

Number of those Plants whose Flowers and Seeds, or more properly whose male and female Flowers grow on different Individuals; they have divided it into the two Kinds, the male and female, or the flowering and the seeding Hemp. These Plants tho' very different in Appearance at the Time of their flowering, both arise from the same Seed, and are alike in all other Respects. The Stalk is large and striated, and when broken is found to be composed of a Number of tough and fine Fibres; the Leaves are digitated or divided into many long Segments which are notched at the Edges; the Flowers are formed of *Stamina* with yellowish *Apices*, and the Seeds grow clustering about the upper Part of the Branches of the other Plants which produce none of these Flowers.

We have our Hemp Seed from those Plants which are cultivated in our Fields, in several Parts of *England*, for the Sake of their Stalks, which are what our Linens are made of. Hemp Seed is a very good Food for many Kinds of Birds; and in times of Distress Men have attempted to live upon it; but it has not succeeded well, occasioning violent and continued Disorders of the Head. It is said to be a good Medicine in Coughs, but its great Virtues are against the Jaundice; we have Accounts from Authors of Credit, of many People cured of that Disease, solely by the Use of an Emulsion of Hemp Seed. They are also good against Heat of Urine, and are recommended by some in Gonorrhœas. An Oil is procured from the Seeds by Expression, in a very considerable Quantity which serves for many of the common Purposes of Life, and is emollient and discutient. An Emulsion of Hemp Seed is said also to be of great Service in taking off the Marks of the Small-Pox, if used for a considerable Time, beginning with it as soon as the Disease is over; and a Decoction of them is commended by many in Inflammations of the *Uvula*.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

DAUCI SEMEN,  
*Daucus Seed.*

**T**HERE are two Kinds of *Daucus* Seeds kept in the Shops distinguished by the Names of *Daucus Creticus*, and *Daucus vulgaris*, the *Cretic* and the common *Daucus*. The *Daucus Creticus* or the *Cretic* Kind, is a small Seed of an oblong Figure, smaller than the Seed of the ordinary Carrot; somewhat broad and obtuse at the Base, swelling out larger yet in the Middle, and terminating at the Top in a narrow Point. It is rounded or prominent on one Side, and flat or plain on the other, and is striated with longitudinal Furrows; it is very hairy and of a pale Colour, light, and not very hard, of scarce any Smell, but of a very acrid and aromatic Taste. It is to be chosen fresh, sound, and large, not dusty, and of an acrid Taste. It is very apt to breed Insects, which must be carefully looked into, for when that is the Case, it has no Virtue.

We have it principally from *Germany*, though there is sometimes a large Quantity of it brought in from the *Levant*. The Plant which produces it is one of the *Pentandria Digynia* of *Linneus*, and of the *Herbæ umbelliferae* of *Mr. Ray*. It is described by Authors under the Names of *Daucus Creticus Semine hirsuto*, *Daucus Feniculi Foliis*, and *Myrrhis annua Semine striato villosa incana*. Its Root is long, and of the Thickness of a Man's Finger; its Stalk does not rise to

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more than six or eight Inches high; its Leaves are finely divided like those of Fennel, and are usually white and hoary, though sometimes perfectly smooth, and of a deep shining green. The Flowers stand on the Tops of the main Stalk and branches in large Clusters or Umbels, and are small and white; they are succeeded each by two Seeds, such as are above described, which are joined together by their flat Part. The Plant grows wild not only in the Island of *Crete*, but in *Germany* on the Mountains, in very considerable Plenty, where the Peasants gather the Clusters of Seed for the Shops.

The *Daucus vulgaris*, or common wild Carrot Seed, is a Seed sufficiently different from that of the *Candy* or *Crete* Kind in Figure. It is somewhat short and broad, of a very singular Appearance. It is largest in the Middle, and terminates obtusely at each End. Its Surface is striated or ridged, the Ridges running regularly in a longitudinal Direction. It is somewhat flat and thin, and very light; its Colour is a deep brown; but it looks at first Sight whitish, which is owing to a Multitude of whitish *Fibrille* that grow like Hairs all over its Surface; these are considerably long, and are not simple Filaments, but are divided and ramified. It is not very hard, and when broken appears of a lax spongy Texture. It has but little Smell, but what it has is fragrant and agreeable. Its Taste is like that of the *Crete Daucus*, but much weaker and fainter. It is to be chosen new, large, and of a good Colour, of a pleasant Smell, and of as brisk a Taste as may be. It loses much of its Virtues in keeping, and is often met with dusty and broken, in which Case it is of no Value. We sometimes also see a smaller Kind of it among the Druggists, this wants both Taste and Smell, and is of a darker Colour, though it resembles it in Shape: This is in Reality the same Seed, but it has been gathered while unripe. Our Druggists are apt to sell this Seed under the Name of the *Candy* Kind; but the Difference between them is very obvious, this being vastly more remarkable in its Hairs, which are so many branched Filaments, and that being a longer and narrower Seed.

