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Traditional Chinese medicine — Vocabulary —

Part 2: Processing of Chinese Materia Medica

Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Vocabulaire —

Partie 2: Transformation des matières médicales chinoises

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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 249, *Traditional Chinese medicine*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Chinese Materia Medica has been around for thousands of years and is widely used as a natural method for processing decoction pieces, healthcare products and natural remedies. The first recorded monograph of Chinese Materia Medica, *Shennong's Classic of Materia Medica (Shen Nong Ben Cao Jing)* in the second century, listed 365 Chinese Materia Medica species, including herbs, animals and minerals. In 1596, the *Compendium of Materia Medica (Ben Cao Gang Mu)* was published with 1 892 Chinese Materia Medica species. Chinese Materia Medica spread from China to its neighbouring countries thousands of years ago and has just found its way to other countries worldwide in recent decades. Today, Chinese Materia Medica has gained popularity and widespread use, with the global Chinese Materia Medica trade steadily growing.

However, no International Standards for Chinese Materia Medica terminology have been published up until now, resulting in almost every Chinese Materia Medica term being translated in several different ways. This has hindered international education, academic exchanges and trade. The need for an International Standard for basic vocabulary for Chinese Materia Medica has become imperative.

This Chinese Materia Medica document is provided to facilitate international academic exchange, research and development, management and trade.

Traditional Chinese medicine — Vocabulary —

Part 2: Processing of Chinese Materia Medica

1 Scope

This document defines terms for the theory, technology and methods of Chinese Materia Medica processing. It is not applicable to Kampo medicine.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1 General 总论

3.1.1
discipline of Chinese Materia Medica 中药学
branch of knowledge which incorporates the basic theories, sources, origins, collection, processing, properties, functions and clinical application of Chinese Materia Medica under the guidance of traditional Chinese medicine theories

3.1.2
discipline of Chinese Materia Medica processing 中药炮制学
subject that studies the theories, procedure, specifications, quality standards, history and current state of Chinese Materia Medica processing

3.1.3
Chinese Materia Medica 中药
medicinal parts of medicinal plants, animals, and minerals after preliminary processing, which are used as raw materials in Chinese medicines

Note 1 to entry: This includes the raw materials used to make decoction pieces.

Note 2 to entry: Preliminary processing can include washing and drying. Large and bulky items can also be cut into smaller pieces or shorter lengths.

[SOURCE: ISO 18668-1:2016, 3.2, modified — Note 2 to entry added.]

3.1.3.1
raw material 药材
collected unprocessed material

3.1.3.2
decoction pieces 饮片
prescription medicines processed from Chinese Materia Medica under the direction of traditional Chinese medicine and processing methods for Chinese medicines

Note 1 to entry: They can be directly used in clinical practice or for the production of prepared medicines.

[SOURCE: ISO 18668-1:2016, 3.3, modified.]

3.1.4
Chinese Materia Medica nature 药性
therapeutic properties of a Chinese Materia Medica item

3.1.5
Chinese Materia Medica processing 炮制
炮炙
physical or chemical technique of converting Chinese Materia Medica into decoction pieces based on the theory of pharmacology of traditional Chinese medicine, the nature of Chinese Materia Medica, and the need for dispensing, preparation and clinical application

3.1.6
adjuvants 辅料
additives added during the processing of Chinese Materia Medica

Note 1 to entry: Adjuvants are included, for example, to enhance therapeutic effect, reduce toxicity, relieve side effects, adjust medicine properties and affect physicochemical properties.

3.2 Chinese Materia Medica nature 中药药性类

3.2.1
four properties 四气
four Chinese Materia Medica properties: cold, hot, warm and cool

3.2.1.1
cold property 寒性
cold medicinal property to clear heat

Note 1 to entry: Cold property is applied in “treating hot with cold”.

3.2.1.2
hot property 热性
hot medicinal property to dispel cold

Note 1 to entry: Heat property is applied in "treating cold with heat”.

3.2.1.3
warm property 温性
warm medicinal property to dispel cold

3.2.1.4
cool property 凉性
cool medicinal property to clear heat

3.2.1.5
neutral property 平性
medicinal property without identifiable cold, hot, warm or cool properties

3.2.2
five flavours 五味
five medicinal tastes: pungent, sweet, sour, bitter and salty

Note 1 to entry: Each of the five flavours has different therapeutic effects.

