

The question here is of gum-lac or stick-lac (Gummi lacca; French *laque en bâtons*), also known as kino, produced by an insect, *Coccus* or *Tachardia lacca*, which lives on a large number of widely different trees,¹ called 紫鈔 or 梗 *tse-kuñ* or *tse-keñ*. Under the latter name it is mentioned in the "Customs of Camboja" by Čou Ta-kwan;² under the former, in the *Pen ts'ao yen i*.³ At an earlier date it occurs as 紫鑛 in the *T'an hui yao*,⁴ where it is said in the notice of P'iao (Burma), that there the temple-halls are coated with it. In all probability, this word represents a transcription: Li Ši-čen assigns it to the Southern Barbarians.

The Po-se in the text of the *Yu yan tsa tsu* cannot be Persia, as is sufficiently evidenced by the joint arrival of the Po-se and Camboja envoys, and the opposition of Po-se to the Malayan K'un-lun. Without any doubt we have reference here to the Malayan Po-se. The product itself is not one of Persia, where the lac-insect is unknown.⁵ It should be added that the *Yu yan tsa tsu* treats of this Po-se product along with the plants of the Iranian Po-se discussed on the preceding pages; and there is nothing to indicate that Twan Č'en-ši, its author, made a distinction between the two homophonous names.⁶

62. The Malayan Po-se, further, produced camphor (*Dryobalanops aromatica*), as we likewise see from the *Yu yan tsa tsu*,⁷ where the tree

sealing wax. The other seems to be an artificial thing, and is of an exquisite crimson colour, but of what it is, or how made, I have not as yet found any thing that carries any probability of truth." Gerarde's information goes back to Garcia, whose fundamental work then was the only source for the plants and drugs of India.

¹ WATT, *Commercial Products of India*, p. 1053; not necessarily *Erythrina*, as stated by STUART (*Chinese Materia Medica*, p. 489). Sir C. MARKHAM (*Colloquies*, p. 241) says picturesquely that the resinous exudation is produced by the puncture of the females of the lac-insect as their common nuptial and accouchement bed, the seraglio of their multi-polygamous bacchabunding lord, the male *Coccus lacca*; both the males and their colonies of females live only for the time they are ceaselessly reproducing themselves, and as if only to dower the world with one of its most useful resins, and most glorious dyes, the color "lake."

² PELLIOT, *Bull. de l'Ecole française*, Vol. II, p. 166.

³ Ch. 14, p. 4 b (ed. of Lu Sin-yüan).

⁴ Ch. 100, p. 18 b. Also Su Kuñ and Li Sün of the T'ang describe the product.

⁵ The word *lak* (Arabic) or *rānglāk* (Persian) is derived from Indian, and denotes either the Indian product or the gum of *Zizyphus lotus* and other plants (ACHUNDOW, *Abu Mansur*, p. 265). In the seventeenth century the Dutch bought gum-lac in India for exportation to Persia (TAVERNIER, *l. c.*). Cf. also LECLERC, *Traité des simples*, Vol. III, p. 241; and G. FERRAND, *Textes relatifs à l'Extrême-Orient*, p. 340.

⁶ In regard to stick-lac in Tibet, see H. LAUFER, *Beiträge zur Kenntnis der tibetischen Medicin*, pp. 63-64.

⁷ Ch. 18, p. 8 b.