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Establishment of Nested PCR-DNA Sequencing Method for the Identification of *Viticis Simplicifoliae Fructus* and Its Preparations

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ABSTRACT

Viticis Simplicifoliae Fructus are the dried ripe fruit of *Vitex trifolia* L. var. *simplicifolia* Cham. (*V. rotundifolia* L. f., *V. ovata* Thunb.) and are easy confused with the dried ripe fruit of *V. negundo* L. In this study, ITS (internal transcribed spacer) was used as DNA marker and nested PCR followed by DNA sequencing was applied to authenticate *Viticis Simplicifoliae Fructus* and its preparations. The results showed that 52 out of 56 samples of raw materials were *Viticis Simplicifoliae Fructus* and 9 of 10 preparations contained *V. trifolia* L. var. *simplicifolia*. The herbs of *Vitex spp.* were misused in the other samples. The nested PCR-DNA sequencing method for *Viticis Simplicifoliae Fructus* and its preparations was also established in this study.

Key words: *Viticis Simplicifoliae Fructus*, ITS, nested PCR, DNA sequencing