

<sup>6</sup> The *Kin kwei yao lio* (Ch. c, p. 24 b) of the second century A.D. mentions *hu swan*, but this in all probability is a later interpolation (above, p. 205).