

Identification of Jujube Seed and Its Preparations by Nested PCR and DNA Sequencing Method

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ABSTRACT

Jujube seed (*Ziziphi Spinosae Semen*), the dried seeds of *Ziziphus jujuba* Mill. var. *spinosa* (Bunge) Hu ex H. F. Chou, are often confused with those of *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam. for their similar appearance. By comparing the sequence information of the internal transcribed spacer (ITS), we designed the specific primer set for each species, and established a nested PCR method for their preparations. Through DNA sequencing, *Z. mauritiana* was detected in 24 of 50 raw material samples and 11 of 17 preparation samples, and most of those samples contained mixtures of 2 species. These primer sets could also be used in multiplex PCR for rapid detection.

Key words: *Ziziphi Spinosae Semen*, ITS, nested PCR, DNA sequencing, multiplex PCR

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