

HISTORICAL NOTES

plant could have been brought from southern China by the Chinese people to the Strait Settlements. Therefore, search for the patchouli plant could have led to the then British-controlled Strait Settlements. Later, large-scale cultivation of patchouli was started in the Strait Settlements and subsequently it was introduced into Java, Sumatra and other Indonesian islands from Penang¹⁰. The chief supply of patchouli leaf material to Europe was initially from the Strait Settlements¹⁴. The effort to introduce different varieties of patchouli plant for commercial cultivation in India was first attempted by the Tata Oil Mills in 1942. Later in 1962, systematic cultivation and research was initiated by the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants at its Regional Centre in Bangalore¹. Subsequently, patchouli has been cultivated in some parts of India. However, large quantities of patchouli oil are still being imported into India.

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