

carui), however, is commonly termed in Persian *šāh-zīre* ("cummin of the Shah") or *zīre-i rūmī* ("Byzantine or Turkish cummin").¹

While the philological evidence would speak in favor of a transmission of cummin from Persia to China, this point is not clearly brought out by our records. Č'en Ts'an-k'i, who wrote in the first half of the eighth century, states that *ši-lo* grows in Fu-ši 佛誓 (Bhoja, Sumatra). Li Sün, in his *Hai yao pen ts'ao*, says after the *Kwañ čou ki* 廣州記 that the plant grows in the country Po-se;² and Su Suñ of the Sung notes that in his time it occurred in Liñ-nan (Kwañ-tuñ) and adjoining regions. Now, the *Kwañ čou ki* is said to have been written under the Tsin dynasty (A.D. 265-420);³ and, as will be shown below in detail, the Po-se of Li Sün almost invariably denotes, not Persia, but the Malayan Po-se. Again, it is Li Sün who does not avail himself of the Iranian form *ši-lo* = *žira*, but of the Sanskrit form *jīraka*, possibly conveyed through the medium of the Malayan Po-se.

Li Ši-čen has entered under *ši-lo* another foreign word in the form 慈謀勒 *ts'e-mou-lo* (*dži-mu-lak), which he derived from the *K'ai pao pen ts'ao*, and which, in the same manner as *ši-lo*, he stamps as a foreign word. This transcription has hitherto defied identification,⁴ because it is incorrectly recorded. It is met with correctly in the *Čeñ lei pen ts'ao*⁵ in the form 慈勒 *ts'e-lo*, *dži-lak(rak), and this answers to Sanskrit *jīraka*. This form is handed down in the *Hai yao pen ts'ao*, written by Li Sün in the eighth century. Thus we have, on the one hand a Sanskrit form *jīraka*, conveyed by the Malayan Po-se to Kwañ-tuñ in the T'ang period, and on the other hand the Iranian type *ši-lo* = *žira*, which for phonetic reasons must likewise go back to the era of the T'ang, and which we should suppose had migrated overland to China. The latter point, for the time being, remains an hypothesis, which will perhaps be elucidated by the documents of Turkistan.

¹ Corresponding to Arabic *karāwyā*, the source of our word caraway.

² The *Čeñ lei pen ts'ao* (Ch. 13, p. 27 b) repeats this without citing a source.

³ Cf. below, p. 475.

⁴ STUART, Chinese Materia Medica, p. 176.

⁵ Ch. 13, p. 17 b.