

combined two different aromatics,—an ancient product of Iranian regions, as yet unidentified; and the benjoin yielded by the *Styrax benjoin*, a small tree of the Malay Archipelago.¹ It is necessary to discriminate sharply between the two, and to understand that the ancient term originally relating to an Iranian aromatic, when the Iranian importation had ceased, was subsequently transferred to the Malayan article, possibly on account of some outward resemblance of the two, but that the two substances have no botanical and historical interrelation. The attempt of Čao Žu-kwa to establish a connection between the two, and to conjecture that the name is derived from An-si (Parthia), but that the article was imported by way of San-fo-ts'i (Palembang on Sumatra),² must be regarded as unfounded; for the question is not of an importation from Parthia or Persia to Sumatra, but it is the native product of a plant actually growing in Sumatra, in Borneo, and other Malayan islands.³ The product is called in Malayan *kamiñan* (GARCIA: *cominham*), Javanese *meñan*, Sunda *miñan*. The duplicity of the article and the sameness of the term have naturally caused a great deal of confusion among Chinese authors, and perhaps no less among European writers. At least, the subject has not yet been presented clearly, and least of all by BRETSCHNEIDER.⁴

According to Su Kuñ, *ñan-si hian* is produced among the Western Žuñ 西戎 (Si-žuñ),—a vague term, which may allude to Iranians (p. 203). Li Sün, in his *Hai yao pen ts'ao*, written in the second half of the eighth century, states that the plant grows in Nan-hai ("Southern Sea"; that is, the Archipelago) and in the country Po-se. The coordination with Nan-hai renders it probable that he hints at the Malayan Po-se rather than at Persia, the more so, as Li Ši-čen himself states that the plant now occurs in Annam, Sumatra, and all foreign countries.⁵ The reason why the term *ñan-si* was applied to the Malayan

¹ The word "benjoin" is a corruption of Arabic *lubān jāwī* ("incense of Java"; that is, Sumatra of the Arabs). The Portuguese made of this *benzawi*, and further *bejoim*, *benjoim* (in Vasco da Gama and Duarte Barbosa); Spanish *benjui*, *menjui*; Italian *belzuino*, *belguino*; French *benjoin*. Cf. R. DOZY and W. H. ENGELMANN, *Glossaire des mots espagnols et portugais dérivés de l'arabe*, p. 239; S. R. DALGADO, *Influência do vocabulário português*, p. 27.

² HIRTH, *Chao Ju-kua*, p. 201.

³ According to GARCIA (C. Markham, *Colloquies*, p. 49), benjoin is only known in Sumatra and Siam. According to F. PYRARD (Vol. II, p. 360, ed. of Hakluyt Society), who travelled from 1601 to 1610, it is chiefly produced in Malacca and Sumatra.

⁴ Bot. Sin., pt. III, No. 313.

⁵ As the Malayan product does not fall within the scope of the present investigation, this subject is not pursued further here (see HIRTH, *Chao Ju-kua*, pp. 201–202). In Bretschneider's translation of this matter, based on the unreliable