

gathered, and either pounded and pressed or roasted and boiled, and the oily fluid is collected. It is found to be unctuous and not inferior to olive-oil for burning in lamps, save that it emits a disagreeable odor. Seeds of *Ricinus* are known from Egyptian tombs, and the plant is still cultivated in Egypt. Pliny¹ states that it is not so long ago that the plant was introduced into Italy. A. DE CANDOLLE² traces its home to tropical Africa, and I agree with this view. Moreover, I hold that it was transplanted from Egypt to India, although, of course, we have no documentary proof to this effect. *Ricinus* does not belong to the plants which were equally known to the Iranians and Indo-Aryans. It is not mentioned in the Vedas or in the Laws of Manu.³ The first datable references to it occur in the Bower Manuscript, where its oil and root are pointed out under the names *eraṇḍa*, *gandharva*, *rubūgaka*, and *vakṣaṇa*. Other names are *ruvu*, *ruvuka*, or *ruvūka*, *citraka*, *gandharva-hastaka*, *vyāghrapuccha* ("tiger's-tail"). The word *eraṇḍa* has become known to the Chinese in the form *i-lan* 伊蘭,⁴ and was adopted into the language of Kuča (Tokharian B) in the form *hiraṇḍa*.⁵ From India the plant seems to have spread to the Archipelago and Indo-China (Malayan, Sunda, and Javanese *jarak*; Khmer *lohoñ*; Annamese *du du trañ*, *kai-dua*, or *kai-du-du-tia*; Čam *tamñön*, *lahauñ*, *lahon*).⁶ The Miao and the Lo-lo appear to be familiar with the plant: the former call it *zrwa-ño*;⁷ the latter, *č'e-tu-ma* (that is, "fruit for the poisoning of dogs").⁸

In Iran the cultivation of *Ricinus* has assumed great importance, but no document informs us as to the time of its transplantation. It may be admitted, however, that it was well known there prior to our era.⁹ The Persian name is *bedānjir*, *pandu*, *punde*, or *pendu*; in Arabic it is *xarva* or *xirva*.

¹ XV, 7, § 25.

² Origin of Cultivated Plants, p. 422.

³ JORET, *Plantes dans l'antiquité*, Vol. II, p. 270.

⁴ *Fan yi miñ yi tsi*, section 24.

⁵ S. LÉVI, *Journal asiatique*, 1911, II, p. 123.

⁶ On the cultivation in Indo-China, see PERROT and HURRIER, *Mat. méd. et pharmacopée sino-annamites*, p. 107. Regarding the Archipelago, see A. DE CANDOLLE, *op. cit.*, p. 422; W. MARSDEN, *History of Sumatra*, p. 92; J. CRAWFURD, *History of the Indian Archipelago*, Vol. I, p. 382. The plant is reported wild from Sumatra and the Philippines, but the common Malayan name *jarak* hints at an historical distribution.

⁷ F. M. SAVINA, *Dictionnaire miao-tseu-français*, pp. 205, 235.

⁸ P. VIAL, *Dictionnaire français-lolo*, p. 290. Also the Arabs used *Ricinus* as a dog-poison (LECLERC, *Traité des simples*, Vol. II, p. 20).

⁹ JORET, *op. cit.*, p. 72.