

安東道。”<sup>1</sup> According to Ma Či, it grows in southern China, and, according to Su Suñ, in the marshes of Lin-nan; thus it must have been introduced between the T'ang and Sung dynasties. In regard to the name, which is no doubt of foreign origin, Li Ši-čen observes that its significance is as yet unexplained. Certainly it is not Iranian, nor is it known to me that *Amomum* occurs in Persia. On the contrary, the plant has been discovered in Burma, Siam, Camboja, and Laos.<sup>2</sup> Therefore Li Sün's Po-se obviously relates again to the Malayan Po-se; yet his addition of Si-hai and Si-žuñ is apt to raise a strong suspicion that he himself confounded the two Po-se and in this case thought of Persia. I have not yet succeeded in tracing the foreign word on which the Chinese transcription is based, but feel sure that it is not Iranian. The present colloquial name is *ts'ao ša žen* 草砂仁.<sup>3</sup>

66. There is a plant styled 婆羅得 *p'o-lo-te*, \*bwa-ra-tik, or 婆羅勒 *p'o-lo-lo*, \*bwa-ra-lak(lok, lek), not yet identified. Again our earliest source of information is due to Li Sün, who states, "P'o-lo-te grows in the countries of the Western Sea (Si-hai) and in Po-se. The tree resembles the Chinese willow; and its seeds, those of the castor-oil plant (*pei-ma tse*, *Ricinus communis*, above, p. 403); they are much used by druggists."<sup>4</sup> Li Ši-čen regards the word as Sanskrit, and the elements of the transcription hint indeed at a Sanskrit name. It is evidently Sanskrit *bhallātaka*, from which are derived Newārī *pālāla*, Hindustānī *belatak* or *bhelā*, Persian *balādur*, and Arabic *belādur* (GARCIA: *balador*). Other Sanskrit synonymes of this plant are *aruška*, *bījapādapa*, *vīravṛkṣa*, *višāsyā*, and *dahana*. It is mentioned in several passages of the Bower Manuscript.

This is the marking-nut tree (*Semecarpus anacardium*, family *Anacardiaceae*), a genus of Indian trees found throughout the hotter parts of India as far east as Assam, also distributed over the Archipelago as far as the Philippines<sup>5</sup> and North Australia. It does not occur in Burma or Ceylon, nor in Persia or western Asia. The fleshy receptacle bearing the fruit contains a bitter and astringent substance, which is universally used in India as a substitute for marking-ink. The Chinese

<sup>1</sup> *Pen ts'ao kañ mu*, Ch. 14, p. 13 b.

<sup>2</sup> STUART, Chinese Materia Medica, p. 38. LOUREIRO (*so-xa-mi*) mentions it for Cochin-China (PERROT and HURRIER, Mat. méd. et pharmacopée sino-annamites, p. 97).

<sup>3</sup> *Či wu miñ šī t'u k'ao*, Ch. 25, p. 72.

<sup>4</sup> *Pen ts'ao kañ mu*, Ch. 35, p. 7; *Čeñ lei pen ts'ao*, Ch. 5, p. 14 b. In the latter work Li Sün attributes the definition "Western Sea and Po-se" to Sū Piao, author of the *Nan čou ki*.

<sup>5</sup> M. BLANCO, Flora de Filipinas, p. 216.