
**Traditional Chinese medicine —
Priority list of single herbal medicines
for developing standards**

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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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.

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ISO/TR 23975:2019

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

Being a significant part of traditional medicine systems and general health services, traditional Chinese medicine is estimated to be used in over 180 countries and regions around the world. This is reflected by the statistics cited from the WHO report that there are 4 billion people in the world using herbal medicines, accounting for 80 % of the total world population. Asia, North America, and Europe are regarded as the major markets for herbal medicines. Moreover, incomplete Chinese customs statistics show that the import and export of herbal medicine products in China was worth over 4,7 billion USD in 2015. Therefore, it is very important to develop globally harmonized standards in order to ensure the safety of consumers. In particular, those herbal medicines which have been reported to cause adverse drug reactions (ADR) are drawing much attention from national health administrations.

There are a great number of single herbs on the market; for instance, 618 kinds of herbs have been included in the *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China*. Currently, organizations, regions and countries including ISO, WHO, the European Union, China, Japan, Korea, the USA, the UK and Thailand are making valuable contributions by developing standards for single herbs. This document presents a list of single herbal medicines in order of priority for the purposes of developing standards on single herbs in a scientific and orderly manner. This document can be used as a reference by any organization wishing to develop standards on single herbal medicines.

The following factors have been considered in setting the priorities:

- the trade volume of each single herbal medicine in the global market;
- whether the herbal medicine is recorded by the *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China*, *Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards*, the *Japanese Pharmacopoeia*, the *Korean Pharmacopoeia*, the *European Pharmacopoeia*, the *United States Pharmacopoeia* or the *Thai Herbal Pharmacopoeia*;
- whether there are potential risks from its use;
- whether the herbal medicine is listed in the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](http://www.cites.org/eng/1993/07/12/1993-118.html);
- opinions from experts.

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Traditional Chinese medicine — Priority list of single herbal medicines for developing standards

1 Scope

This document provides a reference of single herbal medicines in order of their priority in the development of international standards.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

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/>

4 Principles

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4.1 Herbal medicines which have a large international trading value are listed as high priority.

4.2 Standards of common herbal medicines recorded in the *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China*, *Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards*, the *Japanese Pharmacopoeia*, the *Korean Pharmacopoeia*, the *European Pharmacopoeia*, the *United States Pharmacopoeia* and the *Thai Herbal Pharmacopoeia* are listed as high priority.

4.3 Herbal medicines that have safety concerns, such as those widely reported to cause ADR, are listed as high priority.

4.4 Single herbal medicines for which there are existing ISO standards are listed as high priority.

4.5 Herbal medicines which are included in CITES are listed as low priority.

5 Technical indexes

5.1 International trading

[Table 1](#) provides information on single herbal medicines which had a large international trading value in China from 2012 to 2016 (sorted by export value).

Table 1 — The top 30 average export values of single herbal medicines in China from 2012 to 2016

