

Short Communication

Application of Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*) in poems by Manuchehri Damghani

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***Cercis siliquastrum*, commonly known as Judas tree, is a small deciduous tree from Southern Europe and Western Asia which is noted for its prolific display of deep-pink flowers in spring. Abu Najm Ahmad ibn Ahmad ibn Qaus Manuchehri, Also known as Manuchehri Damghani, was a royal poet of the 11th century in Persia. *Cercis siliquastrum* has been used at 8 poetries lines that at 1 line used this plant in Metaphor and at 3 lines used in Simile. Judas tree has been used for Metaphor for beloved (in 1 line). Judas tree has been used for Simile for bird (in 1 line), ring (in 1 line) and Embryo (in 1 line).**

Key words: Simile, Metaphor, Judas tree, *Cercis siliquastrum*, poems, Manuchehri Damghani

INTRODUCTION

Cercis siliquastrum, commonly known as Judas tree, is a small deciduous tree from Southern Europe and Western Asia which is noted for its prolific display of deep-pink flowers (Figure 1) in spring (Wikipedia, 2010a; USDA, 2010).

This species forms a small tree up to 12 m in height and 10 m in crown width. The deep pink flowers are produced on year-old or older growth, including the trunk in late spring (cauliflory). The leaves appear shortly after the first flowers emerge (Rowell, 1980). These are heart-shaped with a blunt apex, which occasionally has a shallow notch at the tip (Figure 2, Table 1). The tree produces long flat pods that hang vertically (Wikipedia, 2010a, Plants for a future database, 2010).

The species was first described by Linnaeus in 1753, who gave it the specific epithet of *siliquastrum* which is derived from the Latin word *siliqua*, meaning "pod" (Wikipedia, 2010a).

The species is native to Western Asia, including Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria and Southern Europe including Albania, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Turkey and Yugoslavia (Zohary and Feinbrun-Dothan, 1966; International Legume Database and Information Service, 2010; USDA, 2010; Davis, 1965; Isely, 1975; Mouterde,

1966, Rechinger, 1963).

Manuchehri Damghani

Abu Najm Ahmad ibn Ahmad ibn Qaus Manuchehri, also known as Manuchehri Damghani, was a royal poet of the 11th century in Persia.

He was from Damghan in Iran and he is said to invent the form of Musammāt in Persian poetry and has the best ones too. He traveled to Tabarestan and was admitted to the court of King Manuchihr of Ziyarid dynasty and that's where he got his pen name. He later was a royal poet in the court of Sultan Shihab ud-Dawlah Mas'ud I of Ghazni son of Mahmud of Ghazna (Browne, 1998; Rypka, 1968).

He has left behind a divan. His works were extensively studied by A. de Biberstein-Kazimirski in 1886. He died in 1040 CE (Wikipedia, 2010b).

Plant have been used for Simile and Metaphor in poems (Mosazadeh-Sayadmahaleh and Bibalani, 2010; Mosazadeh-Sayadmahaleh et al., 2010), we study Simile and Metaphor application of Judas tree in Manuchehri Damghani poems in this paper.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Roles of Judas tree in Manuchehri Damghani poems

Manuchehri Damghani has used Judas tree as simile and metaphor separately such as:

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Figure 1. Flowers sprouting from old growth.



Figure 2. Flower of *Cercis siliquastrum* in spring.

Metaphor for beloved

بر یاسمین عصبی در مضمداست

بر ارغوان طویلده می یا قوت معدنی

منوچهری و اسفندی، دبیرستانی، ۱۳۸۱ و ۱۳۸۳

Fillet is on Jasmine flowers

A string of ruby mining is on Judas (my beloved).

Simile for bird

ارغوان بر طرف شاخ تو پنداری راست

مرغ مانند عقیقین زده بر بازنا

منوچهری و اسفندی، دبیرستانی، ۱۳۸۱ و ۱۳۸۳

Judas like as roasted chicken on spit

That has red flower on its branches

Simile for ring

از ارغوان کمر کنم، از ضمیران زره

از نارون پیاده و از ناروان سوار

منوچهری و اسفندی، دبیرستانی، ۱۳۸۱ و ۱۳۸۳

I make ring with Judas and make mail with Zeymaran,

I make foot soldier with Elm and make Cavalier.

Table 1. *Cercis siliquastrum* Classification (USDA, 2010).

Kingdom	<i>Plantae</i> – Plants
Subkingdom	<i>Tracheobionta</i> – Vascular plants
Superdivision	<i>Spermatophyta</i> – Seed plants
Division	<i>Magnoliophyta</i> – Flowering plants
Class	<i>Magnoliopsida</i> – Dicotyledons
Subclass	<i>Rosidae</i>
Order	<i>Fabales</i>
Family	<i>Fabaceae</i> – Pea family
Genus	<i>Cercis</i> L. – redbud
Species	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> L. – Judas-tree

Simile for embryo

کنار آبدان کشته شاخ ارغوان حامل
 صاحب ساجگون کشته طفل ساجگون حلی

منوچهری دامغانی، دبیرستانی، ۱۳۸۱ و ۱۳۴۲

In this poem, Riverside has been likened to a woman that her baby is Judas.

Conclusion

Cercis siliquastrum has been used at 8 poetries lines that at 1 line used this plant in metaphor and at 3 lines used in simile. Judas tree has been used for metaphor for beloved (in 1 line). Judas tree has been used for simile for bird (in 1 line), ring (in 1 line) and embryo (in 1 line).

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