

in India *guzangabin*, is collected from the tamarisk (*Tamarix gallica*, var. *mannifera* Ehrenb.) in the valleys of the Peninsula of Sinai and also in Persia.¹ In the latter country, the above name is likewise applied to a manna obtained from *Astragalus florulentus* and *A. adscendens* in the mountain-districts of Chahar-Mahal and Faraidan, and especially about the town of Khonsar, south-west of Ispahan. The best sorts of this manna, which are termed *gaz-alefi* or *gaz-khonsar* (from the province Khonsar), are obtained in August by shaking it from the branches, the little drops finally sticking together and forming a dirty, grayish-white, tough mass. According to SCHLIMMER,² the shrub on which this manna is formed is common everywhere, without yielding, however, the slightest trace of manna, which is solely obtained in the small province Khonsar or Khunsar. The cause for this phenomenon is sought in the existence there of the *Coccus mannifer* and in the absence of this insect in other parts of the country. Several Persian physicians of Ispahan, and some European authors, have attributed to the puncture of this insect the production of manna in Khonsar; and Schlimmer recommends transporting and acclimatizing the insect to those regions where *Tamarix* grows spontaneously.

It has been stated that the earliest allusion to tamarisk-manna is to be found in Herodotus,³ who says in regard to the men of the city Callatebus in Asia Minor that they make honey out of wheat and the fruit of the tamarisk. The case, however, is different; Herodotus does not allude to the exudation of the tree.

STUART⁴ states that tamarisk-manna is called *č'en žu* 櫻乳. The tamarisk belongs to the flora of China, three species of it being known.⁵ The Chinese, as far as I know, make no reference to a manna from any of these species; and the term pointed out by Stuart merely refers to the sap in the interior of the tree, which, according to the *Pen ts'ao*, is used in the *Materia Medica*. Čen Tsiao 鄭樵 of the Sung period, in his *T'un či* 通志,⁶ simply defines *č'en žu* as "the sap in the wood or trunk of the tamarisk."⁷

¹ See particularly D. HOOPER, Tamarisk Manna, *Journal As. Soc. Bengal*, Vol. V, 1909, pp. 31-36.

² Terminologie, p. 359.

³ VII, 31.

⁴ Chinese *Materia Medica*, p. 259.

⁵ BRETSCHNEIDER, Bot. Sin., pt. II, No. 527; *Pen ts'ao kañ mu*, Ch. 35 B, p. 9.

⁶ Ch. 76, p. 12.

⁷ The Turkī name for the tamarisk is *yulgun*. In Persian it is styled *gaz* or *gazm* (Kurd *gazo* or *gezu*), the fruit *gazmāzak* or *gazmāzū* (*gaz basrah*, the manna of the tree); further, *balangmušt*, *balangmusk*, or *balanjmušk*, and Arabic-Persian *kizmāzaj*.