

... as far back as I can remember (a perfume of forgetting), ongoing, 2018

hand blown glass spheres with Ziziphus zizyphus (wild jujuba) fragrance, hermetically sealed / vitrine case / imprinted fabric, dried plant, text (read, variable length).

It smells like... flowers & fragrances,

Me Collectors Room
Olbricht Collection, Berlin
14.07.2018 – 01.08.2018
curated by
Heike Fuhlbrügge

On interobjectivity,
University of Medicine, Montpellier
19 .04.2017 – 24.05.2017
curated by
Alistair Robinson

video
link:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BiMYqZLB4U4/?hl=fr&taken-by=nadialichtig>

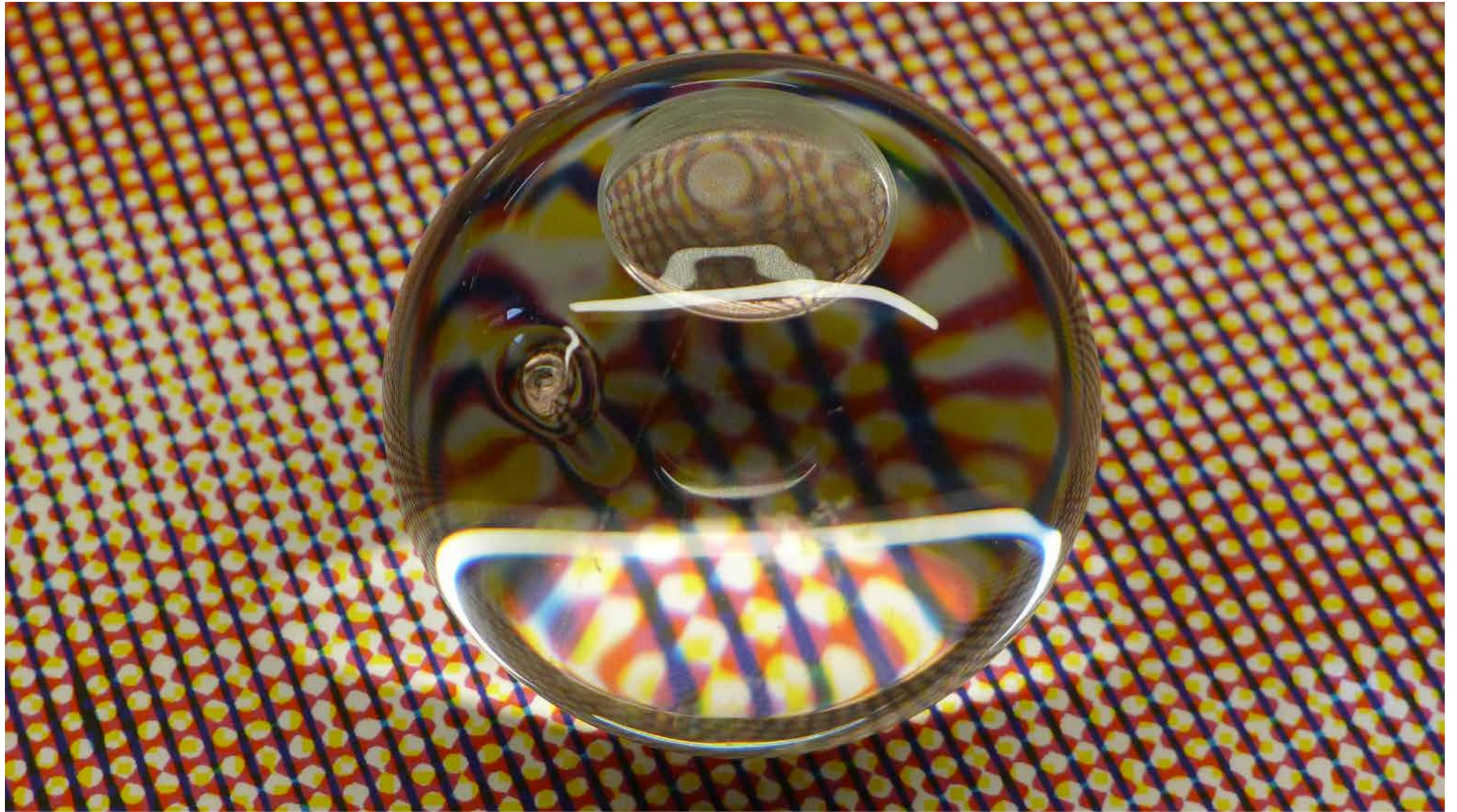
... as far back as I will remember (a perfume of forgetting), (print, sculpture, scent, fabric, case), 2016 – ongoing. The project is a corpus of work questioning the construction of knowledge.

