



## CARROT

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**CARROT**, the taproot of *Daucus* L. subsp., etc. (family Umbelliferae), traditionally called *gazar* (arabicized as *jazar*) or *zardak* (lit. “the little yellow one”), and later also *havij* in Persian (see below).

*Indigenous “carrots”—wild or cultivated.* Several species and/or varieties of *Daucus*, etc., in Persia have been reported by modern botanists. Parsa (II, pp. 853-57) has described eight species of *Daucus* in addition to *D. carota* L., which is believed by many authors to be the wild carrot that has developed into our various cultivated ones. While wild carrots are usually referred to as *havij-e waḥšī/šahrā’ī/kūhī*, etc. (lit. “wild/field/mountain carrot”), he has recorded (VIII, pp. 63-64) local names for only two of them: *panīr-vāš* (lit. “cheese wort”) for *D. maximus* Desf. (in Gīlān in Rūdbār and along the Safīdrūd); and for *D. persicus* Boiss., the Turkish designations *āq-bāš* (lit. “white-head[ed]”) in Kālkāl (Azarbaijan), and *ešak-zardakī* (lit. “dog carrot”) in Baḳtīārī (cf. also the depreciatory *tašīgazar* “porcupine carrot” said of a kind of wild carrot in parts of Māzandarān). Moẓaffariān, using a more up-to-date taxonomy and terminology for the Umbelliferae of Iran, has dealt with approximately the same species under the two genera *Daucus* L. and *Astrodaucus* Drude, identifying the cultivated native carrot as *D. sativus* (Hoffm.) Röhl. (pp. 141-45; cf., however, the discrepancies between his and the latest taxonomy, that of K. H. Rechinger, “*Daucus*,” pp. 136-40, and of M. G. Pimenov, “*Astrodaucus*,” in *Flora Iranica*, ed. K. H. Rechinger, no. 162, *Umbelliferae*, Graz, 1987). To these must be added another, noteworthy, “wild carrot” commonly called *šaqāqol*. The kinds of the *šaqāqol* native to the “Iranian” area have been variously



identified by modern botanists. Dymock et al. reported (in 1891; II, pp. 136-37) that “in Persia [the umbelliferous] *Trachydium Lehmanni* Benth. & Hook. f. [in Moẓaffariān, p. 83, = *Eremodocus lehmannii* Bge] . . . produces the shekákul of Asia,” and that “[J.E.T.] Aitchison, when in the Badghis [Bādġis] district with the Afghan Boundary Commission, observed the roots of this plant being collected for export to India as shekákul.” R. Alava (“*Malabaila* Hoffm.,” in *Umbelliferae*, pp. 508-10) has described the indigenous *šaqāqol* as *Malabaila secacul* (Miller) Boiss., with two subspecies: subsp. *secacul* (= *M. sekacul* Boiss., *Pastinaca secacul* (Miller) Banks & Soland., etc.) and subsp. *aucheri* (Boiss.) C. C. Townsend (for the historical description of wild carrots, including the *šaqāqol*, see below). Moẓaffariān (pp. 138-39, and fig. 346) reports the occurrence of *Malabaila secacul* Banks & Sol. [sic] in some points in Azarbaijan, Karaj, Kūzestān, and Māzandarān and, outside Persia, in northern Iraq, southern and eastern Anatolia, western Syria, and Palestine.

