CITRUS AURANTIUM. ORANGE-TREE.

SYNONYMA. Aurantium * hiſpalenſe. *Pharm. Lond. & Edinb.* Malus Arantia major. *Bauh. Pin. p.* 436. Malus Aurantia. *Gerard. Emac. p.* 1463. *Raii Hiſt. p.* 1658. Aurantium vulgare. *Ferrar. Heſp. p.* 377. *t.* 369. Malus Aurantia vulgaris. *Park. Theat. p.* 1508. *Ic. Miller Illuſt. & Regnault Botanique*, L'Oranger.

α Malus Arantia major. *Bauh. l. c.* SEVILLE ORANGE-TREE.
β Malus Arantia, cortice dulci eduli. *Bauh. l. c.* CHINA ORANGE-TREE.

Claſs Polyadelphia. *Ord.* Icoſandria. *Lin. Gen. Plant.* 901.

Eſſ. Gen. Ch. *Cal.* 5-fidus. *Petala* 5, oblonga. *Antheræ* 20, filamentis connatis in varia corpora. *Bacca* 9-locularis.

Sp. Ch. C. petiolis alatis, foliis acuminatis.

THIS handſome evergreen riſes ſeveral feet in height, ſending off many branches, and covered with a greyiſh bark: the leaves are nearly elliptical, pointed, ſmooth, entire, of a ſhining green colour, and ſtand upon ſtrong winged footſtalks: the flowers appear during the whole ſummer, and are large, white, and ariſe from the ſmaller branches upon ſimple and branched peduncles: the calyx is ſaucer-ſhaped, and cut at the brim into five ſmall pointed teeth: the petals are five, oblong, white, concave, and beſet with ſmall glands: the filaments are about twenty, united at the baſe in three or more diſtinct portions, and furniſhed with yellow antheræ, placed vertically: the germen is roundiſh, ſupporting a cylindrical ſtyle, terminated by a globular ſtigma: the fruit is ſo well known, as not to require our deſcription of it here.

This tree, according to Mr. Aiton,[a] is a native of India; but it has been long cultivated in the warmer parts of Europe, and the fruit

* Aurantium has been ſuppoſed by ſome to be derived ab aureo colore corticis fructus; by others, Arantium, ab oppido Achaiæ. See *C B. l. c.* Alſo *Ray l. c.*

[a] *Hort. Kew. vol. iii. p.* 101.

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brought

Citrus Aurantium.

Published by Dr. Woodville. Jan.y 1. 1793.

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brought to us is chiefly the produce of Spain and Portugal. Since the time of Parkinson,[b] Orange-trees have been propagated here as ornamental green-house shrubs; but in this country the fruit rarely arrives at the perfection of that which is imported from Spain.

The China Orange, and Seville Orange, are both varieties of the same species; but it is only the latter which has a place in the Materia Medica of our Pharmacopœias, in which not only the juice and exterior yellow rind of this fruit are directed for medicinal use, but also the leaves and flowers.

The juice is a grateful acid liquor, which, by allaying heat, quenching thirst, promoting various excretions, and diminishing the action of the sanguiferous system, proves of considerable use in all febrile and inflammatory disorders. It is also a powerful antiseptic, and of great efficacy in preventing and curing the scurvy.[c] Though what is here observed relates to the juice of the Seville Orange, yet that of the China, by being united with a larger proportion of saccharine matter, is more agreeable to the taste, therefore mostly preferred, and may be taken more freely. These acids, by uniting with the bile, are said to take off its bitterness; hence Dr. Cullen thinks it "probable, that acid fruits taken in are often useful in obviating the disorders that might arise from the redundancy of bile, and perhaps from the acrid quality of it. On the other hand, however, if the acids are in greater quantity than can be, or are, properly corrected

[b] 1629, see *Park. Parad. p.* 584. [c] See *Lind on Scurvy, p.* 163.

The practice of evaporating this juice, or making it into what has been called a rob, in order to preserve it a length of time on ship board, has been recommended; but Dr. Cullen says, "in many trials which I have made, I could not exhale it to such a consistence as would preserve it without addition, without my finding the acid a good deal changed. It acquires an acerbity and stipticity that does not allow it to be readily diffused in water; and I suspect it is not so readily miscible with the animal fluids as in its entire state. From Forster's observations in the voyage round the world, it was not found useful either in preventing or curing the scurvy; which perhaps may be accounted for, partly by the concentration bringing it nearer to the state of the fossile acids, or possibly by the dissipation of some volatile parts, perhaps a portion of aërial acid; both of which circumstances may render it less fit for the cure of scurvy. I have therefore a bad opinion of the acid exhaled to a thick consistence; and judge the best way of preserving its virtues to be by a diligent depuration of it from its mucilaginous part, and putting it up in close vessels, without putting any oil on its surface, which is ready to be acted upon by the acid, and gives a disagreeable taint to it." *Mat. Med. vol. i. p.* 252.

