

with a juice which is very cold. Huñ Hao, when he went out as envoy, brought the fruit back to China. At present it is found both in the imperial orchards and in village gardens. It can be kept for several months, aside from the fact that there is nothing to prevent it from assuming a yellow hue in course of time. In P'o-yañ 鄱陽¹ there lived a man who for a long time was afflicted with a disease of the eyes. Dried pieces of water-melon were applied to them and caused him relief, for the reason that cold is a property of this fruit." Accordingly the water-melon was transplanted into China proper only in the latter part of the twelfth century. Also the *Ši wu ki yüan* 事物紀原,² which says that in the beginning there were no water-melons in China, attributes their introduction to Huñ Hao. The Kin or Jurči, a nation of Tungusian origin, appear to have learned the cultivation from the Kitan. From a Jurči-Chinese glossary we know also the Jurči designation of the water-melon, which is *xeko*, corresponding to Manchu *xengke*, a general term for cucurbitaceous plants. In Golde, *xinke* (in other Tungusian dialects *kemke*, *kenke*) denotes the cucumber, and *seho* or *sego* the water-melon. The proper Manchu word for the water-melon is *dungga* or *dunggan*. The Tungusian tribes, accordingly, did not adopt the Persian-Turkish word *karpuz* (see below) from the Uigur, but applied to the water-melon an indigenous word, that originally denoted another cucurbitaceous species.

Following is the information given on the subject in the *Pen ts'ao kan mu*.

Wu Žui 吳瑞, a physician from the province of Če-kiañ in the thirteenth century, author of the *Ži yuñ pen ts'ao* 日用本草, is cited in this work as follows: "When the Kitan had destroyed the Uigur, they obtained this cultivation. They planted this melon by covering the seeds with cattle-manure. The formation of this fruit is like the peck *tou* 斗; it is large and round like a gourd, and in color like green jade. The seeds have a color like gold, but some like black hemp. In the northern part of our country the fruit is plentiful." Li Ši-čen observes, "According to the *Hien lu ki* by Hu Kiao (see p. 438), this cultivation was obtained after the subjugation of the Uigur. It is styled 'western melon' (*si kwa*). Accordingly it is from the time of the Wu-tai (A.D. 907-960) that it was first introduced into China.³ At present it occurs both in the south and north of the country, though the southern

¹ In the prefecture of Žao-čou, Kiañ-si.

² The work of Kao Č'eñ 高承 of the Sung dynasty.

³ The same opinion is expressed by Yañ Šen (1488-1559) in his *Tan k'ien tsuñ lu* (above, p. 331).