

tinued to cultivate it in England.¹ Moreover, the carrot grows wild in Britain and generally in the north temperate zone of Europe and Asia, and no doubt represents the stock of the cultivated carrot, which can be developed from it in a few generations.² It is impossible to connect Anglo-Saxon *moru* (not *mora*, as in Watt) with Sanskrit *mūla* or *mūlaka*. No evidence is given for the bold assertion that "the carrot appears to have been regularly used in India from fairly ancient times." The only sources quoted are Baber's Memoirs³ and the Ain-i Akbari, both works of the sixteenth century. I fail to see any proof for the alleged antiquity of carrot cultivation in India. There is no genuine Sanskrit word for this vegetable. It is incorrect that "the Sanskrit *garjaru* originated the Persian *zardak* and the Arabic *jegar*" (*sic*, for *jezer*). Boehtlingk gives for *garjara* only the meaning "kind of grass." As indicated below, it was the Arabs who carried the carrot to Persia in the tenth century, and I do not believe that it was known in India prior to that time. According to Watt, *Daucus carota* is a native of Kashmir and the western Himalaya at altitudes of from 5000 to 9000 feet; and throughout India it is cultivated by Europeans, mostly from annually imported seed, and by the natives from an acclimatised if not indigenous stock. Also N. G. MUKERJI⁴ observes, "The English root-crop which has a special value as a nourishing famine-food and fodder is the carrot. Up-country carrot or *gajra* is not such a nourishing and palatable food as European carrot, and of all the carrots experimented with in this country, the red Mediterranean variety grown at the Cawnpore Experimental Farm seems to be the best."

W. ROXBURGH⁵ states that *Daucus carota* "is said to be a native of Persia; in India it is only found in a cultivated state." He gives two Sanskrit names,—*grinjana* and *gargara*, but his editor remarks that he finds no authority for these. In fact, these and Watt's alleged Sanskrit names are not at all Sanskrit, but merely Hindī (Hindī *gājara*); and this word is derived from Persian (not the Persian derived from Sanskrit, as alleged by Watt). The only Sanskrit terms for the carrot known to me are *yavana* ("Greek or foreign vegetable") and *pītakanda* (literally, "yellow root"), which appears only in the *Rājanighaṇṭu*, a work from the beginning of the fifteenth century. This

¹ HOOPS, *op. cit.*, p. 600.

² A. DE CANDOLLE, *Géographie botanique*, p. 827.

³ Baber ate plenty of carrots on the night (December 21, 1526) when an attempt was made to poison him. Cf. H. BEVERIDGE, *The Attempt to Poison Babur Padshah* (*Asiatic Review*, Vol. XII, 1917, pp. 301-304).

⁴ *Handbook of Indian Agriculture*, 2d ed., p. 304.

⁵ *Flora Indica*, p. 270.