The Plant which produces this is of the same *Genus* with that which affords the former. It is described by Authors under the Names of *Daucus vulgaris*, *Daucus Sylvestris*, and *Pastinacha Sylvestris tenuifolia*. Its Root is long, slender, white, and of an acrid Taste; its Stalks are striated and branched. It grows to two Feet or more in Height. Its Leaves are finely divided, and its Flowers stand in large Umbels, which are at certain Periods hollowed so as to resemble the Cavity of a Bird's Nest. They are small and white, sometimes a little reddish, and are succeeded each by two of the before mentioned Seeds growing close together. The Seed is obtained from our own Country, the Plant being frequent in our Meadows and Pastures, and by Way Sides.

The Seeds of the *Crete* and common *Daucus* have the same general Virtues; they both yield on Distillation a copious limpid essential Oil, and a reddish Liquor, containing evidently a urinous and an acid Salt; the Remainder, taken out of the Retort and calcined, affords, by Lixiviation, a fixed alkali Salt, but that in very small Quantity; not more than a dozen Grains of it can be obtained from the Pound. They are very powerful Diuretics, and are beside this much celebrated by some as Carminatives and Uterines. They attenuate thick and viscid Humours, open Obstructions, and promote the Meneses. Many People have esteemed the Seed of the common *Daucus* a

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Remedy for the Stone, and *Helmont* tells us of a Person who was freed from that Complaint for many Years, by the sole Use of it, but it is going too far to give it any more Praise on this Head, than that of a Diuretic of the ordinary Kind. The *Cretic* Kind is one of the four lesser hot Seeds of the Shops, and enters into some officinal Compositions.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

## RICINI,

*The several Kinds of Ricinus.*

WE have in the Shops at present, though but little used, no less than four distinct Fruits, or Seeds, under the Name of *Ricini* as their general Term, but sub-distinguish'd by several others. These are, 1. The *Granum Regium*, call'd also simply *Granum*, and by the old *Greeks* *Kiki*. 2. The *Faba Purgatrix*, or *Barbados* Nut as it is usually call'd. 3. The *Avellana purgatrix novi orbis*: And, 4. The *Grana Tiglia*. These are all of them of the same Nature and Qualities, though they differ in Degree of Power; and are all the Fruits of Plants of the *ricinus* or *ricinoides* Kind.

GRANA REGIA,  
*Purging Grains.*

This is one of the *Ricini* distinguished by *Geoffroy* under the Name of *Nucula caibartica prima*. It is an oblong Seed, of a Figure approaching to oval, gibbous or prominent on one Side, and hollow'd on the other, and has a little Umbilicus directly on its Head or Summit. It consists of a thin, tender, and brittle Coat or Rind, which is variegated with darker and paler Spots and Blotches in a very elegant and beautiful manner, and is very smooth and glossy on the Surface; and under this of a firm and white Matter, resembling the Substance of an Almond naturally divided into two Parts, and of a flattish nauseous Taste with something sweetish in it, but with a very considerable Mixture of the Acrid with it. Three of these Seeds are in their natural State contain'd in one rough and echinated Capsule.

The *Grana Regia* were known to the old *Greek* Writers, they call'd them *Kiki* and *Croton*. The *Arabians* describe them under the Name of *Alchervo*, and in the Shops, beside their common Name of *Grana Regia*, they are call'd *Cberoa major*, *Cataputia major*, and *Ricini Nuclei*.

The Plant which produces them is one of the *Monacia Monadelphica* of *Linnaeus*, and of the *Herbae flore imperfecta seu stamineo* of *Mr. Ray*. It is described by the botanical Writers under the Name of the *Ricinus vulgaris* and *Palma Christi*. *Piso* has it under the Name of the *Nambu Graca*, and in the *Hortus Malabaricus* it is described under the Name of *Avanacoe* or *Citavanacoi*. It grows to six, eight, or more Feet in Height; its Stalk is thick and firm but hollow, jointed and branch'd toward the Top; the Leaves are like those of the Fig-Tree, but larger and more deeply divided, and they stand upon longer Pedicles; the Flowers are of the stameneous Kind, and stand in long Spikes; the Fruit is of a trigonal Form, and rough Surface, it stands on a Pedicle of an Inch in Length, and contains three Seeds, which are the *Grana Regia*.

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