

also in Ho-čou 合州 in Se-č'wan, but that the native product does not come up to the article imported on foreign ships.<sup>1</sup> Ta Miñ defines the difference between the two by saying that the drug of the Southern Barbarians is red in color, while that of Kwañ-tuñ is green. Li Ši-čen annotates that the Hu name for the plant is 婆固脂 *p'o-ku-či* (\*bwa-ku-či, bakuči), popularly but erroneously written 破故紙 *p'o-ku-či* (\*pa-ku-či), that it is the "*Allium odorum* of the Hu," because the seeds of the two plants are similar in appearance, but that in fact it is not identical with the *Allium* growing in the land of the Hu. These are all the historical documents available. STUART<sup>2</sup> concludes that the drug comes from Persia; but there is neither a Persian word *bakuči*, nor is it known that the plant (*Psoralea corylifolia*) exists in Persia. The evidence presented by the Chinese sources is not favorable, either, to this conclusion, for those data point to the countries south of China, associated in commerce with Kwañ-tuñ. The isolated occurrence of the plant in a single locality of Se-č'wan is easily explained from the fact that a large number of immigrants from Kwañ-tuñ have settled there. In fact, the word \*bakuči yielded by the Chinese transcription is of Indian origin: it answers to Sanskrit *vākucī*, which indeed designates the same plant, *Psoralea corylifolia*.<sup>3</sup> In Bengālī and Hindustānī it is *hakūč*<sup>4</sup> and *bāvaci*, Uriyā *bākucī*, Panjāb *bābcī*, Bombay *bawaci*, Marathī *bavacya* or *bavaci*, etc. According to WATT, it is a common herbaceous weed found in the plains from the Himalaya through India to Ceylon. According to AINSLIE, this is a dark brown-colored seed, about the size of a large pin-head, and somewhat oval-shaped; it has an aromatic, yet unctuous taste, and a certain degree of bitterness. The species in question is an annual plant, seldom rising higher than three feet; and is common in southern India. It has at each joint one leaf about two inches long, and one and a half broad; the flowers are of a pale flesh color, being produced on long, slender, axillary peduncles. In Annam it is known as *hot-bo-kot-či* and *p'a-ko-či*.<sup>5</sup> It is therefore perfectly obvious

<sup>1</sup> According to the Gazetteer of Šen-si Province (*Šen-si t'uñ č'i*, Ch. 43, p. 31), the plant occurs in the district Ši-ts'üan 石泉 in the prefecture Hiñ-nan.

<sup>2</sup> Chinese Materia Medica, p. 359; likewise F. P. SMITH (Contributions, p. 179) and PERROT and HURRIER (*Matière médicale et pharmacopée sino-annamites*, p. 150).

<sup>3</sup> W. AINSLIE, *Materia Indica*, Vol. II, p. 141.

<sup>4</sup> This name is also given by W. ROXBURGH (*Flora Indica*, p. 588). See, further, WATT, *Dictionary of the Economic Products of India*, Vol. VI, p. 354.

<sup>5</sup> PERROT and HURRIER, *Mat. méd. et pharmacopée sino-annamites*, p. 150. According to these authors, the plant is found in the south and west of China as well as in Siam. Wu K'i-tsün says that physicians now utilize it to a large extent in lieu of cinnamon (*Či wu miñ ši t'u k'ao*, Ch. 25, p. 65).