

plants. One is termed *hui-hui tou* ("Mohammedan bean"), first mentioned in the *Kiu hwan pen ts'ao* of the fourteenth century, called also *na-ho tou* 那合豆, the bean being roasted and eaten. The other, named *hu tou*, is identified with the wild *hu tou* of Č'en Ts'añ-k'i; and Wu K'i-tsün, author of the *Či wu min ši t'u k'ao*, adds the remark, "What is now called *hu tou* grows wild, and is not the *hu tou* [that is, the pea] of ancient times."

14. On the other hand, the term *hu tou* 胡豆 refers also to *Faba sativa* (*F. vulgaris*, the vetch or common bean), according to BRETSCHEIDER,<sup>1</sup> "one of the cultivated plants introduced from western Asia into China, in the second century B.C., by the famous general Chang K'ien." This is an anachronism and a wild statement, which he has not even supported by any Chinese text.<sup>2</sup> The history of the species in China is lost, or was never recorded. The supposition that it was introduced from Iran is probable. It is mentioned under the name *pag* (*gāvirs*) in the *Būndahišn* as the chief of small-seeded grains.<sup>3</sup> Abu Mansur has it under the Persian name *bāqilā* or *bāqlā*.<sup>4</sup> Its cultivation in Egypt is of ancient date.<sup>5</sup>

15. *Ts'an tou* 蠶豆 ("silkworm bean," so called because in its shape it resembles an old silkworm), Japanese *soramame*, the kidney-bean or horse-bean (*Vicia faba*), is also erroneously counted by BRETSCHEIDER<sup>6</sup> among the Č'añ-K'ien plants, without any evidence being produced. It is likewise called *hu tou* 胡豆, but no historical documents touching on the introduction of this species are on record. It is not mentioned in T'ang or Sung literature, and seems to have been introduced not earlier than the Yüan period (1260-1367). It is spoken of in the *Nun šu* 農書 ("Book on Agriculture") of Wan Č'eñ 王禎 of that period, and in the *Kiu hwan pen ts'ao* 救荒本草 of the early

<sup>1</sup> Bot. Sin., pt. II, No. 29.

<sup>2</sup> The only text to this effect that I know of is the *Pen ts'ao kin*, quoted in the *T'ai p'ih yü lan* (Ch. 841, p. 6 b), which ascribes to Č'añ K'ien the introduction of sesame and *hu tou*; but which species is meant (*Pisum sativum*, *Faba sativa*, or *Vicia faba*) cannot be guessed. The work in question certainly is not the *Pen ts'ao kin* of Šen-nun, but it must have existed prior to A.D. 983, the date of the publication of the *T'ai p'ih yü lan*.

<sup>3</sup> WEST, Pahlavi Texts, Vol. I, p. 90.

<sup>4</sup> ACHUNDOW, Abu Mansur, p. 20.

<sup>5</sup> V. LORET, Flore pharaonique, p. 94.

<sup>6</sup> *Chinese Recorder*, 1871, p. 221 (thus again reiterated by DE CANDOLLE, *Origin of Cultivated Plants*, p. 318). The *Kwan k'ün fan p'u* (Ch. 4, p. 12 b) refers the above text from the *T'ai p'ih yü lan* to this species, but also to the pea. This confusion is hopeless.