recurvate, of the length of the ſtamens, pressed together, and as if united in one by the thickſet ſurrounding ſtamens @@(d) fig. 6, 9, 10. ; but after the petals and ſtamens have fallen off they part, ſpread open, increaſe in length, and wither on the germen, fig. 1, 1 2. ; the stigmas simple, *t,* fig. 1, 9, **IC, 12.**

*Pericarpium.* P, fig. 1, 13, 14. a capſule in the form of three globular bodies united, fig. 13. trilocular, fig. 14. ga­ping at the top in three directions, fig. 13.

*Seeds.* S, fig. 14. single, globoſe, angulate on the inward side.

*Trunk.* T, fig. I. ramoſe, lignous, round ; branches al­ternate, vague, ſtiffish, inclining to aſh colour, towards the top reddiſh ; the peduncles axillary, p, fig. 1. alternate, ſingle, curved, uniflorous, incraſſate, fig. 1, 2, 7. ſtipulate, the ſtipula ſingle ; ſubulate, erect, *d,* fig. 1, 2, 7, 9.

*Leaves.* F, fig. 1, 15, 16, 17. alternate, elliptical, obtuſely ſerrated, with the edges between the teeth recurvate, with the apex emarginate @@(e) magnified, fig. 15. e, at the baſe very entire, fig. 16, 17. the ſurface ſmooth, gloſſy, bullate, venose on the under side, of a firm texture, petiolate ; the petiols very ſhort, *b,* fig. 1, 16, 17. round on the under side, gibbous, fig. 16. *b,* magnified ; on the upper side flattiſh and ſlightly channelled, fig. 17. *b.*

The tea plant, which is an evergreen, grows to the height of five or six feet; Le Compte says ten or twelve. The leaves, which are the only valuable part of it, are about an inch and a half long, narrow, indented, and tapering to a point, like thoſe of the ſweet briar, and of a dark green colour. The root is like that of the peach tree, and its flowers reſemble thoſe of the white wild roſe. The ſtem ſpreads into many irregular branches. The wood is hard, of a whitiſh green colour, and the bark is of a greeniſh colour, with a bitter, nauſeous, and aſtringent taſte. The fruit is ſmall, and contains ſeveral round blackiſh ſeeds, about the bigneſs of a bean or large pea.

This plant delights in valleys, is frequent on the ſloping ſides of mountains and the banks of rivers, where it enjoys a ſouthern expoſure. It flouriſhes in the northern latitudes of Pekin as well as round Canton, but attains the greateſt perfection in the mild temperate regions of Nankin. It is ſaid only to be found between the 30th and 45th degree of north latitude. In Japan it is planted round the borders of fields, without regard to the ſoil ; but as it is an important article of commerce with the Chineſe, whole fields are co­vered with it, it is by them cultivated with care. The Abbé Rochen says, it grows equally well in a poor as in a rich ſoil ; but that there are certain places where it is of a bet­ter quality. The tea which grows in rocky ground is ſuperior to that which grows in a light ſoil ; and the worſt kind is that which is produced in a clay ſoil. It is propagated by ſeeds ; from six to twelve are put into a hole about five inches deep, at certain diſtances from each other. The rea­ſon why ſo many ſeeds are sown in the ſame hole is ſaid to be, that only a fifth part vegetate. Being thus ſown, they grow without any other care. Some, however, manure the land, and remove the weeds ; for the Chineſe are as fond of good tea, and take as much pains to procure it of an excel­lent quality, as the Europeans do to procure excellent wine.

The leaves are not fit for being plucked till the ſhrub be of three years growth. In ſeven years it uses to a man's height ; but as it then bears but few leaves, it is cut down to the ſtem, and this produces a new crop of freſh ſhoots the following ſummer, every one of which bears nearly as many leaves as a whole ſhrub. Sometimes the plants are not cut down till they are ten years old. We are informed by Kœmpfer, that there are three ſeaſons in which the leaves are collected in the iſles of japan, from which the tea derives different degrees of perfection.

The firſt gathering commences at the end of February or beginning of March. The leaves are then ſmall, tender, and unfolded, and not above three or four days old : theſe are called ficki-tsi*aa,* or “ tea in powder,” becauſe it is pulveriſed ; it is also called *imperial tea,* being generally reſerved for the court and people of rank ; and ſometimes alſo it is named *bloom tea.* It is sold in China for 20 d. or 2 s. *per* pound. The labourers employed in collecting it do not pull the leaves by handfuls, but pick them one by one, and take every precaution that they may not break them. However long and tedious this labour may appear, they ga­ther from 4 to 10 or 15 pounds a-day.

The ſecond crop is gathered about the end of March or beginning of April. At this seaſon part of their leaves have attained their full growth, and the reſt are not above half their ſize. This difference does not, however, prevent them from being all gathered indiscriminately. They are after­wards picked and aſſorted into different parcels, according to their age and ſize. The youngeſt, which are carefully ſeparated from the reſt, are often sold for leaves of the firſt crop, or for imperial tea. Tea gathered at this ſeaſon is called *too-tsiaa,* or “ Chineſe tea,” becauſe the people of Japan infuſe it, and drink it after the Chineſe manner.

The third crop is gathered ‘ in the end of May or in the month of June. The leaves are then very numerous and thick, and have acquired their full growth. This kind of tea, which is called *Ben-stiaa,* is the coarſeſt of all, and is reſerved for the common people. Some of the Japaneſe collect their tea only at two seaſons of the year, which correſpond to the ſecond and third already mentioned ; others confine themſelves to one general gathering of their crop, towards the month of June : however, they always form afterwards different assortments of their leaves.

The fineſt and moſt celebrated tea of Japan is that which grows near Ud-ſi, a ſmall village ſituated cloſe to the ſea, and not far diſtant from Meaco. In the diſtrict of this vil­lage is a delightful mountain, having the ſame name, the climate of which is ſaid to be extremely favourable to the culture of tea ; it is therefore incloſed by a hedge, and ſurrounded with wide ditches, which prevent all acceſs to it. The tea ſhrubs that grow on this mountain are planted in regular order, and are divided by different avenues and al­leys.

The care of this place is entruſted to people who are or­dered to guard the leaves from duſt, and to defend them from the inclemency of the weather. The labourers who are appointed to collect the tea abſtain from every kind of groſs food for ſome weeks before they begin, that their breath and perſpiration may not in the leaſt injure the leaves. They gather them with the moſt ſcrupulous nice­ty, and never touch them but with very fine gloves. When this choice tea has undergone the proceſs neceſſary for its

@@@(d) It was this circumſtance that led Linnaeus to place it under the order monogynia.

@@@(e) No author has hitherto remarked this obvious circumſtance ; even Kœmpfer ſays the leaves terminate in a ſharp point.