*The cultivated carrots.* The wide distribution and variety in Persia of the wild carrot (the original of the edible *gazarsand zardaks*) do not seem to corroborate Laufer’s assertion that “it was the Arabs who carried the carrot to Persia in the tenth century [A.D.]” (p. 452), nor his further contradictory statement that “the Persians then [i.e., in the Islamic period] became acquainted with the carrot under the Arabic name *jazar* (*jezer*), which, however, may have been derived from Persian *gazar* (*gezer*)” (p. 453; cf. also *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica* II, 15th ed., 1985, s.v. Carrot: “The carrot [*Daucus carota*] is native to Afghanistan and neighbouring lands”). The indigenous *gazar/zardak*—whether distinct species of *Daucus*, i.e., *D. carota* L. or *D. sativa* Hoffm., or a hybrid of the former and *D. maxima* L., or a variety of *D. carota* L., i.e., var. *sativa* DC. (see Zargarī, 4th ed., I, p. 522)—has long been widely grown in steppe areas in Persia, particularly in Azarbaijan, Kurdistan, Luristan, Arāk, Khorasan, and Yazd. Its names all over the country exhibit a striking similarity, e.g.: Bastaki *gozrak*; Behdīnan *gezer*, *zardak*; Damāvandi *gazar*; Farāmarzānī *gezar*, *gozrak*; Ġilakī *gəzər*, *zərdək*; Konjī/Evazi *gozrak*; Khorasani *gezer* (Sabzevār), *zerdak* (Qūčān); Kurdish (Mahābād) *gēzar*; Kūri *gazar* [?], *gazarū* (wild carrot); Laki *gezer*; Lāri *gazrak*; Luri *zardak*, *bīk-zemīn* (lit. “ground root”); Māzandarāni *zarda/ek* (and probably, *gəzər*); Nā’ini *gīzer*; Sarvestāni *zīrzamīnī* (lit. “underground”); Ṭāleši *gēzēr*; Tāti (northern) *gazar*, (southern; Sagzābād) *havīja*; cf. also Pashto *gāzara*, *zardaka*, the probably cognate Hindi/Urdu *gājar*, and western Turkish *keše/ır*, said to be a corruption of [dialectal] Persian *gezer* (H. K. Kadri, *Türk lûgati* IV, Istanbul, 1945, p. 85,



s.v.). In Turkish-speaking areas, Turkish *yer köki/ü* (lit. “ground root”) or just *kök* (lit. “root”) is prevalent (see also *hāvūj/č* below).

Historically, Rašīd-al-Dīn Fażl-Allāh (d. 718/1318; pp. 195-96) provides agricultural hints about the *gazar*, which “varies in every province according to climate and soil (the richer the soil the larger the *gazar*),” and which “occurs in different colors—red, yellow, violet, and green.” In 921/1515-16, Abūnaşrī Heravī (p. 149) describes the cultivation of the estival (*tammūzī*) and hibernal (*zemestānī*) varieties of the *jazar* in the Herat area.

The native *gazar* or *zardak* has (according to soil and cultivars) conical or twisted cylindrical roots up to 45 cm long, pale to bright yellow skin (occasionally, light to dark violet, or variegated yellowish and violet), and more or less tender, juicy and sweet flesh. Despite its high productivity, its marketability is low because of its shape, large size, and relatively inferior nutritious value. It is grown mainly for local consumption (Ṭabāṭabā’ī, I, pp. 691-99; see also its culinary uses below).

The current name *havīj* is a rather late designation. Dehḵodā (*Loḡat-nāma*, s.v. *ḥavīj*) and, repeating him, Mo’īn (*Farhang-e-fārsī*, s.vv. *ḥavīj* and *ḥavīj*) believe that *havīj* is a corrupt spelling for *ḥavīj*, itself originally from the Arabic phrase *ḥawā’ej al-qedr* (in Jalāl-al-Dīn Rūmī, quoted by Dehḵodā, *ḥavīj-e dīg*), lit. “the necessaries of the cooking pot” (i.e., kitchen provisions), the meaning of which has later narrowed so much as to designate one of those *ḥawā’ej*, namely the carrot (cf. Dozy, I, pp. 333-34, who records, from Arabic sources, *ḥawā’ej* as also meaning “the provisions intended for the kitchen and table of the prince,” and *ḥawā’ej-kāna* as the store where the provisions were kept). The word has also passed into Azeri and Osmanli Turkish as *ḥavīj/hāvūj/hāvūč*, etc., used concurrently with *yer köki*.

The name *havīj* is applied principally to the modern orange-red varieties of the cultivated carrot, which originally were developed about 1830 in France from the wild type and which were introduced into Persia as *ḥavīj-e farangī* “European carrot” during the first forty years of the reign (1848-96) of the Qajar Nāşer-al-Dīn (see E’temād-al-Salṭana, I, p. 137). More palatable, nutritious, and shapelier than the *gazar/zardak*, this carrot, which is now usually referred to as *ḥavīj-farangī*, has supplanted the latter in nationwide consumption. It is extensively cultivated, commercialized, and consumed (see its culinary and other uses, below).