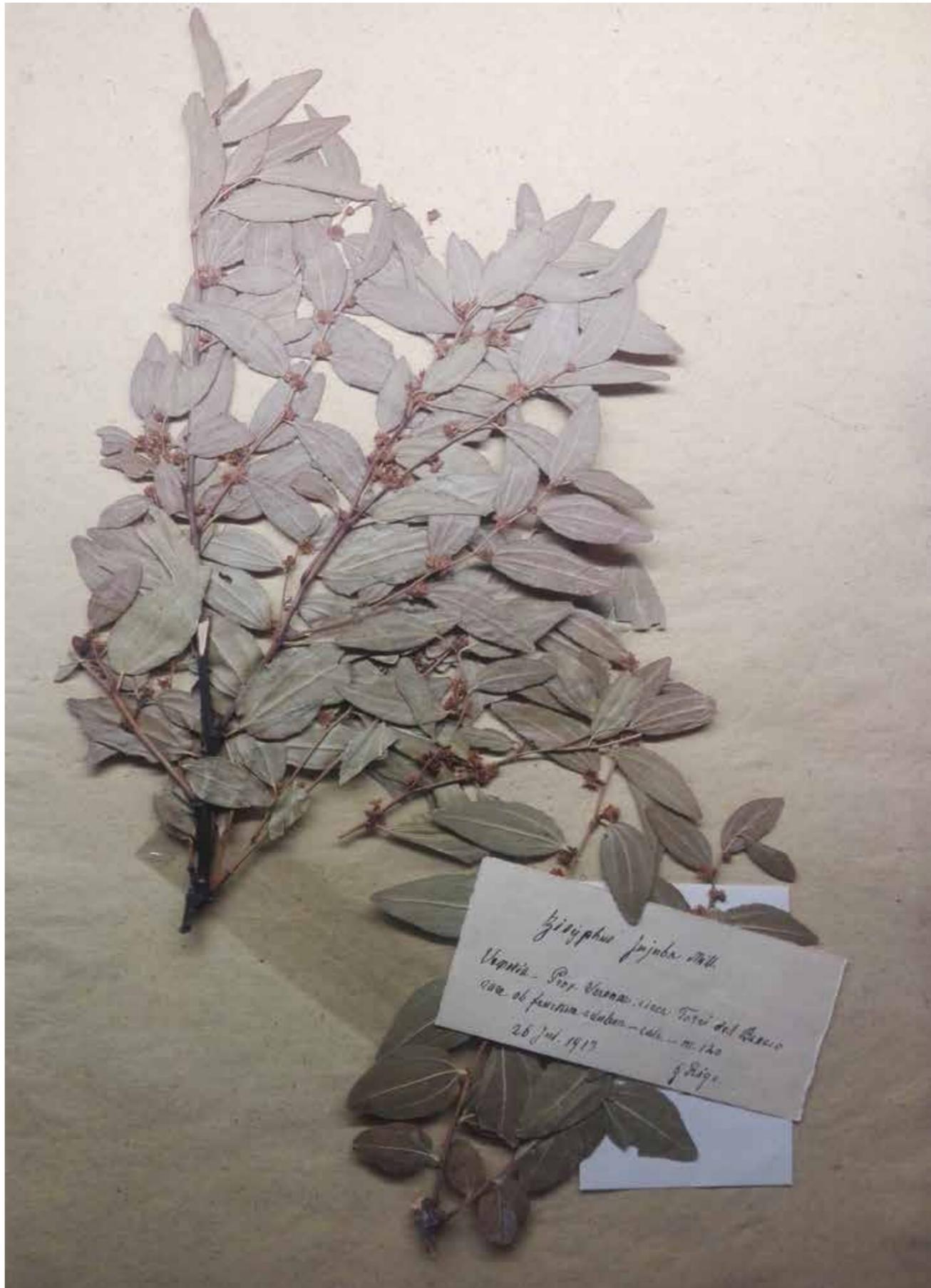
... as far back as I will remember (a perfume of forgetting) retraces the evolution of a plant in the form of a prosopopeia: the Ziziphus zizyphus (or Jujube or Lotos tree) invades the planet earths' soil with its pharmaceutical quality which is that of provoking amnesia. The perfume extract of this plant, which the artist observes growing in the botanical garden in Montpellier and of which she collected a large amount of flowers, have been distilled into highly concentrated perfume. This perfume has been then encapsulated in hand blown glass spheres, that have to be broken in order to let evade the scent. As an installation these glass spheres containing the perfume are placed on imprinted fabric of which the glass enlarges their pattern creating gaps into the surface, "memory gaps" as a sort of synesthetic score.

