

judging from what Steingass says, is not exactly known. The Arabic author, further, has a *šah-šīnī* ("Chinese king"), described as a drug in the shape of small, thin, and black tabloids prepared from the sap of a plant. It is useful as a refrigerant for feverish headache and inflamed tumors. It is reduced to a powder and applied to the diseased spot.¹ Leclerc annotates that, according to the Persian treatises, this plant originating from China, as indicated by its name, is serviceable for headache in general. Dimaškī, who wrote about 1325, ascribes *šah-šīnī* to the island of Čankhay in the Malayan Archipelago, saying that its leaves are known under the name "betel."² STEINGASS, in his Persian Dictionary, explains the term as "the expressed juice of a plant brought from China, good for headaches." I do not know what plant is understood here.

14. According to Ibn al-Baiṭār, the mango (Arabic *anbā*) is found only in India and China.³ This is *Mangifera indica* (family *Anacardiaceae*), a native of India, and the queen of the Indian fruits, counting several hundreds of varieties. Its Sanskrit name is *āmra*, known to the Chinese in the transcription 菴羅 *an-lo*, *am-la(ra). Persian *amba* and Arabic *anbā* are derived from the same word. During the T'ang period the fruit was grown in Fergana.⁴ Malayan *maṅga* (like our *mango*) is based on Tamil *maṅgas*, and is the foundation of the Chinese transcription *mun* 檬. The *an-lo* tree is first mentioned for Čen-la (Camboja) in the Sui Annals,⁵ where its leaves are compared with those of the jujube (*Zizyphus vulgaris*), and its fruits with those of a plum (*Prunus triflora*).

15. Išak Ibn Amrān says, "Sandal is a wood that comes to us from China."⁶ *Santalum album* is grown in Kwañ-tuñ to some extent, but it is more probable that the sandal-wood used in western Asia came from India (cf. Persian *čandān*, *čandal*, Armenian *čandan*, Arabic *šandal*, from Sanskrit *candana*).

16. Anṭākī notes the *xalen* tree ("birch") in India and China; and Ibn al-Kebīr remarks that it is particularly large in China, in the country of the Rūs (Russians) and Bulgār, where are made from it vessels and plates which are exported to distant places; the arrows made of this wood are unsurpassed. According to Qazwīnī and Ibn

¹ *Ibid.*, p. 314.

² G. FERRAND, *Textes relatifs à l'Extrême-Orient*, p. 381.

³ LECLERC, *Traité des simples*, Vol. II, p. 471. Cf. Ibn Baṭūṭa, ed. of DE-FRÉMERY and SANGUINETTI, Vol. III, p. 127; YULE, *Hobson-Jobson*, p. 553.

⁴ *T'ai p'ih hwan yü ki*, Ch. 181, p. 13 b.

⁵ *Sui šu*, Ch. 82, p. 3 b.

⁶ LECLERC, *op. cit.*, p. 383.