

**M495**  
**Song of the crab-apple tree of Njiao-tai.**

*Collected by Wang Ming-ji.*

Notes.

This song is recorded in Document C (no. 18, page 37).

**Line 4.** There is not enough information to be certain of the exact meaning of the expression 𠄎 𠄎. It is clearly a bush or a tree and it bore small, very sour fruit. It might have been some kind of prunus, a crab-apple, or even the local wild gooseberry, which grows into a large bush, much taller than a man. The comparison of the fruit to the shape of a small basin suggests possibly the crab-apple. These flourished in North East Guizhou. However, “crab-apple” remains a guess.

**Line 16.** This line is missing in the Miao text.

**Line 42.** The last two words of this line 𠄎 𠄎, and the last two words of line 45, 𠄎 𠄎, provide a key to the meaning of this section of the song. In the songs the word for a tiger is 𠄎 𠄎 𠄎, which means “a wild creature, the fierce one”. The word 𠄎, which means “to wait for” or “to go to meet”, is used in the songs of girls who have come under the influence, and been enticed away by a tiger. Thus the parallel expressions 𠄎 𠄎 and 𠄎 𠄎 both mean being enticed by a tiger.

**Line 46.** This, and line 47 have been lost from the Miao text, but are here restored in order to make sense of the preceding section of the song.