

In its appearance it is like *lan-liñ-tuñ* 蘭凌冬,¹ but greener. When dried and powdered, it tastes like cinnamon and pepper. The root is capable of relieving colds."² The *Fuñ šī wen kien ki*³ adds that *hun-t'i* came from the Western Countries (*Si yü*).

Hun-t'i is a transcription answering to -ancient **gwun-de*, and corresponds to Middle Persian *gandēna*, New Persian *gāndānā*, Hindi *gandanā*, Bengālī *gundīna* (Sanskrit *mleccha-kanda*, "bulb of the barbarians"), possibly the shallot (*Allium ascalonicum*; French *échalotte*, *ciboule*) or *A. porrum*, which occurs in western Asia and Persia, but not in China.⁴

Among the vegetables of India, Hüan Tsañ⁵ mentions 葷陀 *hun-t'o* (**hun-da*) *ts'ai*. JULIEN left this term untranslated; BEAL did not know, either, what to make of it, and added in parentheses *kañdu* with an interrogation-mark. WATTERS⁶ explained it as "*kunda* (properly the olibanum-tree)." This is absurd, as the question is of a vegetable cultivated for food, while the olibanum is a wild tree offering no food. Moreover, *hun* cannot answer to *kun*; and the Sanskrit word is not *kunda*, but *kundu* or *kundurū*. The mode of writing, *hun*, possibly is intended to allude to a species of *Allium*. Hüan Tsañ certainly transcribed a Sanskrit word, but a Sanskrit plant-name of the form *hunda* or *gunda* is not known. Perhaps his prototype is related to the Iranian word previously discussed.

¹ The parallel text in the *Ts'e fu yüan kwei* (Ch. 970, p. 12) writes only *liñ-tuñ*. This plant is unidentified.

² *T'añ hui yao*, Ch. 100, p. 3 b; and Ch. 200, p. 14 b.

³ Ch. 7, p. 1 b (above, p. 232).

⁴ A. DE CANDOLLE, *Origin of Cultivated Plants*, pp. 68-71; LECLERC, *Traité des simples*, Vol. III, pp. 69-71; ACHUNDOW, *Abu Mansur*, pp. 113, 258. Other Persian names are *tārā* and *kawar*. They correspond to Greek *πράσον*, Turkish *prāsa*, Arabic *kurāt*. The question as to whether the species *ascalonicum* or *porrum* should be understood by the Persian term *gāndānā*, I have to leave in suspense and to refer to the decision of competent botanists. SCHLIMMER (*Terminologie*, p. 21) identifies Persian *gāndānā* with *Allium porrum*; while, according to him, *A. ascalonicum* should be *musir* in Persian. VULLERS (*Lexicon persico-latinum*, Vol. II, p. 1036) translates the word by "porrum." On the other hand, STUART (*Chinese Materia Medica*, p. 25), following F. P. Smith, has labelled Chinese *hiai* 薤, an *Allium* anciently indigenous to China, as *A. ascalonicum*. If this be correct, the Chinese would certainly have recognized the identity of the foreign *hun-t'i* with *hiai*, provided both should represent the same species, *ascalonicum*. Maybe also the two were identical species, but differentiated by cultivation.

⁵ *Ta T'añ si yü ki*, Ch. 2, p. 8 b.

⁶ On Yuan Chwang's Travels, Vol. I, p. 178.