*Culinary uses, etc.* The earliest indication in our sources of the native *gazar* as a food article is in the facetious *Dīvān* of Boshāq Aṭ'ema Šīrāzī (d. ca. 830/1426-27). Beside numerous cursory references to it (e.g., pp. 15, 60, 91), Boshāq casually mentions some of its uses, e.g., as the distinctive ingredient of *galya-ye gazar* (p. 24) and as an ingredient (along with sesame oil and garlic) of a pilaw featuring cooked partridge or pigeon (p. 60). *Ḥalwā-ye gazar* is also mentioned several times (e.g., pp. 12, 15, 90, and particularly p. 60, where it is poetically indicated as a remedy for pains in the loins). Much more information about the culinary use of the *gazar* is available from the Safavid period. As indicated by Ḥājī Moḥammad-ʿAlī *Bāvaṛčī-e baḡdādī* “the cook from Baghdad” in the *Kārnāma* (a cook book compiled in 927/1520-21 for a notable of the time), the *gazar* was used as an ingredient in a kind of *āš* (*āš-e ḥalīm*, p. 66) and in five kinds of pilaw (namely, three varieties of *šīla-palāv*, pp. 111-13, *nargesī-palāv*, p. 115, and *qabūlī-palāv*, p. 118). In the same period, Nūr-Allāh, a cook at the court of ʿAbbās I (r. 985-1038/1587-1628), reports the use of the *gazar* as an ingredient of two kinds of pilaw (*nargesī-palāv*, p. 216, and the “simple” *šola-palāv*, p. 248), and of four kinds of *āš* (namely, *baḡrā-ye kvārazmī*, p. 242, *āš-e rešta*, p. 243, *qeyma-šūrbā*, p. 245, and *āš-e ḥalīm* p. 246). From the Qajar period, Mīrzā ʿAlī-Akbar Kāšānī, chef at the court of Našer-al-Dīn Shah, using exclusively the word *ḥavīj* (probably meaning the “European carrot”), indicates the culinary uses of the carrot as follows (in the *Sofra-ye aṭ'ema*, a manual of Persian cookery written in 1301/1884 at the request of Dr. J. D. Tholozan, French chief physician to the shah): as the distinctive ingredient in carrot *ḥalwā* (p. 48), carrot pilaw (p. 13), carrot *kūkū* (omelet, p. 30), and carrot *yaḡnī* (p. 44); as one of the ingredients of *kalam-palāv-e šīrāzīhā* (cabbage pilaw, Shirazi-style; p. 14), and a variety of *fasūjan* (i.e., *fesenjān*; p. 21 ).

In our times, the *gazar* or *zardak*, beside being eaten raw, is used in various regional dishes, for instance, in the Gīlānī dishes *gəzər-(v)āvīj/-qūrmə* (a kind of omelet; Kāvar, p. 50), and *āš-e gal(e)yə* (a very elaborate *āš*; *ibid.*, p. 110). Nationwide, the *ḥavīj-farangī* is used as the distinctive component of carrot pilaw, carrot *kvoreš*, *kvoreš-e šešandāz-e ḥavīj/zardak*, carrot *ḥalwā* (Emāmī, p. 111), carrot pickles, and carrot preserve. It is also used as one of the ingredients of “yogurt *kūkū*” (Montazemī, pp. 516-17), “tangerine *kvoreš*” (*ibid.*, pp. 600-01 ), *ṭās-kabāb* (optionally), *toršī-e (sabzī-e) maḡlūt* “mixed (vegetable) pickles,” and *(sabzīhā-ye) šūr* (mixed vegetables in salt water), as well as in a number of popular Western-style soups, salads, etc. (e.g., *sūp-e jow* “barley soup,” and *borš* “borscht”). The consumption of freshly expressed *ḥavīj* juice has steadily been on the increase since the 1330s Š./1950s owing to the



popularized knowledge of carotene (pro-vitamin A) and other vitamins which the carrot is rich in so that today *āb-e ḥavīj* is the most popular (and probably the least expensive) “fruit juice” offered in innumerable refreshment shops and sidewalk booths in large cities. In Hamadān, reportedly, drinking the *zardak* juice has become very popular (Ṭabāṭabā’ī, I pp. 698-99).

