

originally in Persia, and that it was thence transplanted into Kwañ-tuñ. The first-named work adds that it is now (sixteenth century) cultivated in Yün-nan and Kwañ-tuñ, but that it cannot stand cold, and is unsuited to the climate of China. The *Tan k'ien tsuñ lu* 丹鉛總錄 of Yañ Šen 楊慎 (1488-1559) is cited to the effect that "the name *nai* 柰 used in the north of China is identical with what is termed in the Tsin Annals 晉書 *tsan nai hwa* 簪 ('hair-pin') 柰花.¹ As regards this flower, it entered China a long time ago."

Accordingly we meet in Chinese records the following names for jasmine:²—

(1) 耶悉茗 *ye-si-miñ*, **ya-sit*(sið)-*miñ*, = Pahlavi *yāsmīn*, New Persian *yāsamīn*, *yāsmīn*, *yāsmūn*, Arabic *yasmin*, or 野悉蜜 *ye-si-mi*, **ya-sit-mit* (in *Yu yañ tsa tsu*) = Middle Persian **yāsmīr* (?).³ Judging from this philological evidence, the statement of the *Yu yañ tsa tsu*, and Li Ši-čen's opinion that the original habitat of the plant was in Persia, it seems preferable to think that it was really introduced from that country into China. The data of the *Nan fañ ts'ao mu čwañ* are open to grave suspicion; but he who is ready to accept them is compelled to argue, that, on the one hand, the Persian term was extant in western Asia at least in the third century A.D., and that, on the other hand, the Indian word *mallikā* (see No. 2) had reached Ta Ts'in about the same time. Either suggestion would be possible, but is not confirmed by any West-Asiatic sources.⁴ The evidence presented by the Chinese work is isolated; and its authority is not weighty enough, the relation of the modern text to the original issue of about A.D. 300 is too obscure, to derive from it such a far-reaching conclusion. The Persian-Arabic word has become the property of the entire world: all European languages have adopted it, and the Arabs diffused it along the east coast of Africa (Swahili *yasmini*, Madagasy *dzasimini*).

(2) 末利 or 茉莉 *mo-li*,⁵ **mwat*(*mwal*)-*li* = *malli*, transcription of

¹ This is the night-blooming jasmine (*Nyctanthes arbor tristis*), the musk-flower of India (STUART, Chinese Materia Medica, p. 287).

² There are numerous varieties of *Jasminum*,—about 49 to 70 in India, about 39 in the Archipelago, and about 15 in China and Japan.

³ From the Persian loan-word in Armenian, *yasmik*, HÜBSCHMANN (Armen. Gram., p. 198) justly infers a Pahlavi **yāsmik*, beside *yāsmīn*. Thus also **yāsmīt* or **yāsmīr* may have existed in Pahlavi.

⁴ It is noteworthy also that neither Dioscorides nor Galenus was acquainted with jasmine.

⁵ For the expression of the element *li* are used various other characters which may be seen in the *Kwañ k'ün fañ p'u* (Ch. 22, p. 8 b); they are of no importance for the phonetic side of the case.