Wild Jujube (Ziziphus Zizyphus) is considered to be the lotos, described by Homer in The Odyssey. On his journey back from the Trojan war, Ulysses and his soldiers dock on the isle of the Lotos-Eaters, the people who eat lotos, a magical plant that provides forgetfulness.









... as far back as I can remember (a perfume of forgetting) , dried plant

Parfum d'Oubli

Jardin des Plantes, Montpellier, South of France

... as far back as I will remember, I will have always been growing here, in the botanical garden of Montpellier in France, the Jardin des Plantes, founded in 1593 CE by the French botanist, Pierre Richer de Belleval (1555 or 1564 to 1632 BC). Pierre Richer de Belleval will create the garden on orders from Henry IV (French: Henri IV; 13 December 1553 to 14 May 1610 BE), King of France from 1589 to 1610 CE. The Jardin des Plantes of Montpellier will be one of the oldest botanical gardens of Europe, with the Orto Botanico di Padova, the botanical garden of Padua in Italy, created in 1545 CE. At the moment of my writing, the Jardin des Plantes of Montpellier will be encompassing more than 2500 plants and be an area of stunning natural beauty. The garden will be covering 11 acres (4.5 hectares) near the centre of the city. The site, with its ponds, an arboretum and landscaped areas, will be owned by University of Montpellier and will be used for study and research. Comforted by the warm Mediterranean climate of South of France, I will be growing in the garden's Systematic School, neighbouring an old phillyrea tree, a Judas tree planted by the garden's founder, a ginkgo biloba that will have been planted toward the end of the 1700s CE, and an Olive tree, more than 250 years old. I will be surrounded by busts of important medical naturalists, such as Pierre Magnol (June 8, 1638 to May 21, 1715) a French botanist, born in the city of Montpellier. He will be known as one of the innovators devising the botanical scheme of classification. He will be the first to publish the concept of plant families as they will be understood from then on, as a natural classification of groups of plants that have features in common. He will become Professor of Botany at the University of Montpellier and Director of the botanical garden of Montpellier in 1697 CE, then called the Royal Botanic Garden, and will also briefly hold a seat in the French Academy of Sciences (French: Académie des sciences), a learned society seated in Paris, encouraging and protecting the spirit of French scientific research, before founding the French The Royal Academy of Sciences of Montpellier (French: Société royale des sciences de Montpellier) in 1706 CE.

Over time, the garden's appearance will not vary too much, only the flowers that will be planted and replanted each year will change, like a garment wrapped around a body, remaining the same below. I will have the chance to observe growing and blossoming a high range of flowers from originally different continents, such as the Star of Bethlehem (*Agapanthus*), the Floss Flower (*Ageratum hououianum*), the Flamingo Flower (*Anthurium*), the Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra*), the Snapdragon Flower (*Antirrhinum majus*), the Kaffir Lily (*Clivia miniata*), the Australian native Kangaroo Paw, the Ice Plant (*Delosperma*), the Jaborosa (*Nightshade Family*), the Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*), the Desert Rose (*Doghane*), the Wild Iris (*Dietes*), the Euphorbia (*Fridaceae Family*), the Mexican Fireplant Pointsetta (*Cyathophor*), the Flannel Flower (*Actinotus helianthi*), the Cosmos (*Asteraceae*), the Honesty (*Lunaria*), the Cherry Pie Plant (*Heliotrope*), the Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*), the West Indian Jasmine (*Isora*), The Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila*), the Whirling Butterflies (*Gaura*) and the Proteas, one of the oldest flowers on earth, dating back 300 million BCE.

