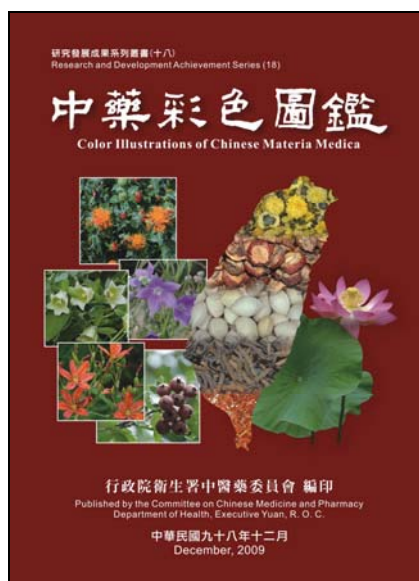


Color Illustrations of Chinese Materia Medica



Introduction

This project built upon the work of the Taiwanese Herbal Pharmacopeia, collecting pictures of the 200 species recorded in the first edition and also of the 50 new items that would be included into the second edition. For each crude drug: the name of the crude drug (scientific name and English name), origin, morphology of the original plant (animal), property of the crude drug and decoction pieces were described in detail. As for the color illustrations: pictures of the original plant (animal), crude drug and decoction pieces were expected to allow the readers to have a clearer understanding of the characteristics of different herbs. The order of the first 200 herbal species in this publication followed that in the Taiwanese Herbal Pharmacopeia. The additional 50 herbal species were placed in the following as an attached part, and were sorted according to their stroke numbers.

Herbal medicine is a precious jewel in our traditional medicine. It has been used for thousands of years with a paramount status for the health of the people. However, since TCM crude drugs come from natural resources such as animals, plants and minerals, their quality can vary dramatically due to their producing area, plantation, harvesting and storage. Additionally, TCM crude drugs have complex origins, and are

produced in vast and diverse geographical locations; as a result there are often instances in which one drug might have multiple names or different drugs of the same name. In view of this demand, the Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy (CCMP), DOH, Executive Yuan, had dedicated years of effort in composing the first “Chinese Pharmacopeia of Taiwan” to ensure the safety of the general public as well as to correspond to the international trend of natural herbal healing. It first came into effect on May 1st 2004, and later on September 27th 2005, through the promulgation from the Department of Health, issued no. 0940004426, its name was changed to the “Taiwanese Herbal Pharmacopeia.” This literary work included 200 crude drug items, and each was described in detail for its scientific name, property, authentication, impurity inspection, storage, utilization, dosage and precautions.

Although the Taiwanese Herbal Pharmacopeia contained stringent specifications for quality control of herbs and described their morphology in detail; there were not corresponding pictures for the original plants nor the crude drugs. In consideration that text description only could easily result in confusion, the CCMP especially commissioned Professor Yuan-Shiun Chang from China Medical University to carry out the project of the “Editing and Publishing of the Color Illustrations of the Taiwanese Herbal Pharmacopeia.” In this project, a “Color Illustration of the Taiwanese Herbal Pharmacopeia” was composed based on the “Taiwanese Herbal Pharmacopeia.” An “Editorial Committee on the Color Illustrations of the Taiwanese Herbal Pharmacopeia” was also established during the execution of the project, which integrated the knowledge of experts and scholars from different fields to make sure the contents were accurate. It also combines photographs taken from on spot investigations at drug markets and cultivation places by Professor Yuan-Shiun Chang and his team members for many years, and pictures from other experts. After sessions of editorial meetings, a total of 200 items from the Taiwanese Herbal Pharmacopeia and 50 new items were included. For each crude drug item, the origin, morphology of the original plant or animal, property of the crude drug and decoction pieces, and

illustrations were recorded.