

or the attribution of certain products to China, is not always to be understood literally. Sometimes it merely refers to a far-eastern product, sometimes even to an Indian product,¹ and sometimes to products handled and traded by the Chinese, regardless of their provenience. Such cases, however, are exceptions. As a rule, these Persian-Arabic terms apply to actual products of China.

SCHLIMMER² mentions under the name *Killingea monocephala* the zedoary of China: according to Piddington's Index Plantarum, it should be the plant furnishing the famous root known in Persia as *jadvāre xitāi* ("Chinese jadvār"); genuine specimens are regarded as a divine panacea, and often paid at the fourfold price of fine gold. The identification, however, is hardly correct, for *K. monocephala* is *kin niu ts'ao* 金牛草 in Chinese,³ which hardly holds an important place in the Chinese pharmacopœia. The plant which Schlimmer had in mind doubtless is *Curcuma zedoaria*, a native of Bengal and perhaps of China and various other parts of Asia.⁴ It is called in Sanskrit *nirviṣā* ("poisonless") or *ṣida*, in Kuča or Tokharian B *viralom* or *wiralom*,⁵ Persian *jadvār*, Arabic *zadvār* (hence our *zedoary*, French *zedoaire*). Abu Mansur describes it as *zarvār*, calling it an Indian remedy similar to Costus and a good antidote.⁶ In the middle ages it was a much-desired article of trade bought by European merchants in the Levant, where it was sold as a product of the farthest east.⁷ Persian *zarumbād*, Arabic *zeronbād*, designating an aromatic root similar to zedoary, resulted in our *zerumbet*.⁸ While it is not certain that *Curcuma zedoaria* occurs in China (a Chinese name is not known to me), it is noteworthy that the Persians, as indicated above, ascribe to the root a Chinese origin: thus also *kažūr* (from Sanskrit *karcūra*) is explained in the Persian Dictionary of

¹ Such an example I have given in *T'oung Pao*, 1915, p. 319: *bīš*, an edible aconite, does not occur in China, as stated by Damīrī, but in India. In regard to cubebs, however, GARCIA DA ORTA (C. MARKHAM, *Colloquies*, p. 169) was mistaken in denying that they were grown in China, and in asserting that they are called *kabāb-čīnī* only because they are brought by the Chinese. As I have shown (*ibid.*, pp. 282-288), cubebs were cultivated in China from the Sung period onward.

² Terminologie, p. 335.

³ Also this identification is doubtful (STUART, *Chinese Materia Medica*, p. 228).

⁴ W. ROXBURGH, *Flora Indica*, p. 8; WATT, *Commercial Products of India*, p. 444, and *Dictionary*, Vol. II, p. 669.

⁵ S. LÉVI, *Journal asiatique*, 1911, II, pp. 123, 138.

⁶ ACHUNDOW, Abu Mansur, p. 79. See also LECLERC, *Traité des simples*, Vol. I, p. 347.

⁷ W. HEYD, *Histoire du commerce du levant*, Vol. II, p. 676.

⁸ YULE, *Hobson-Jobson*, p. 979.