*Carrots in classical medico-botanical sources.* The information of the Islamic-period medico-pharmacological authors on carrots, their varieties, and medicinal properties derives mainly from the Greeks Dioscorides, Galen, etc. The traditional distinction of the *jazar* into cultivated (*bostānī*, lit. “garden-grown”) and wild (Ar. *barrī*, Pers. *daštī*) species has been adhered to: they correspond respectively to Dioscorides’s *staphulinos* (arabicized as *eṣṭāfālīnūs*, *eṣṭafelīnūs*, etc.) and *staphulinos ágrios* (arabicized as *eṣṭāfālīnūs aḡrīūs*, etc.; see, e.g., Ebn al-Bayṭār, s.v., *jazar*, I, pt. 1, pp. 161-63; Ebn Maymūn, Ar. text, p. 11, no. 73; Tonokābonī, p. 79, s.v. *eṣṭāfalēs*). It was generally accepted that the usable parts of the wild carrot (roots, leaves, seeds) were medicinally more potent in their numerous common properties than the counterparts of the cultivated species. Of those properties ‘Alī b. Sahl Ṭabarī, author of the oldest known *konnāš* (medical compendium) in the Islamic world (*Ferdaws al-ḥekma*, comp. 236/850) points out only the following: “The *jazar* is hot and moist, diuretic, and aphrodisiac” (p. 380); “preserved (*morabbā*) *jazar* is good for the back [*zahr*, as the supposed source of the sperm and virility], and for sexual potency” (p. 393). Mowaffaq Heravī (fl. ca. 370-80/980-90), author of the oldest extant pharmacological treatise in Persian, the *Ketāb al-abnīa*, reports the following (p. 91 ): “According to Galen, the *jazar* is hot (*garm*) and gentle/lenient [*sic: narm*] in the first degree, *bā dangīz* (flatulent, inflating), aphrodisiac, diuretic, emmenagogue, deobstruent (especially its seeds), difficult to digest; a poultice of its pounded leaves on a contusion will heal this” (for Galen’s actual statements, misrepresented in Heravī, see Jālīnūs apud Ebn al-Bayṭār, op. cit., p. 162); “the wild *jazar*, called *šašqāqol* [see below], is a more potent aphrodisiac. “The same emphasis on the aphrodisiac virtue of the carrot is manifest in the *Ketāb al-aḡrāz al-ṭebbīya* of Esmā’īl Jorjānī (d. 531/1136): “The *gazar* is hot in the second degree and [*sic*, probably meaning “or”] in the first. It is diuretic. Its seeds are more potent. The *gazar*, especially its wild kind, strengthens the venereal power” (p. 590). Ebn Sīnā (370-428/980-1037; I, bk. 2, pp. 287-88) deals with the *jazar* by mentioning (mistakenly?) the three kinds of *daukos* described by Dioscorides (see the *dawqū*, below). As to its properties, he adds mainly the following: “It is hot to the extreme of the second degree, and moist in the first. A poultice of its



pounded seeds and leaves will cure phagedenic sores. It is good for pleurisy and chronic cough. It is indigestible, but its preserve is easier to digest, and good against dropsy. The *jazar*, especially the *dawqū* [see below] relieves colic, and is a powerful diuretic (particularly the seeds and leaves of the wild kind). The *jazar* and especially the seeds of the cultivated kind are more *nāfek* (flatulent, tumefacient) and [therefore] stimulate sexuality (the seeds of the wild *jazar* are not potent in this regard).”

