

**CHAY** (chā) **ROOT** (Tamil, *chaya*), **CHOYA**, or **SAYAN** (*Oldenlandia umbellata*). A perennial herbaceous plant of the family Rubiaceæ, said to be a native of India. It is cultivated on the coast of Coromandel for the sake of its long, orange-colored roots, the bark of which affords a beautiful red dye. The quality of the bark is said to be improved by keeping it for some years. It is the coloring matter obtained from chay root which is used to paint the red figures on chintz. Chay root is the Indian madder, and with it some tribes in Ceylon formerly paid their tribute.