
Khasia Patchouli. (*Microtæna cymosa*, Prain.)

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crystals and near the periphery are a few resin (?) canals. The latter are in such a position that they may be removed by the scraping which the root often undergoes in preparation for the market.

Adulteration is not uncommon. Rootstocks of *Centaurea*, *Adenophora*, *Angelica*, *Platycodon*, *Rehmannia*, etc., are used in the East, *Campanula glauca* being said to be common in Japanese Ginseng. *Stum Ninsi* was formerly confused with Ginseng, perhaps, because it was offered as a substitute.

Roots of Ginseng once used for making an extract are not uncommonly dried and fraudulently sold for good roots.

An enquiry into the medicinal value of the more highly priced Ginsengs may prove of some scientific interest. The sums given, e.g., three hundred shillings for one single root, would seem incredible were the drug altogether inert.

When Louis XIV., of France, received envoys from Siam, part of the royal gift they brought was in Ginseng.

ISAAC HENRY BURKILL.

III.—KHASIA PATCHOULI.

(*Microtaena cymosa*, Prain.)

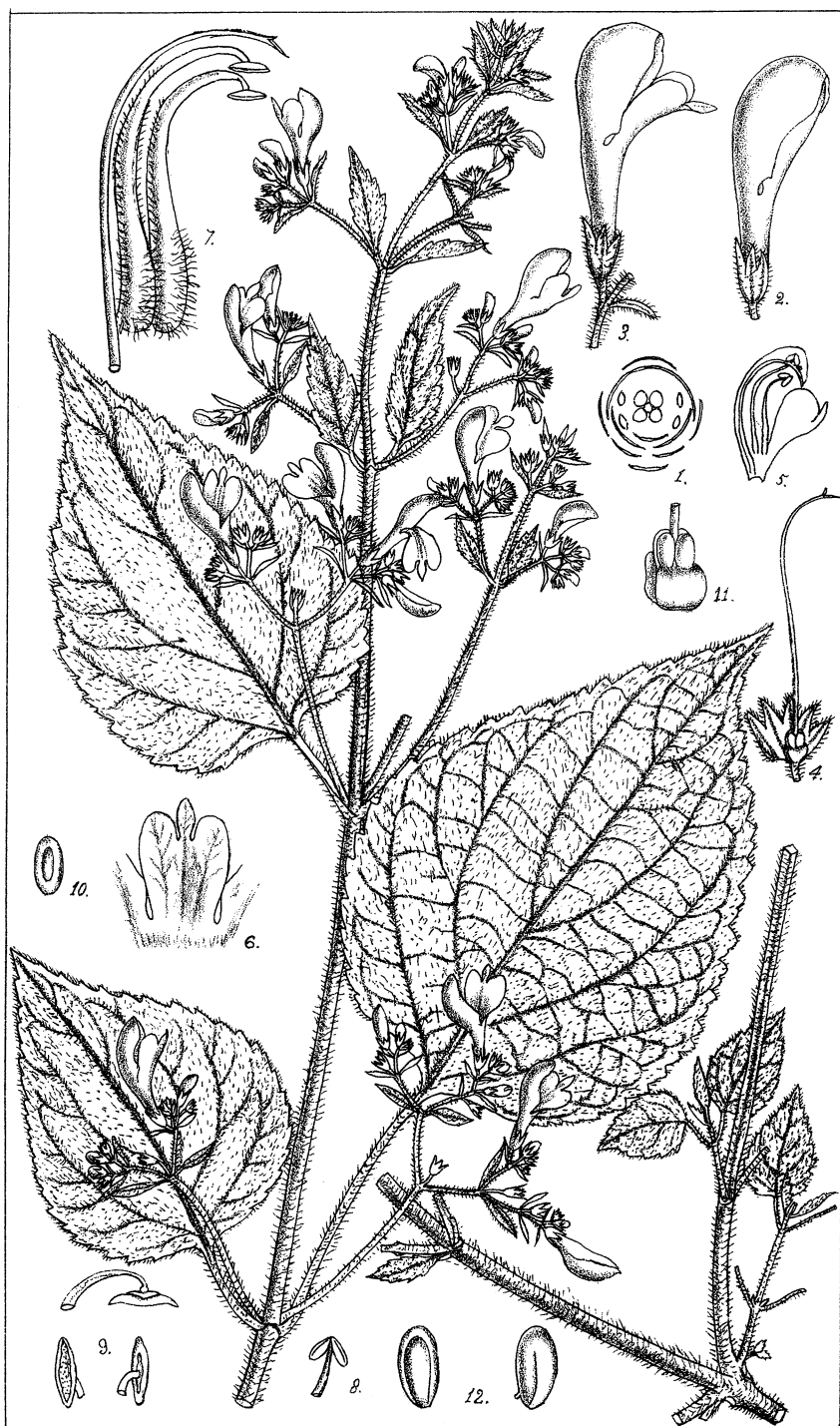
With Plate.