The *dawqū* (can also be read as *dūqū*) casually mentioned above by Ebn Sīnā, the *qawqalīs*, the *badrān*, etc., designate some other kinds of carrots. The word *dawqū* (or *dawqūā*, e.g., in Aḳawaynī Boḳārī, p. 383 and passim), as also indicated by Ebn al-Bayṭār (I, pt. 2, p. 120, s.v. *dawqūā*), is arabicized from Greek *dawqos* (i.e., *daukos*; actually, according to Meyerhof [in Ebn Maymūn, p. 50, n.], from the genitive of the latter; cf. also Latin *daucus*). The Greeks’ *daukos*, as described by Dioscorides (see Ebn al-Bayṭār, op. cit., p. 119, s.v. *dawqos*; French tr., II, pp. 134-35), was like the carrot (*staphulinos*)—not identical with it; it was of three kinds, one of which had leaves like those of the coriander, an umbel like that of the *staphulinos*, and pungent seeds looking like cumin seeds (see also Dymock et al., op. cit., p. 135). Ebn al-Bayṭār (loc. cit.) adds that “the seeds of this kind of *dawqos* are known in Syria as *qomayla* (diminutive of *qamla* [“louse”]),” and that the plant itself “is called *ḥašīšat al-barāgīt* [lit. “fleas wort”] in Jerusalem and its environs, because people smear its seeds with fragrant oil, scatter them on their beddings, and the odor of the seeds makes the fleas numb and [thus] unable to bite.” Tonakābonī (pp. 393-94, s.v. *dawqos*) remarks that this kind of Dioscorides’s *dawqos* is called *keyk-e vāš* (lit. “flea wort”) in the (Ṭabarī) dialect of Deylam/Ṭabarestān, because sprinkling its pounded seeds on the bedding prevents harm from fleas. As reported by Leclerc (Ebn al-Bayṭār, Fr. tr., 11, p. 135, n.), Dioscorides’ three kinds of *daukos* have been identified by C. Sprengel respectively as the umbelliferous *Athamanta cretensis*, *Peucedanum cervaria*, and *Seseli ammoides* (this one referring to the above-mentioned *ḥašīšat al-barāgīt*).

The Islamic-period authors, however, have applied the term *dawqū* only to the seeds of the wild *jazar* whatever the identity of the plant(s) so labeled may have been, including the *šaḳāqol* (see, e.g., Heravī, loc. cit., Majūsī, II, p. 108, Kāsānī, I, pp. 220-21, Ḥājī Zayn-e ‘Aṭṭār, p. 189). Among our authors, Aḳawaynī Boḳārī has the greatest number of medicinal uses for the *dawqū(ā)* (see the index, op. cit.). Schlimmer, who reported many of the pharmacological and therapeutical practices of Persia in 1874, says (p. 179) that carrot seeds are



called *toḵm-e zardak* “zardak seeds” and *dūqū*, and are used “as a derivative diuretic in brain and chest ailments.” The term *dawqū* is no longer used in Iran, although the *toḵm-e ḥavīj-e īrānī* “Persian carrot seeds” still figures on the inventory of some old-fashioned drugstores (see Ṣalāḥ-al-Dīn Aḥmad et al., list of the simples in a Tehran drugstore, p. 2).