3.2.2.1
pungent taste 辛味
acrid taste which has the functions of dispersing, moving qi and blood

3.2.2.2
sweet taste 甘味
taste of sugar which has the functions of tonifying and replenishing, harmonizing the middle energizer, adjusting the medical properties, releasing spasms and relieving pain

3.2.2.3
sour taste 酸味
vinegar taste which has the action of astringing and consolidating

3.2.2.4
bitter taste 苦味
heavy salty taste which has the action of clearing heat, downbearing counterflow qi, promoting defecation, eliminating dampness and preserving yin

3.2.2.5
salty taste 咸味
taste of salt which has the action of purging and relaxing bowels to promote defecation, softening hardness and dissipating bindings

3.2.2.6
bland taste 淡味
very light, dull, sour, bitter, sweet, pungent, salty or astringent taste which has the action of discharging dampness and promoting urination

3.2.2.7
astringent taste 涩味
sharp taste which has the same action of medicines sour in taste, such as sweating, diarrhoea, frequent urination, seminal emission, spermatorrhea and haemorrhage

3.2.3
ascending-descending-floating-sinking functional tendencies 升降浮沉
four functional tendencies of medicinal materials in the human body, namely upward, downward, outward and inward, which are used to specify their pharmaceutical nature

3.2.4
meridian entry 归经
theory of medicinal nature which classifies properties and functional locations of medicinal materials, and specifies their therapeutic action on a certain part of the body, under the guidance of the zang-fu viscera, meridians and collaterals theories

3.2.5
seven effects 七情
seven different effects of compatibility of medicinal materials, namely single use, mutual suppression, mutual restraint, mutual assistance, mutual reinforcement, mutual incompatibility caused by toxins or side effects and mutual inhibition

3.2.5.1
single use 单行
use of one medicinal material alone for a disorder

3.2.5.2
mutual incompatibility caused by toxins or side effects 相反
property of two or more medicinal materials which produce toxins and side effects when used in combination

3.2.5.3
mutual inhibition 相恶
property of a medicinal material to reduce the medical effects of another medicinal material when used in combination

3.2.5.4
mutual suppression 相杀
property of a medical material to remove the toxins or side effects of another medicinal material when used in combination

3.2.5.5
mutual restraint 相畏
toxicity or side effects of one medicinal material constrained by another medicinal material when used in combination

3.2.5.6
mutual assistance 相使
two medicinal materials, used together, where one is the primary ingredient and the other is used to enhance the effects of the primary ingredient

3.2.5.7
mutual reinforcement 相须
two medicinal materials used together to enhance medical effects

3.2.6
toxicity 毒性
harmful effects of Chinese Materia Medica on the human body

3.2.7
side effect 副作用
unexpected reaction to a medication

Note 1 to entry: Side effects are often slight or of little harm to the human body. Side effects may occur even with correctly administered dosages and may disappear after the medication ceases.

3.3 Principle of Chinese Materia Medica processing 中药炮制原理类

3.3.1
processing with opposite materials 相反为制
processing method of applying adjuvants or Chinese Materia Medica that have opposite natures to alleviate or change Chinese Materia Medica natures

3.3.2
processing with similar materials 相资为制
processing method of applying two or more Chinese Materia Medica or adjuvants that have the same or similar natures to increase their therapeutic functions

3.3.3
mutual restraint processing 相畏为制
相杀为制
processing method of applying adjuvants that can restrict the toxicity and side effects of certain Chinese Materia Medica

3.3.4
mutual inhibition processing 相恶为制
processing method of applying adjuvants to ease the strong nature of Chinese Materia Medica, thereby achieving a balanced nature and avoiding damaging healthy qi

3.3.5
shape processing 制其形
processing method to change the shapes of Chinese Materia Medica and to separate the medicinal parts

3.3.6
flavour processing 制其味
processing method to adjust the flavour of the medicine

Note 1 to entry: This includes elimination of bad tastes.

3.3.7
quality processing 制其质
processing method to change the texture of a Chinese Materia Medica or medication

3.3.8
nature processing 制其性
processing method to alter the nature of a Chinese Materia Medica or medication

3.3.9
chemical processing 化学炮制
processing method which applies chemicals or adjuvants to stimulate change of the components of the chemical materials according to the properties of those materials and the rules of change during the processing of Chinese Materia Medica

Note 1 to entry: Change here includes increase, decrease, transformation or detoxication.

Note 2 to entry: Chemical processing is undertaken to enhance therapeutic effects and reduce toxicity.

3.3.10
biological processing 生物炮制
processing method which inactivates or applies an enzyme or microorganism

Note 1 to entry: This is performed to preserve the effective ingredients in the decoction pieces, to stimulate the enzyme and the active ingredient to increase and transform, to decrease the toxicity and even to transform the toxic constituents into atoxic ones.

3.4 Assisting material of Chinese Materia Medica processing 中药炮制辅料类

3.4.1
liquid adjuvants 液体辅料
liquid additives added during processing of Chinese Materia Medica

3.4.1.1
liquor and wine 酒
beverage made from a fermented substance

Note 1 to entry: The substance includes Chinese sorghum, barley, rice, grapes or other fruit. Liquor and wine, with the main constituent of alcohol, has a sweet, pungent flavour and a hot but toxic nature. It can unobstruct the blood vessels, enhance medicinal functions, conduct the therapeutic effect upward, dissipate cold and eliminate unpleasant smells. Liquor and yellow wine are employed in processing and preparation of Chinese Materia Medica.

3.4.1.1.1
yellow wine 黄酒
yellow-brown transparent liquid made from the fermentation of rice, millet, wheat or yeast, with an alcohol content between 10 % and 20 % and relative density of 0,98

Note 1 to entry: This liquid has a unique fragrance. The chemical compositions include sugars, esters, acids, amino acids and minerals.