

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix

Chinese Dynasties and Regimes xi

Introduction 1

1

Names and Places: How the Chile Found
Its Way “Home” to China 7

2

Spicing Up the Palate 29

3

Spicing Up the Pharmacopeia 77

4

Too Hot for Words: Elite Reticence Toward Chile Peppers 106

5
Chiles as Beautiful Objects and Literary Emblems 129

6
Mao's Little Red Spice: Chiles and Regional Identity 156

CONTENTS
Conclusion 189

Appendix A. Late Imperial Recipe Collections 197

Appendix B. Medical Texts Consulted 199

Notes 203

Bibliography 241

Index 269

Plates follow page 154