Rank	Herbal name	Pharmaceutical name	Chinese name	English name	Average export value (RMB)
1	<i>Panax ginseng</i> root	ginseng radix et rhizoma	人参	ginseng	126 734 151,80
2	<i>Lycium barbarum</i> fruit	lycii fructus	枸杞子	barbary wolfberry fruit	94 077 843,40
3	<i>Rehmannia glutinosa</i> root	rehmanniae radix	地黄	rehmannia root	44 922 908,20
4	<i>Codonopsis pilosula</i> root/ <i>Codonopsis pilosula</i> var. <i>modesta</i> root/ <i>Codonopsis tangshen</i> root	codonopsis radix	党参	tangshen	41 610 730,40
5	<i>Atractylodes macrocephala</i> rhizome	atractylodis macrocephalae rhizoma	白术	largehead atractylodes rhizome	38 199 927
6	<i>Poria cocos</i> sclerotium	poria	茯苓	Indian bread	36 716 994,40
7	<i>Chrysanthemum morifolium</i> capitulum	chrysanthemi flos	菊花	chrysanthemum flower	34 606 367
8	<i>Ligusticum chuanxiong</i> rhizome	chuanxiong rhizoma	川芎	Szechwan lovage rhizome	31 187 826,60
9	<i>Paeonia lactiflora</i> root	paeoniae radix alba	白芍	white peony root	27 389 650,20
10	<i>Panax notoginseng</i> root and rhizome	notoginseng radix et rhizoma	三七	sanchi	25 725 161,60
11	<i>Pinellia ternata</i> tuber	pinelliae rhizoma	半夏	pinellia tuber	24 263 936,40
12	<i>Astragalus membranaceus</i> var. <i>mongholicus</i> root/ <i>Astragalus membranaceus</i> root	astragali radix	黄芪	milkvetch root	22 314 041,40
13	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> root and rhizome/ <i>Glycyrrhiza inflata</i> root and rhizome/ <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> root and rhizome	glycyrrhizae radix et rhizoma	甘草	licorice root	21 464 347,60
14	<i>Angelica sinensis</i> root	angelicae sinensis radix	当归	Chinese angelica	21 158 784,20
15	<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i> stem bark	eucommiae cortex	杜仲	eucommia bark	18 636 687
16	<i>Panax quinquefolium</i> root	panacis quinquefolii radix	西洋参	American ginseng	15 863 902
17	<i>Cordyceps sinensis</i> stroma	cordyceps	冬虫夏草	Chinese caterpillar fungus	13 309 846,20
18	<i>Cervus nippon</i> antler/ <i>Cervus elaphus</i> antler	cervi cornu pantotrichum	鹿茸	deer horn	12 191 913
19	<i>Scutellaria baicalensis</i> root	scutellariae radix	黄芩	baical skullcap root	9 314 610,60

NOTE 1 Data from China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Medicines and Health Products (CCCMHPIE).

NOTE 2 Deer horn is a kind of animal material and opium poppy seed is not recorded by the *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China*, therefore these data will not be counted in the final result.

NOTE 3 Export value of herbal medicine from other countries, if any, will be complemented.

Table 1 (continued)

Rank	Herbal name	Pharmaceutical name	Chinese name	English name	Average export value (RMB)
20	<i>Rheum palmatum</i> root and rhizome/ <i>Rheum tanguticum</i> root and rhizome/ <i>Rheum officinale</i> root and rhizome	rhei radix et rhizoma	大黄	rhubarb	7 318 400,40
21	<i>Papaver somniferum</i> seed	papaveris semen	罂粟子	opium poppy seed	6 819 266,80
22	<i>Sophora japonica</i> flower and flower bud	sophorae flos	槐花	pagodatree flower	5 297 235,80
23	<i>Fritillaria cirrhosa</i> bulb/ <i>Fritillaria unibracteata</i> bulb/ <i>Fritillaria przewalskii</i> bulb/ <i>Fritillaria delavayi</i> bulb/ <i>Fritillaria taipaiensis</i> bulb/ <i>Fritillaria unibracteata</i> var. <i>wabuensis</i> bulb/ <i>Fritillaria thunbergii</i> bulb	fritillariae cirrhosae bulbus/ <i>fritillariae thunbergii</i> bulbus	川贝母/浙贝母	tendrilleaf fritillary bulb/thunberg fritillary bulb	4 263 230,20
24	<i>Coptis chinensis</i> rhizome/ <i>Coptis deltoidea</i> rhizome/ <i>Coptis teeta</i> rhizome	coptidis rhizoma	黄连	golden thread	4 172 511,20
25	<i>Adenophora tetraphylla</i> root/ <i>Glehnia littoralis</i> root	adenophorae radix/ <i>glehniae</i> radix	南/北沙参	fourleaf ladybell root/coastal glehnia root	3 240 574,80
26	<i>Ephedra sinica</i> stem/ <i>Ephedra intermedia</i> stem/ <i>Ephedra equisetina</i> stem	ephedrae herba	麻黄	ephedra	2 995 217,80
27	<i>Curcuma longa</i> rhizome	curcumae longae rhizoma	姜黄	turmeric	2 667 216,40
28	<i>Gastrodia elata</i> tuber	gastrodiae rhizoma	天麻	tall gastrodia tuber	2 239 951,60
29	<i>Sterculia lychnophora</i> seed	sterculiae lychnophorae semen	胖大海	boat-fruited sterculia seed	1 922 922,20
30	<i>Crocus sativus</i> stigma	croci stigma	西红花	saffron	1 864 890,40
NOTE 1 Data from China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Medicines and Health Products (CCCMHPIE).					
NOTE 2 Deer horn is a kind of animal material and opium poppy seed is not recorded by the <i>Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China</i> , therefore these data will not be counted in the final result.					
NOTE 3 Export value of herbal medicine from other countries, if any, will be complemented.					