The *qawqālīs/qūqāles* is another kind of wild *gazar* mentioned by some authors. Dioscorides’ description (apud Ebn al-Bayṭār, s.v. *qaw/ūqāles*, II, pt. 4, p. 40) runs mainly as follows: “Some people call it *dawqūaḡrīā* [“wild *daukos*”]. . . Its small, pubescent leaves resemble those of the fennel; it has a white, fragrant umbel. It is eaten raw or cooked. It is diuretic. “As to its medicinal properties, Ebn al-Bayṭār (ibid.) quotes Abū Jaʿfar Aḥmad Ḡāfeqī (d. a.d. 1164), who himself reports from the author of *al-Felāḡa* [?]: “It is deobstruent, resolvent, diuretic, carminative . . . , laxative, and calms colic. Steady friction of the gums with its expressed juice cures gingival diseases. “Ḥājī Zayn-e ‘Aṭṭār (*Eḡtīārāt-e badīʿ*, comp. 770/1368-69; p. 404), after summarizing the two quotations just mentioned, adds that the *qawqāles* = *dawqūā barrī* is called *tara-ḡar* and its mountain variety, *badrān* in the [Persian] dialect of Shiraz. The author of the *Borhān-e qāṭeʿ* explains that “the *badrān* is a plant looking like *tor(o)b* (horseradish), very fetid, and [therefore also] called, *ḡandḡiā(h)* [lit. “fetid plant”]” (ed. Moʿīn, I, s.v.), and that “the *tara-ḡar* is a kind of *badrān* . . . , the seeds of which are called *ḡord/ṭomānā* in Greek” (I, s.v.). (However, from two distichs of Boshāḡ Aṭʿema Šīrāzī [p. 15, vv. 2-3] it appears that, though he did not consider the *badrān* on a par with “the *gazar*, turnip, beet, cabbage, radish, and squash/pumpkin,” he did not exclude its culinary use.) According to Ibn Maymūn (Ar. text, p. 36, no. 334), *ḡard/ṭamānā* is the wild variety of the *karawīā rūmīya* (“Roman/Byzantine caraway”). Meyerhof explains (in Ebn Maymūn, p. 168, n.) that the medieval Arab herbalists-translators have mistakenly applied *ḡo/ardamānā* (the Syriac form of a Greek word) to the Greeks’ *kýminon ágrion* “wild cumin,” now identified as *Lagoecia cuminoides* L. Moḡaffarīān (p. 31) has reported this umbellifer from some places in Kohḡilūya, Boiraḡmad, Ḳūzestān, Kāzerūn, etc.

*The šaqāḡol*. Historically, there has been much confusion in classical sources about this kind of wild *jazar*, too. The etymology of the name is also obscure. Along with *šaqāḡol* (current in Iran ) and the obsolete *šašḡāḡol*, the variants *ešḡāḡol*, *ḡašḡiqāl*, *mašḡiqāl* are reported by Ḥājī Zayn (pp. 26-27), *šaqāḡel*, *šaqīḡol* and *ḡašḡiqol* by ‘Aḡlī Ḳorāsānī (in 1183/1769-70; p. 549; *ḡaštḡāl* [?] in Anṡākī [I, p. 188] seems to be a misprint). The variant *ḡaštīfol* is also recorded



(e.g., in Heravī, p. 342; Tonokābonī, p. 869, s.v.; *Borhān-e qāṭeʿ*, IV, s.v.). According to Ebn al-Kotobī (in the *Mā lā yasaʿ al-ṭabīb jahlaho*, reported by Leclerc [in Ebn al-Bayṭār, Fr. tr., II, p. 339 n.], *šaqāqol* is a Nabatean word. Kāšānī (I, p. 208, s.v. *jazar*) reports (supposedly from Abū Rayḥān Bīrūnī) that the *jazar* and the *jazar-e daštī* are called *šaqāqol* in the Roman (*rūmī*; Byzantine Greek?) language (the reference is probably to the above-mentioned Greek *kaukālīs*). Meyerhof (Ebn Maymūn, p. 181, no. 361, n.), while mentioning Syriac *ḥašqīqalā*, surmises that all these forms of the name bespeak a Persian origin.

