

An Illustrated Introduction for Genuine, or Faked, Chinese Medicines and their substitutions Sold in Taiwan Market



Introduction

Faked and inferior traditional Chinese medicines affect their clinical effectiveness and users' health. As there are a variety of species for an herb, their quality are easily affected by the species, origin of production, harvest season and other factors. The most important thing for quality control is the management. Of source Nevertheless, the medical herbs grow in vast districts and their name and methods of use are different from one district to another and these are also not recorded in details in pharmacopoeias. This confused condition of herbal medicines affects their quality and users health. Therefore, it is necessary to study the species of medical herbs that come from different places, in order to ensure their quality and the standardization of traditional Chinese medicines.

This committee pays great attention to the management of quality of herbal medicines, and every year entrusts experts and scholars to engage in species appraisal and related studies. Since 1996, we have carried out two projects through contracts: "A Review of the Medical Herbs Sold in Taiwan That Are easily to Be Misused" and "A investigation on Taiwan's Genuine, or Faked Chinese Medicines and their substitutions." It is commonplace that the same herb is called by different names or the same name refers to different herbs, so we entrust Prof. Chen Chung-chuan to compile a special

book to make clear of the confusion.

The herbs included in the book are presented with pictures by contrasting the genuine herbs with the faked (herbs) for the convenience of comparison. This book, we hope, will help Chinese medical circles and academic circles correctly stating the right herbs from the wrong herbs to ensure a pharmacy uses the right species and to facilitate government's source management. We hope this book is just a spark for others to make more valuable contributions so that we can raise the quality of herbal medicines and lay a firm foundation for their development.