5.2 Single herbal medicines recorded in pharmacopoeias

In total there are 301 kinds of single herbal medicines recorded at least twice among the *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China*, *Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards*, the *Japanese Pharmacopoeia*, the *Korean Pharmacopoeia*, the *European Pharmacopoeia*, the *United States Pharmacopoeia* and the *Thai Herbal Pharmacopoeia* (see Table 2). There are 253 kinds of single herbal medicines that are recorded both in the *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China* and *Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards*, 92 recorded both in the *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China* and the *Japanese Pharmacopoeia*, 104 recorded both in the *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China* and the *Korean Pharmacopoeia*, 64 recorded both in the *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China* and the *European Pharmacopoeia*, 20 recorded both in the *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China* and the *United States Pharmacopoeia* and 18 recorded both in the *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China* and the *Thai Herbal Pharmacopoeia*.

Table 2 — Single herbal medicines recorded in seven pharmacopoeias or standards

Occurrences	Herbal name	Pharmaceutical name	Chinese name	English name	CHP	HKS	JP	KP	EUP	USP	THP	Note
6	<i>Atractylodes chinense</i> rhizome/ <i>Atractylodes lancea</i> rhizome	atractylodis rhizoma	苍术	atractylodes rhizome	x	x	x	x	x		x	
6	<i>Curcuma longa</i> rhizome	curcumae longae rhizoma	姜黄	turmeric	x	x	x	x	x		x	<i>Curcuma domestica</i> rhizome
6	<i>Polygonum multiflorum</i> root tuber	polygoni multiflori radix	何首乌	fleeceflower root	x	x	x	x	x	x		
6	<i>Salvia miltiorrhiza</i> root and rhizome	salviae miltiorrhizae radix et rhizoma	丹参	danshen root	x	x	x	x	x	x		
6	<i>Schisandra chinensis</i> fruit	schisandrae chinensis fructus	五味子	Chinese magnoliavine fruit	x	x	x	x	x	x		
6	<i>Zingiber officinale</i> rhizome	zingiberis rhizoma	干姜	zingiber (dried ginger)	x		x	x	x	x	x	
5	<i>Anemarrhena asphodeloides</i> rhizome	anemarrhenae rhizoma	知母	common anemarrhena rhizome	x	x	x	x	x			
5	<i>Angelica dahurica</i> root/ <i>angelica dahurica</i> root	angelicae dahuricae radix	白芷	dahurian angelica root	x		x	x	x		x	
5	<i>Areca catechu</i> seed	arecae semen	槟榔	areca seed	x	x	x	x			x	
5	<i>Astragalus membranaceus</i> var. <i>mongholicus</i> root/ <i>Astragalus membranaceus</i> root	astragali radix	黄芪	milkvetch root	x	x	x	x	x			

Key
 CHP *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China*
 HKS *Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards*
 JP *Japanese Pharmacopoeia*
 KP *Korean Pharmacopoeia*
 EUP *European Pharmacopoeia*
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Table 2 (continued)

Occurrences	Herbal name	Pharmaceutical name	Chinese name	English name	CHP	HKS	JP	KP	EUP	USP	THP	Note
5	<i>Capsicum annuum</i> fruit	capsici fructus	辣椒	hot pepper	x		x	x	x		x	<i>Capsicum annuum</i> var. <i>minimum</i> fruit/ <i>Capsium frutescens</i> fruit/ <i>Capsicum minimum</i> fruit/ <i>Capsicum fastigiatum</i> fruit
5	<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i> flower	carthami flos	红花	safflower	x	x	x	x	x			
5	<i>Cassia angustifolia</i> leaf/ <i>Cassia acutifolia</i> leaf	sennae folium	番泻叶	senna leaf	x	x	x	x	x			<i>Cassia senna</i> dried leaflet
5	<i>Cassia obtusifolia</i> seed/ <i>cassia tora</i> seed	cassiae semen	决明子	cassia seed	x	x	x	x			x	
5	<i>Cinnamomum cassia</i> bark	cinnamomi cortex	肉桂	cassia bark	x	x	x	x	x			<i>Cinnamomum verum</i> bark
5	<i>Codonopsis pilosula</i> root/ <i>Codonopsis pilosula</i> var. <i>modestata</i> root/ <i>Codonopsis tangshen</i> root	codonopsis radix	党参	tangshen	x	x	x	x	x			
5	<i>Coix lacrymajobi</i> var. <i>mayuen</i> kernel	coicis semen	薏苡仁	coix seed	x		x	x	x	x		<i>Coix lacrymajobi</i> ssp. <i>mayuen</i> kernel

