

make abundant use of *tse-kun* cosmetic, which is commonly called *tse-kun*. In general, all these substances may be used as remedies in blood diseases.¹ Also the juice from the seeds of *lo k'wei* 落葵 (*Basella rubra*) may be taken, and, mixed evenly with powder, may be applied to the face. Also this is styled *hu yen-č'i*." Now it becomes clear why *Basella rubra*, a plant indigenous to China, is termed *hu yen-č'i* in the *T'un č'i* of Čen Tsiao and by Ma Či of the tenth century: this name originally referred to the cosmetic furnished by *Butea frondosa* or other trees on which the lac-insect lives,²—trees growing in Indo-China, the Archipelago, and India. This product, accordingly, was foreign, and hence styled "foreign cosmetic" or "cosmetic of the barbarians" (*hu yen-č'i*). Since *Basella* was used in the same manner, that name was ultimately transferred also to the cosmetic furnished by this indigenous plant.

What is not stated by Li Ši-čen is that *yen-č'i* is also used with reference to *Mirabilis jalapa*, because from the flowers of this plant is derived a red coloring-matter often substituted for carthamine.³ It is obvious that the term *yen-č'i* has no botanical value, and for many centuries has simply had the meaning "cosmetic."

Fan Č'en-ta (1126-93), in his *Kwei hai yü heñ č'i*,⁴ mentions a *yen-č'i* 胭脂 tree, strong and fine, with a color like *yen-č'i* (that is, red), good for making arrowheads, and growing in Yün čou, also in the caves of this department, and in the districts of Kwei-lin, in Kwan-si Province. A. HENRY⁵ gives for Yi-č'an in Se-č'wan a plant-name *yen-č'i ma* 煙脂麻 ("cosmetic hemp"), identified with *Patrinia villosa*.

¹ On account of the red color of the berries.

² See p. 478.

³ STUART, Chinese Materia Medica, p. 264; MATSUMURA, No. 2040; PERROT and HURRIER, Matière médicale et pharmacopée sino-annamites, p. 116, where *lo-k'wei* is erroneously given as Chinese name of the plant.

⁴ Ed. of Či pu tsu čai ts'un šu, p. 28 b.

⁵ Chinese Names of Plants, p. 239 (*Journal China Branch Roy. As. Soc.*, Vol. XXII, 1887).