Nomenclature

I will be called by many different names. Due to a combination of botanical naming regulations and variations in spelling, my species will have a curious and confusing nomenclatural history. My name will be often truncated, misspelled or transformed in some way. It will be translated from Arabic or Persian writing into Greek by means of the Greek alphabet. The Arabic-Greek bilingual lexica will establish the equivalence of the terms. Transliterations of my name will result from the fact that, when Arabic texts will be rendered into Greek, the translators will not necessarily know the exact Greek equivalent of my name and keep the Arabic form, just reproducing it letter by letter from Arabic into the Greek alphabet.

In the Greek world they first will speak of me as the *lotos* or *lotus*. I will be mentioned in the Odyssey —one of the major ancient Greek epic poems which will be attributed to Homer, and that will be believed having been composed near the end of the 8th century BCE, somewhere in Ionia, the Greek coastal region of Anatolia. The oldest known extract of the Odyssey will be found near the remains of the Temple of Zeus, as on an engraved clay plaque in Olympia, Greece. It will be believed to date from the 3rd century CE (201 to 300 CE). There, my fruits will be described as being food of the Lotofagi (this is, literally the eaters of *lotos* or *lotus*), and my fruits will be credited with a strange property: whoever eats my fruits will be savaged by forgetfulness. He or she will no longer want to sail home, and not even give news. The location of the Lotofagi will not be clearly established: usually it will be located somewhere on the North African coast, but it will also be tentatively identified in the Adriatic region, specifically Dubrovnik. Most sources will say that the island Odysseus docks on with his soldiers will be Djerba, the largest island of North Africa. In the epic, Odysseus, the main character, will tell of what happens to three of his companions when they meet the Lotus-Eaters and partake of my fruits.

"I was driven thence by foul winds for a space of nine days upon the sea, but on the tenth day we reached the land of the Lotus-eaters, who live on a food that comes from a kind of flower. Here we landed to take in fresh water, and our crews got their mid-day meal on the shore near the ships. When they had eaten and drunk I sent two of my company to see what manner of men the people of the place might be, and they had a third man under them. They started at once, and went about among the Lotus-eaters, who did them no hurt, but gave them to eat of the lotus, which was so delicious that those who ate of it left off caring about home, and did not even want to go back and say what had happened to them, but were for staying and munching lotus with the Lotus-eaters without thinking further of their return; nevertheless, though they wept bitterly I forced them back to the ships and made them fast under the benches. Then I told the rest to go on board at once, lest any of them should taste of the lotus and leave off wanting to get home, so they took their places and smote the grey sea with their oars."¹

In ca. 430 BCE, I will appear in Herodotus' (ca. 485 to 424 BCE) second book of The Histories, devoted to Africa. Herodotus will be a Greek historian who will be often referred to as "the father of History", for being the first historian known breaking from Homeric tradition and treat historical subjects as a method of investigation —specifically, by collecting his materials systematically and critically, and then arranging them into a historiographic narrative. He will speak of me as a mythological tree that gives the Lotus fruit. The Lotophagi will be described as a Libyan tribe and their country as in the Libyan district bordering on the Syrtes, either of two shallow sandy gulfs on the coast of Libya, proverbially dangerous to shipping. When Odysseus will reach the country of the Lotophagi, many of his sailors after eating the Lotus will loose all wish to return home. Lotus will be said constituting the only food of natives, who will also be believed making a wine of my fruits.