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Table 2 (continued)

Occurrences	Herbal name	Pharmaceutical name	Chinese name	English name	CHP	HKS	JP	KP	EUP	USP	THP	Note
5	<i>Dioscorea opposita</i> rhizome	dioscoreae rhizoma	山药	common yam rhizome	x		x	x	x	x		<i>Dioscorea japonica</i> rhizome/ <i>Dioscorea batatas</i> rhizome/ <i>Dioscorea polystachya</i> rhizome
5	<i>Ephedra sinica</i> stem/ <i>Ephedra intermedia</i> stem/ <i>Ephedra equisetina</i> stem	ephedrae herba	麻黄	ephedra	x	x	x	x	x			
5	<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i> bark	eucommiae cortex	杜仲	eucommia bark	x	x	x	x	x			
5	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> fruit	foeniculi fructus	小茴香	fennel	x		x	x	x		x	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> ssp. <i>vulgare</i> fruit
5	<i>Lycium barbarum</i> fruit	lycii fructus	枸杞子	barbary wolfberry fruit	x		x	x	x	x		<i>Lycium chinense</i> fruit
5	<i>Panax ginseng</i> root	ginseng radix et rhizoma	人参	ginseng	x	x	x	x	x			
5	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> fruit-spike	prunellae spica	夏枯草	common selfheal fruit-spike	x	x	x	x	x			<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> var. <i>lilacina</i> spike
5	<i>Pueraria lobata</i> root	puerariae lobatae radix	葛根	kudzu vine root	x	x	x	x	x			
5	<i>Rehmannia glutinosa</i> root	rehmanniae radix	地黄	rehmannia root	x	x	x	x		x		<i>Rehmannia glutinosa</i> var. <i>purpurea</i> root

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Table 2 (continued)

Occurrences	Herbal name	Pharmaceutical name	Chinese name	English name	CHP	HKS	JP	KP	EUP	USP	THP	Note
5	<i>Rheum palmatum</i> root and rhizome/ <i>Rheum tanguticum</i> root and rhizome/ <i>Rheum officinale</i> root and rhizome	rhei radix et rhizoma	大黄	rhubarb	x	x	x	x	x			<i>Rheum palmatum</i> rhizome/ <i>Rheum tanguticum</i> rhizome/ <i>Rheum officinale</i> rhizome/ <i>rheum coreanum</i> rhizome
4	<i>Achyranthes bidentata</i> root	achyranthis bidentatae radix	牛膝	two-toothed achyranthes root	x	x	x	x				
4	<i>Akebia quinata</i> stem/ <i>akebia trifoliata</i> stem/ <i>akebia trifoliata</i> var. <i>australis</i> stem	akebiae caulis	木通	akebia stem	x		x	x				
4	<i>Alisma orientale</i> tuber	alismatis rhizoma	泽泻	oriental waterplantain rhizome	x	x	x					
4	<i>Amomum villosum</i> fruit/ <i>Amomum villosum</i> var. <i>xanthioides</i> fruit/ <i>Amomum longigulare</i> fruit	amomi fructus	砂仁	villous amomum fruit	x		x	x				<i>Amomum xanthioides</i> seed
4	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> herb	andrographidis herba	穿心莲	common andrographis herb	x	x			x		x	
4	<i>Angelica sinensis</i> root	angelicae sinensis radix		Chinese angelica	x	x			x		x	<i>Angelica archangelica</i> root
4	<i>Atractylodes macrocephala</i> rhizome	atractylodis macrocephalae rhizoma	白术	large-headed atractylodes rhizome	x	x	x		x			<i>Atractylodes japonica</i> rhizome

