

Studies on Adulteration and Misusage of Marketed Cuscutae Semen

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ABSTRACT

Cuscutae semen, a dried ripe seeds of *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam. of the Convolvulaceae family, is widely applied to Chinese traditional medicines system. In this study, fifty Cuscutae semen samples were purchased from Chinese herbal stores in Taipei and Taichung areas, *Cuscuta chinensis*, *Cuscuta australis*, *Cuscuta japonica*, *Perilla frutescens* and *Astragalus complanatus* were also collected as the authentic materials. Samples were distinguished from the authentic materials by morphology, microscopy and thin layer chromatographic analysis.

The results shown that forty-nine samples were identified as *Cuscuta australis* and one was *Perilla frutescens*. We also found that some samples were mixed with tiny stones. Therefore, it is important to confirm botanical origin and quality before using herbal medicines.

Keyword : adulteration, morphology, microscopy, *Cuscuta chinensis*, *Cuscuta australis*, *Cuscuta japonica*, *Perilla frutescens*, *Astragalus complanatus*.

