

herb. As it is localized in Sogdiana, it is perfectly justifiable to regard the term as Sogdian; it may be, however, that the second component did not form part of the Sogdian word, and is an addition of Č'en Ts'an-k'i; it is also possible that the term applies to another species of *Ocimum* or to a peculiar variety of *Ocimum basilicum*, differentiated by cultivation. It is well known that the New-Persian word *bōi*, *bō* ("scent, perfume") enters into composition with a number of aromatics;¹ and Persian *nāz-bō* is indeed a designation of the basil, and means "having an agreeable odor." In the same manner we have Sanskrit *gandhapatra* ("fragrant leaf, basil").

From India one or more species of *Ocimum* (*basilicum*, *sanctum*, and *gratissimum*) spread into the Malayan Archipelago. The Sanskrit term *surasī* or *surasā* has been adopted by Malayan *sulasi*, Javanese *selasih* or *sulasih*, Sunda *salasih*. Javanese has likewise received *tulasih* or *telasih* from Sanskrit *tulasī*.² The two *surasā*, the white and black varieties of the Tulsī-plant, appear in the Bower Manuscript.³ In the folk-lore of India the plant plays an extensive rôle.⁴ ODORIC OF PORDENONE relates, "In this country every man hath before his house a plant of twigs as thick as a pillar would be here, and this never withers as long as it gets water." YULE⁵ justly comments that this plant is the sacred tulasi (*Ocimum sanctum*). It is widely employed in the pharmacopœia of the Persians and Arabs.⁶ Arabic terms are: *badrūj*, *xauk*, *rixān*, *kebīr*, *aqīn*, *xamāxim*.

¹ HÜBSCHMANN, Armen. Gram., p. 123. Cf. also above, p. 462; and HORN, Neupers. Etymol., No. 240.

² Cf. H. KERN, *Bijdragen tot de taal-, land- en volkenkunde*, 1880, p. 564.

³ HOERNLE'S edition, p. 22. There are also the forms *suravallī*, *surasāgrañī*, and *surasāgraja*, the two last-named relating to the white variety.

⁴ YULE, Hobson-Jobson, p. 931.

⁵ Cathay, new ed. by Cordier, Vol. II, p. 116.

⁶ LECLERC, *Traité des simples*, Vol. I, pp. 92, 367, 403, 404, 456, 474; Vol. II, pp. 100, 104, 191, 375, 390.