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Table 2 (continued)

Occurrences	Herbal name	Pharmaceutical name	Chinese name	English name	CHP	HKS	JP	KP	EUP	USP	THP	Note
4	<i>Aucklandia lappa</i> root	aucklandiae radix	木香	common aucklandia root	x	x			x		x	
4	<i>Bupleurum chinense</i> root/ <i>Bupleurum scorzonerifolium</i> root	bupleuri radix	柴胡	Chinese thoroughwort root	x	x	x	x				<i>Bupleurum falcatum</i> root
4	<i>Centella asiatica</i> herb	centellae herba	积雪草	asiatic pennywort herb	x	x			x		x	<i>Centella coriacea</i> herb/ <i>Hydrocotyle asiatica</i> herb/ <i>Hydrocotyle lanata</i> herb/ <i>Trisanthus cochinchinensis</i> herb
4	<i>Cimicifuga heracleifolia</i> rhizome/ <i>Cimicifuga dahurica</i> rhizome/ <i>Cimicifuga foetida</i> rhizome	cimicifugae rhizoma	升麻	largetrifolious bugbane rhizome	x	x	x	x				<i>Cimicifuga simplex</i> rhizome
4	<i>Coptis chinensis</i> rhizome/ <i>Coptis deltoidea</i> rhizome/ <i>Coptis teeta</i> rhizome	coptidis rhizoma	黄连	golden thread	x	x	x	x				<i>Coptis japonica</i> rhizome
4	<i>Cornus officinalis</i> sarcocarp	corni fructus	山茱萸	asiatic cornelian cherry fruit	x	x	x	x				
4	<i>Crocus sativus</i> stigma	croci stigma	西红花	saffron	x	x	x	x				

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Table 2 (continued)

Occurrences	Herbal name	Pharmaceutical name	Chinese name	English name	CHP	HKS	JP	KP	EUP	USP	THP	Note
4	<i>Curcuma phaeocalis</i> rhizome/ <i>Curcuma kwangsiensis</i> rhizome/ <i>Curcuma wenyujin</i> rhizome	curcumae rhizoma	莪术	zedoray rhizome	x	x	x	x				<i>Curcuma zedoaria</i> rhizome
4	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> rhizome	cyperi rhizoma	香附	nutgrass galangale rhizome	x	x	x	x				
4	<i>Drynaria fortunei</i> rhizome	drynariae rhizoma	骨碎补	fortune's drynaria rhizome	x	x	x	x	x			
4	<i>Euodia rutaecarpa</i> fruit/ <i>Euodia rutaecarpa</i> var. <i>officinalis</i> fruit/ <i>Euodia rutaecarpa</i> var. <i>bodinieri</i> fruit	euodiae fructus	吴茱萸	medicinal euodia fruit	x	x	x	x				<i>Euodia officinalis</i> fruit/ <i>Euodia bodinieri</i> fruit
4	<i>Epimedium brevicornum</i> leaf/ <i>Epimedium sagittatum</i> leaf/ <i>Epimedium pubescens</i> leaf/ <i>Epimedium koreanum</i> leaf	epimedii folium	淫羊藿	epimedium leaf	x	x	x	x				<i>Epimedium wushanense</i> leaf/ <i>Epimedium grandiflorum</i> var. <i>thunbergianum</i> leaf/ <i>Epimedium semper-virens</i> leaf
4	<i>Forsythia suspensa</i> fruit	forsythiae fructus	连翘	weeping forsythia capsule	x	x	x	x				<i>Forsythia viridissima</i> fruit
4	<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i> fruit	gardeniae fructus	梔子	cape jasmine fruit	x	x	x	x	x			
4	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> leaf	ginkgo folium	银杏叶	ginkgo leaf	x	x	x	x	x			

Key

CHP Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China
HKS Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards
JP Japanese Pharmacopoeia
KP Korean Pharmacopoeia
EUP European Pharmacopoeia
USP United States Pharmacopoeia
THP Thai Herbal Pharmacopoeia