Some authors have equated the *ša(š)qāqol* just with (the root of) the wild *jazar*. For instance, Heravī has the following description (pp. 91-92, s.v. *jazar*): “The wild variety of the *jazar*, called *šašqāqol*, is more potent as an aphrodisiac, fattens the body, relieves the cough caused by dryness. It is hot in the third degree, and *narm* in the second. Its seeds, called *dawqū*, stimulate the sexual appetite, increase [the secretion of] the sperm, but cause gout . . .” (curiously enough, Heravī has also a very short entry under *hašfifel/hašqīqel* [p. 42], which the editor has equated with the *šaqāqol* [ibid., n.], but which has different properties: “It is hot and dry in the second degree, good for gout and articular pain”). Ebn Sīnā (loc. cit.) has this brief statement: “As to the *šaqāqol*, it is the wild *jazar* (if it be reckoned as a *jazar*); it is more aphrodisiac than the cultivated *jazar*, diuretic, emmenagogue; its seeds and root are good against *ʿosr al-ḥaml* “difficulty in pregnancy”(?). Kāšānī has this short remark (I, pp. 420-21, s.v. *šaqāqol*, supposedly translated from Bīrūnī): “The root of the wild *gazar* is called *šaqāqol* . . . ; it is exported from Samarqand; it is called *kīr kākūl* [?] in Hindi . . .” (cf. ‘Aqīlī Kōrāsānī [pp. 549, 1008] who records *kākūl* as one of the several Hindi names for the *šaqāqol*. Ḥājī Zayn, equating *ešqāqol/šaqāqol* with the *jazar-e barrī* and *jazar-e eqlīṭī* (lit. “Celtic carrot”? pp. 102, etc.), and partly drawing on Dioscorides and Galen, says (pp. 26-27): “The best *ešqāqol* is the thick Egyptian variety, yellowish, and heavy . . . . It increases the milk of nursing women, and if used in a suppository/tampon it causes abortion. The application of its pounded leaves mixed with honey cleanses phagedenic sores.” Elsewhere (p. 189, s.v. *dawqū*) he says: “The *šaqāqol* is the root of the wild *jazar*, which is called *kers-gīāh* (lit. “bear wort”) . . . because the bear is very fond of it.” Among lexicographers, the author of the *Borhān-e qāṭeʿ* (ed. Moʿīn, IV, s.v. *nahšal*) also considers the *šaqāqol* the same as the *nahšal* = *zardak-e šahrāī* (cf., however, Ebn Maymūn, Ar. text, p. 11, no. 73, s.v. *jazar*, and Tonokābonī, p. 855, s.v., who consider *nahšal* an Arabic name of the [wild] carrot; see also Meyerhof, in Ebn Maymūn, no. 73, pp. 39-40, n.).



Some authors of the Islamic period, however, have considered the *šaqāqol* to be a particular species of (wild) carrot. For instance, Ṭabarī, in addition to *jazar* preserve (see above), says elsewhere (p. 393) that “the preserves of the ginger and *šašqāqol* are hot, beneficial to the coldness of the stomach and the bladder, and increase the sperm.” Aḳawaynī Boḳārī, too, refers to the *gazar* and the *šaqāqol* as the roots of two distinct plants (e.g., pp. 157, 357, 506, 509-10). Other authors differentiating between the two plants include Ebn Wāfed, Rāzī (both apud Ebn al-Bayṭār, II, pt. 3, pp. 65-66, s.v. *šaqāqol*), Jorjānī (pp. 599-600, s.v. *šašqāqol*), Anṭākī (I, p. 188, s.v. *šaqāqol*), Ebn Maymūn (Ar. text, p. 39, no. 361), and Tonokābonī (pp. 544-45). The latter’s botanical description (p. 544) seems to reflect some personal information: “The *šaqāqol* is a knotty root, viscid, a little sweet, as thick as a finger, long. The stem of the plant is [also] knotty, with a leaf growing at each knot. Its fruit is the size of a chickpea, black, filled with a black liquid; its flower is larger than the violet. The plant usually grows under thick trees in humid places. The part used is the root, the power of which lasts up to four years.”

P. Forskål (1775) has identified the *šaqāqol* growing in Egypt and Arabia as the umbelliferous *Eryngium campestre* L. (Renaud and Colin, in *Toḥfat al-aḥbāb*, p. 189, no. 445, n.). Dymock et al. (loc. cit.) have indicated *Trachydium lehmanni* Benth. & Hook. f. for the *shekākul* (*sic*) found in Indian *bāzārs* (see above), and Leclerc (Ebn al-Bayṭār, Fr. tr., II, p. 338) has used *Tordylium secacul* Miller for it (= *Malabaila secacul* subsp. *secacul* already mentioned).

Concerning *šaqāqol* preserve, in addition to its reputed aphrodisiac property, Aḳawaynī Boḳārī (p. 357) recommends *šaqāqol-e parvarda* as a cure for anorexia caused by dyscrasia due to “thick humors” in the stomach. Nowadays, the *morabbā-ye šaqāqol* (the only form in which the root is used), commercialized on a limited scale in Gīlān, is considered a palatable “hot” and (so far as men are concerned) aphrodisiac preserve (see the exclusive recipe in *Ḳāvar*, p. 219).



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