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by the bile present, they seem, by some union with that fluid to acquire a purgative quality, that gives a diarrhœa, and the colic pains that are ready to accompany the operation of every purgative."[d]

The outer yellow rind of the fruit is a grateful aromatic bitter, and is commonly employed as a stomachic, a character in which it is deservedly much esteemed. By the union of its aromatic and bitter qualities it warms the stomach, promotes appetite, and gives tone and strength to the viscera. It contains a considerable portion of volatile aromatic oil, very different from that of any other bitter, except what is found in the lemon; and the combination of this oil with the bitter of the orange peel, according to Dr. Cullen, gives it peculiar virtues; but the Orange-peel being commonly employed in conjunction with other bitters, these virtues have not been ascertained.[e] He adds, that he has "made several observations, which justify the opinion that Orange peel may be particularly useful in restoring the tone of the stomach when it has been much impaired; but this does not appear so often as it should, because we employ it almost only in its dried state, and in too small a proportion, as we take it dried with a part of the white inert substance that is also in the rind of the Orange."[f]

It has been justly remarked,[g] that "Orange-peel appears to be very considerably warmer than that of lemons, and to abound more with essential oil: to this circumstance, therefore, due regard ought to be had in the use of these medicines. The flavour of the first is likewise supposed to be less perishable than that of the other: hence the London College employ Orange-peel in the spirituous bitter tincture, which is designed for keeping; whilst in the bitter watery infusion, lemon-peel is preferred. A syrup, and distilled water, are for the same reason prepared from the rind of Oranges in preference to that of lemons."

Besides the use of Orange-peel as a stomachic, it has been much celebrated for the cure of intermittent fevers; and in testimony of its efficacy in most obstinate agues, we find several authorities cited by Professor Murray.[h] It has likewise been experienced to be a powerful

[d] *L. c.* [e] *Cullen. M. M. vol. ii. p.* 87. [f] *L. c.* [g] See *Edinburgh New Dispensatory by Dr. Duncan. p.* 139.

[h] As Dubeus. *Medecin des pauvres. p.* 285. *sqq.* Both he and Nigrisolius declare it to be equal, if not superior in efficacy, to the Peruvian bark. See also Möhringius *Com. Noric.* 1736. *p.* 20. And Werlhof. *Com. Nor.* 1735. *p.* 98. *Murray. App. Med. vol. iii. p.* 289.

remedy

remedy in menorrhagia, and in immoderate uterine evacuations; and for its good effects in these complaints, we have not only the assertions of foreign physicians, but also those of Doctors Whytt[i] and Hamilton.[k]

The flowers, which are extremely fragrant, and much used in perfumes, have a warm taste, accompanied with some degree of bitterness. "They yield their flavour by infusion to rectified spirit, and in distillation both to spirit and water: the bitter matter is dissolved by water, and on evaporating the decoction, remains entire in the extract. An oil, distilled from these flowers, is brought from Italy, under the name of oleum, or essentia neroli."[l]

The leaves of the Orange-tree have a bitterish taste, and, on being rubbed between the fingers and thumb, manifest considerable fragrancy; like the petals they are also beset with minute glands, which secrete an essential oil, and are easily discovered on holding the leaf betwixt the eye and the light. Both the leaves and the flowers,[m] but especially the former, have been in great estimation as a remedy for epilepsy, and various other convulsive disorders. Westerhoef, who seems to have first made publick this virtue of the leaves, about thirty years ago, transmitted an account of their efficacy to De Haen,[n] who also experienced their good effects; after which they became a favourite remedy at Vienna, and numerous instances of their success in these complaints are published by several German physicians.[o]

Their employment, however, in this country has been attended with less success; proofs of which are given by Professors Home[p] and Cullen.[q] The dose of the powdered leaves is from half a dram to a dram, two or three times a day, and proportionably in decoction.

The young unripe fruit formerly had a place in the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, under the name of Aurantia curallavensia, or Curasso oranges. The Limon Bergamotta of the Italians, from whom we have the essence so named, approaches more nearly to the Orange than to the lemon, as its leaves have winged footstalks.

[i] See his *Works*, p. 662. [k] *De prax. reg.* p. 20. [l] *Edinb. New Disp.* p. 139. Also called oleum distillatum florum naphæ. [m] Bergius states the former to be tonic and the latter analeptic. *M. M. vol. ii.* p. 638. [n] *Rat. Med. T.* 6. p. 305. *sqq.*

[o] Locher, who gave this medicine to fifteen epileptic patients, says, that nine were evidently much relieved by it, though not cured. *Obs. Pract.* p. 47.—See the authorities cited by Murray. *l. c.* [p] *Clinical Experiments.* p. 211. [q] *L. c.*