

**M386**  
**A song about head-shaving.**

***Sung by Zhang De-jiu from Hmao-lo.***

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document F (no. 14, page 12).

**Line 4.** The word  $\Delta^u$ , meaning “black”, is a reference to the dark stems and foliage of the buckwheat. The flower is bright pink.

**Line 5.** The word  $\overset{u}{J}$  means “food”, but more particularly provisions for a journey. Buckwheat might be cooked and eaten just like rice or maize meal, but it was also made into heavy round cakes, ideal, if rather dry, rations for a journey.

**Line 36.** In this line  $J_n C\Delta z$  means “waves” or “ridges”, and  $J^- C J^\circ$  means “crowd”, “herd” or “flock”. Since  $\Lambda^{\delta}$  means “to fly”, the line is presumably a metaphor comparing the waving of the ripening corn to the flapping of the wings of a flock of large birds in flight.