

(*qanbīt*) and Syrian from Mosul. He further mentions *Brassica rapa* under the name *šelgem* (Arabic *šaljam*).¹

33. One of the synonymes of *yün-t'ai* 蕓薹 (*Brassica rapa*) is *hu ts'ai* 胡菜 ("vegetable of the Hu"). According to Li Ši-čen,² this term was first applied to this vegetable by Fu K'ien 服虔 of the second century A.D. in his *T'un su wen* 通俗文. If this information were correct, this would be the earliest example of the occurrence of the term Hu in connection with a cultivated plant; but this Hu does not relate to Iranians, for Hu Hia 胡洽, in his *Pai pin fan* 百病方, a medical work of the Sui period (A.D. 589-618), styles the plant *sai ts'ai* 塞菜, which, according to Li Ši-čen, has the same significance as *hu ts'ai*, and refers to 塞外 Sai-wai, the Country beyond the Passes, Mongolia. Some even believe that Yün-t'ai is a place-name in Mongolia, where this plant thrives, and that it received therefrom its name. Such localities abstracted from plant-names are usually afterthoughts and fictitious.³ The term *yün-t'ai* occurs in the early work *Pie lu*.

SCHLIMMER⁴ mentions *Brassica capitata* (Persian *kalam pīč*), *B. caulozapa* (*kalam gomri*), and *B. napus* or *rapa* (*šelgem*). I have already pointed out that the Persians were active in disseminating species of *Brassica* and *Raphanus* to Tibet, the Turks, and Mongolia.⁵ Reference has been made above (p. 199) to the fact that *Brassica rapa* (*yün-t'ai*) was introduced into China from Turkish tribes of Mongolia under the Later Han dynasty, and it would be reasonable to conclude that these had previously received the cultivation from Iranians.⁶ *Brassica rapa* is very generally cultivated in Persia and most parts of India during the dry season, from October until March.⁷ *Yün-t'ai* is enumerated among the choice vegetables of the country 末祿 Mo-lu, *Mar-luk, in Arabia.⁸

The country of the Arabs produced the rape-turnip (*man-tsiñ* 蔓菁, *Brassica rapa-depressa*) with roots the size of a peck 斗, round, and of very sweet flavor.⁹

Yi Tsiñ, the Buddhist pilgrim of the seventh century, makes some comment on the difference between Indian and Chinese *Brassica* by saying,

¹ ACHUNDOW, Abu Mansur, p. 87.

² *Pen ts'ao kan mu*, Ch. 26, p. 9 b.

³ Compare p. 401.

⁴ Terminologie, p. 93.

⁵ *T'oung Pao*, 1915, pp. 84, 87.

⁶ The case would then be analogous to the history of the water-melon.

⁷ W. ROXBURGH, *Flora Indica*, p. 497.

⁸ *T'ai p'in hwan yü ki*, Ch. 186, p. 16 b.

⁹ *Ibid.*, Ch. 186, p. 15 b.