

Studies on Adulteration and Misusage of *Cistanchis Herba* in Taiwan

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ABSTRACT

Cistanchis Herba, the dried entire plant of *Cistanche deserticola* Y. C. Ma of the Orobanchaceae Family, was recorded in *Shen Nung Pen Tsao Ching* as a superior herb. *Cistanchis Herba* is a parasitic plant, and the yield was insufficient for demand. Therefore, there were a number of alternatives and adulterants stated in ancient books.

In order to clarify the botanical origins of *Cistanchis Herba* in Taiwan market, fifty samples of *Cistanchis Herba* were purchased from Chinese herbal stores in Taipei, Taichung and Kaohsiung. In addition, *Cistanche deserticola*, *Cistanche salsa*, *Cistanche tubelosa* and *Boschniakia rossia* were collected as authentic materials. Commercial samples were compared to the authentic materials and identified with their characteristics by morphology, microscopy and thin layer chromatographic analysis.

The result showed that all commercial samples were *Cistanche deserticola*. Furthermore, this study presented approaches for the identification of *Cistanchis Herba*.

Key words: *Cistanche deserticola*, *Cistanche salsa*, *Cistanche tubelosa*, *Boschniakia rossia*, identification

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