Commercial Patchouli is derived from a species of *Pogostemon* [*Kew Bulletin* for 1888, p. 73]. This plant is sparingly grown in India, and is more generally cultivated in the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago. It also occurs in the Philippines; whether it be cultivated there is not clear. It is, moreover, possible that more than one species of *Pogostemon* may be cultivated; this point it is hoped may be dealt with in a future note.

In Malaya the cultivation of Patchouli is largely in the hands of Chinese settlers. This fact may possibly explain a suggestion which has been made that China is the original home of the Patchouli-yielding *Pogostemon*. However, no *Pogostemon* with the Patchouli smell has hitherto been reported from China.

There is, however, no reason why Chinese settlers in Malaya should not be familiar with Patchouli-yielding plants, for the Patchouli odour is not confined to the genus *Pogostemon*. It is associated with more than one species of the genus *Microtaena*, the majority of which are natives of China. One species, *Microtaena robusta*, Hemsley, a native of Szechuen, where, according to a note by M. Farges, it is known as *Chi-kiang-tsao*, is employed on account of its odour much as the Patchouli imported from Malaya is used in India. Another species, *Microtaena cymosa*, Prain, of which a figure is here given, appears to be similarly used in South-Eastern China (Kwang-tung) and in various parts of Indo-China. There is also a solitary record of its occurrence in Java. It has been already referred to in the *Kew Bulletin* [1888, p. 74] under the provisional name *Plectranthus Patchouli*.

An examination of the herbarium material of this species shows that it was first collected in the Eastern Naga Hills, Assam, by Griffith about 1839, was shortly afterwards collected by Jenkins



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Microtoëna cymosa. Prain.

in some part, not specified, of Assam, and was again collected, in 1845, by Zollinger, in Java. No one appears to have met with it again till Clarke obtained it in 1871 in the Khasia Hills, Assam; Clarke's field note says "cultivated in Khasia and said to be the true Patchouli." In 1884 the species was collected in Kwang-tung by B. C. Henry, and in 1885 it was met with by Clarke in Manipur, a small State situated between Assam and Burma. Since then it has been obtained in Tonkin by Balansa, in the Burmese Shan States by General Collett, and in the Shan States of Siam by Lord Lamington.

The small local demand for Patchouli in Calcutta is said at one time to have been met by supplies from the Khasia Hills. The Khasia Patchouli has, however, been replaced in the Calcutta market by the Malayan article. Clarke's note of 1871 and a subsequent note by Mann, in 1887, of the occurrence of *Microtæna cymosa* as a cultivated plant in the Khasia Hills shows that the practice of growing it had long survived the loss of an outside market. The plant is not wild in the Khasia Hills, and Clarke has noted that even in Manipur he suspects that it may have been originally planted. This suspicion extends not only to the Assam records of Griffith and Jenkins, but to the Shan records of General Collett and Lord Lamington, and to one out of three records of the plant from Tonkin. There is hardly room for doubt that Zollinger's record from Java points to *M. cymosa* as an introduced species in that island; during the past 60 years it has not again been reported from Malaya.

In two Tonkin localities recorded by Balansa, the nature of his notes and the character of his specimens point to the plant being there a wild species; the same is true of some of the specimens collected in Kwang-tung by B. C. Henry, and subsequently by Ford. There is, therefore, hardly room for doubt that the isolated record of the Khasia Patchouli from Java may be explained by its introduction to that island by Chinese settlers, and there are good grounds for supposing that its occurrence in the Shan country and in Assam is due to its having spread thence as a cultivated plant from South-Western China or Tonkin.

D. PRAIN.

IV.—TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN SOUTHERN SIAM.

The following notes on the cultivation of Tobacco in the Northern Siamese Malayan States of the Malay Peninsula were made by Mr. W. W. Skeat during the Cambridge exploring expedition in 1900. Tobacco has never been successfully cultivated in the Southern Malay States, probably on account of the inferiority of the soil.

At a village near Perlis I made enquiry about the local methods of growing tobacco.

There are two kinds of tobacco generally grown here :—

- (1.) Tembakau Chênak.
- (2.) Tembakau Lërek.

The Tembakau Chênak, which is said to derive its name from a village in "Ulu Patani," has the smaller leaf of the two, but it