



Review Article

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The research of *Chuci* plant and excavation of *Chu* cultural elements in China

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Article Info

Abstract

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With regards to *Chuci* plant, this study explore the *Chu* cultural connotation of plants in the park and the importance of planning, the distribution characteristics of *Chuci* plants to mining park, growth habit and cultural qualities, research of *Chu* plants in the park planning and design of cultural inheritance, continuation and development, the analysis summary of *Chu* cultural theme park planning and design methods. It can provide theoretical reference and reference for enhancing the *Chu* culture atmosphere of the park. In addition, this paper evaluates the *Chu* cultural elements of various plants in the planning and design of the park and their effects on the creation of cultural atmosphere in the park. Therefore, innovative suggestions are put forward in the planning and design of the park to create the park landscape with *Chu* culture characteristics, *Chu* culture connotation and *Chu* culture artistic conception.

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Introduction

"*Chuci*", which is written in the unique dialect of the State of *Chu*, have full of strong regional cultural colors and customs (Hong, 2002). It is a new form of poetry created by *Qu Yuan* and also been the first collection of romantic poems in the history of Chinese literature (He, 2011). With beautiful diction, outstanding plant images and full of emotions, "*Chuci*" might be the first among our ancient literature works (Wen, 2018). There are hundreds of plants described in *Chuci* (Yun and Sung, 2014). These plants, as the media to express one's aspirations, contain rich cultural information, condense profound cultural deposits and have strong metaphorical meaning (Hong, 2002). Open "*Chuci*", a sweet smell wafted through the nostrils (Wen, 2018). Looking

ahead, hundreds of acres of orchid which are named "*Chunlan*" and "*Qiuhui*" demon burn scene, slowly step the flower garden, seem to be the soul of the dumping (Hong, 2002).

Most of the plants in *Chuci* are flowers and grass. A scholar once counted the total number of flowers and grass in *Lisao* (one poetry of *Chuci*) (He, 2011), which have 18 kinds of vanilla. The plants described in the poem are mainly used as the carrier of the poet's lyrical writing, which are carefully selected by the poet to enter his own image series (Xin, 2009). From "*Chuci*", it can understand the cultural significance of plants, which is the accumulation, refinement and sublimation of the original national cultural concepts (Hong, 2002).

The demonstration research of plant images of *Chuci*

To these plant images, the ancient research can be divided into two parts: one is aesthetic angle, another is textual angle (Huang et al., 2008). Recently the research of literature imagines appears some new changes with the conspicuous features in the fields of witchcrafts, ritual, culturology and demonstration research (Xin, 2009). However, comparing with the accuracy and diversity research for the plant of “*The Book of Poem*”, demonstration research for the plant of “*Chuci*” still has large gap (Luo, 2011). Researchers had taken study on *Chuci* plant which has superior different views in history as a breach, used materials and knowledge of mutual subjects, with mutual angles (Xin, 2009). They had analyzed the prototype of these plants (Luo, 2011). These results had done some helps to the name and description and culture research of *Chu-kingdom*, also had established a kind of methodology, which can provide bases for the research (Yun and Sung, 2014).

As an interdisciplinary, the textual research of plant for “*Chuci*” is worthwhile for our endeavor, for it has an immeasurable value for the related researches on cultural and folklore (Luo, 2011). But the current research has some errors more or less, which warns us should do some systematic research on the very topic (Owen, 2018). From the plant images’ researches, to the demonstration research, and cultural research, especially exploring the plant culture of *pre-Qin* period from the traces contained in the literature works, is a weak link now in our research (Owen, 2018). Hence, strengthen the crossing mutual subjects’ research of name and description, unearthed objects and folklore, will benefit a lot to our plant culture research works (Owen, 2018).

On the theory of plant emotion in the *Chuci*

In vanilla-*Jiamu* to compare beauty gentleman has appeared in *Shijing* of the earliest collection of poems in China, but the comparison technique into full play is the Warring States period poet *Qu Yuan* (He, 2011). A lot of the comparison technique is not his original, as early as in *Shijing* has been Pujianerlai, and can be found everywhere (Sun, 2013). *Chuci* greatly influenced later on plant of emotion, but also enriches the poet’s imagination (Sun, 2013).

The comparison of beauty and gentleman with vanilla has emerged in *The Book of Songs*, the earliest

collection of Chinese poems was *Qu Yuan*, a poet in the *Warring States Period* in china (He, 2011). *Qu Yuan* was the first poet who used this comparison technique to the extreme (He, 2011). Through the study of plant emotion in the poem of *Chuci*, it can fully understand the multilevel symbolism of plant image in *Qu Yuan*’s poems, and it can also see its influence on later works (He, 2011). *Chuci* greatly influenced later generations’ feelings towards plants and enriched the poets’ imagination (Sun, 2013).

Landscape application of *Chuci* plant culture

There are almost 100 kinds of plants mentioned in the *Chuci*, which was written in the unique language form of *Chu Dynasty* (Tian et al., 2011). The plant images are distinct and rich in variety, which carries a lot of cultural information (Bin and Yuelin, 2016). Taking the plants of *Chuci* as the research object, it could study the plant culture and application in landscape deeply from classification and features of *Chuci* plants (Tian et al., 2011).

Chuci botanical garden, which shows the plants of *Chuci*, is unique and complex (Tian et al., 2011). The theme of plants in *Chuci* botanical garden should be to highlight the culture of *Chuci* (Bin and Yuelin, 2016). Therefore, it is necessary to create a community habitat that can satisfy the life of different plants of *Chuci*, simulate the growth mode of natural plant communities, and arrange them in a nearly completely naturalized environment according to the ecological habits of different plants of *Chuci* (Tian et al., 2011). At the same time, abandon the plants that are not suitable for local growth (Yun and Sung, 2014). The design of the scheme of *Chuci* botanical garden is based on the principle of minimum intervention, to the maximum extent to preserve the current site of farmland, terrain and the existing natural growth of the trees on the mountain (Tuo, 2010).

In addition, according to the four seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter landscape counterclockwise order, a number of distinctive and colorful *Chuci* plant theme gardens are designed, such as magnolia garden, orchid garden, peach and plum garden, crape myrtle garden, orange garden, chrysanthemum garden, plum garden and so on (Bin and Yuelin, 2016). Last, in combination with the water system, an aquatic botanical garden is designed at the entrance of the paddy field according to the topography

and current water system to form an ecological environment with mountains, water and wetlands (Tuo, 2010).

Conclusions

In the new era of building a beautiful China and rural revitalization, it need to inherit the excellent *Chu* culture to summarize and discover cultural symbols and concepts that can highlight regional characteristics to highlight cultural confidence. Therefore, to investigate and study the plants of *Chuci*, to analyze their distribution characteristics and growth habits, and to excavate the connotations of *Chu* culture, is of great significance for inheriting the long history of *Chu* culture in China and creating the plant atmosphere of *Chuci* with local characteristics. Furthermore, it is of great significance to promote the development of tourism to publicize the plants of *Chuci*, develop their tourism value and beautify living environment.

Conflict of interest statement

Authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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