

"Flora Orientalis" does not contain any *Magnolia*. The foreign name is apparently a compound, the second element of which, *lo-lo*, is identical with the Indian-Chinese name of the basil, so that it is justifiable to suppose that the entire name denotes an Iranian variety of the basil or another member of the genus *Ocimum*.

The basil is styled in Middle Persian *palangamušk*, in New Persian *palanmišk*, Arabic-Persian *falanjmušk*, *faranjmušk*, Abu Mansur: *faranjamušk* (Armenian *p'alangamušk*),¹ the second element *mušk* or *mišk* meaning "musk," and the first component denoting anything of a motley color, like a panther or giraffe. The significance of the word, accordingly, is "spotted and musky." This definition is quite plausible, for the leaves of some basils are spotted. JOHN PARKINSON,² discussing the various names of the basil, remarks, "The first is usually called *Ocimum vulgare*, or *vulgatius*, and *Ocimum Citratum*. In English, Common or Garden Basill. The other is called *Ocimum minimum*, or *Gariophyllatum*, Clove Basill, or Bush Basill. The last eyther of his place, or forme of his leaves, being spotted and curled, or all, is called *Ocimum Indicum maculatum*, *latifolium* and *crispum*. In English according to the Latine, Indian Basill, broade leafed Basill, spotted or curled Basill, which you please."³ The Arabic forms are phonetically developed from Persian *palan*; and it is somewhat surprising that R. Dozy⁴ explains Arabic *faranjmušk* as "musk of the Franks," although he refers to the variants *baranj* and *falanj*.

While there is a certain resemblance between the Middle-Persian name and our Chinese transcription, I do not believe that the two can be identified. The Chinese calls for an initial sonant and a *u*-vowel; whereas the Iranian form, as positively corroborated by the Armenian loan-word, is possessed of an initial surd with following *a*. I am rather inclined to regard **bu-lan* as a Sogdian word, and to derive it from Sogdian *bōda*, *bōdan* ("perfume").⁵ The name **bu-lan ra-lak* would accordingly signify "aromatic basil" (corresponding to our "sweet basil"), the peculiar aroma being the prominent characteristic of the

¹ HÜBSCHMANN, Armen. Gram., p. 254. According to others, this word would refer to *Ocimum gratissimum*, the shrubby basil, but practically this makes no difference, as the properties and employment of the herbs are the same.

² *Paradisi in sole paradisus terrestris*, p. 450 (London, 1629). The technical term of the botanists in describing the leaves is *subtus punctata* (G. BENTHAM, *Labiatarum genera*, p. 5; DE CANDOLLE, *Prodromus*, pars XII, p. 32).

³ LINNÉ (*Species plantarum*, Vol. I, p. 597, *Holmiae*, 1753) has *Ocimum latifolium maculatum* sive *crispum*.

⁴ *Supplément aux dictionnaires arabes*, Vol. II, p. 262.

⁵ R. GAUTHIOT, *Essai sur le vocalisme du sogdien*, pp. 45, 101, 102; F. W. K. MÜLLER, *Handschriften-Reste in Estrangelo-Schrift*, II, p. 35.