"There is a cape that protects into the sea from the land of the Gindanes, and there dwell the Lotophagi, who live solely from the enjoyment of the lotus fruit. The fruit of the lotus is about as big as a mastic berry and in sweetness is like the fruit of the palm tree. The Lotophagi also make wine of this fruit."²

A commentary on Herodotus by W. W. How and J. Wells will give some more information about my fruit:

"Herodotus is precise in describing the lotus, because of its legendary fame in Homer as causing forgetfulness of home and family; Polybius describes it even more fully. It is a species of thorn tree, the jujube (*Zizyphus vulgaris*) of the genus *Rhamnesco*, to which the English buckthorn belongs, with a fruit like a plum in size and shape, which is eaten, especially when dried. The Egyptian lotus is quite distinct... A sort of wine is still made from the fruit."³

In Theophrastus's Enquiry into Plants or Historia Plantarum (Greek: Ἡερί ποσειδι ιεροπία, *Peri phyton historia*) I will be listed as an Indian plant. Theophrastus (c. 371 to c. 287 BCE) will be a Greek native of Erosos in Lesbos, the successor to Aristotle in the Peripatetic school and considered being "the father of Botany" for his works on plants. Theophrastus will not know my name, and will describe me by comparing me to the Cornelian cherry tree.

From the fourth century BCE, I will more widely known in the Greek world thanks to the troops of Alexander the Great (356 to 223 BCE) and the scientists who will accompany them in their adventure to India (327 to 225 BCE). But will be frequently confounded with several different species such as *Trifolium*, *Melilot* and *Trigonella*, the *Lotus corniculatus*, the fellbloom or the *Medicago arborea*; the sweet persimmon fruit of the date-plum (*Diospyros lotus*), a water-lily, *Nymphaea lotus*, *Nymphaea caerulea*, or *Nymphaea stellata*, the blue water-lily of the Nile, *Nymphaea caerulea*, also known as the blue lotus and the nettle-tree (*Celtis australis*).

In Latin technical literature, at the turn of the first century BCE/CE, I will first appear as *Zizyphus*. This name will be believed deriving from the Persian name *Zizufun* or *Zizafun*, of unknown etymology and its Latin adaptation *Zizyphus* will also not provide any clear indication on my origin. For Pliny (23/24 to 79 CE), I will be an exotic tree "recently arrived to Italy". He will explain that I will have been introduced to Italy by Sextus Papinius, consul during Pliny's life (in fact, in 36 CE) and that I will have been brought from Syria in Augustus' last years, that will be probably shortly before 14 CE, the year of Augustus' death. Pliny will mention that I will be also called *Cappadocia*, that is, a plant from central Asia minor. In the 18th century CE, I will then be described scientifically by Carl Linnaeus as *Rhamnus zizyphus*, in Species Plantarum in 1753 CE. Later, in 1768 CE, Philip Miller will conclude I am sufficiently distinct from *Rhamnus* to merit separation into a new genus, which he will name *Zizyphus jujube*, using Linnaeus' species name for the genus but with a probably accidental single letter spelling difference, "i" for "y". For my species name he will use a different name, as tautonyms (repetition of exactly the same name in the genus and species) will not be permitted in botanical naming. However, because of Miller's slightly different spelling, the combination of the earlier species name (from Linnaeus) with the new genus, *Zizyphus zizyphus*, will be not a tautonym, and will be therefore permitted as a botanical name. This combination will be made by Hermann Karsten in 1882 CE.

In Chinese herbal formulas I will appear as *Du Zao*, the red date, as early as 2000 BCE. Approximately around 200 CE, I will be mentioned as *Sheyzaif* and as *Rimin* in the part of the Talmud called Mishnah, a written collection of the Jewish oral traditions authored by Rabbi Yehudah ha-Nasi originally from Lower Gallilee. In the Christian world I will be known as the Christ's thorn jujube and considered being the very tree from which Jesus' crown of thorns will be made. In the Arab world I will be called *Sidar*, *Sidr*, *Sing*, *Sidrat*, *Sidrah* and *Sidrat al-Muntaha* (Arabic: شجرة المنة), meaning literally the "utmost extremity or the very end of something or boundary "intihā" which is one of the many Arabic words for the word end.

... as far back as I can remember (a perfume of forgetting) ,text (extract)