
**Traditional Chinese medicine —
Vocabulary —**

**Part 1:
Chinese Materia Medica**

Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Vocabulaire —

Partie 1: Matières médicales chinoises

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

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Introduction

Chinese Material Medica (CMM) has been around for thousands of years and is widely used as natural materials for processing decoction pieces, healthcare products and natural remedies. The first recorded monograph of CMM, *Shennong's Classic of Materia Medica (Shen Nong Ben Cao Jing)* in the second century, listed 365 CMM species, including herbs, animals and minerals. In 1596, the *Compendium of Materia Medica (Ben Cao Gang Mu)* was published with 1 892 CMM species. CMM 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, CMM has gained popularity and widespread use, with global CMM trade steadily growing.

However, there are no International Standards for CMM terminology up to now, leading to a situation where almost every CMM 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 of CMM has become imperative.

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

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Traditional Chinese medicine — Vocabulary —

Part 1: Chinese Materia Medica

1 Scope

This document specifies the basic vocabulary for the Chinese Materia Medica (CMM), including most commonly used CMM species. Each term is provided a Latin name, Chinese name, Pinyin name and English name. Source-related definition of applicable parts and botanical name(s) of the plant, zoological family name of the animal, or mineral stated with mineral or rock title and active ingredients are given as note(s) for each item.

This document is intended to be used by those engaged in the practice and management of production, trade, research and education of crude natural Chinese medicinal materials.

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:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

Chinese Materia Medica

CMM

medicinal parts of medicinal plants, animals and minerals after preliminary processing, which are used as raw materials to make decoction pieces in Chinese medicines

Note 1 to entry: The different nomenclatures of the Chinese Materia Medica in use are described as follows:

- Latin name: Latin pharmaceutical name of the Chinese Materia Medica. In the Latin name, the genus name or genus name plus species name is followed by the applicable medicinal parts. Items are listed in alphabetical order of the Latin name for easy and convenient search.
- Chinese name: Han (Chinese) character name of the Chinese Materia Medica. Han characters include both the simplified character and the traditional character, which is given in parentheses.
- Pinyin name: Pinyin name (Chinese phonetic) of the Chinese Materia Medica. The “four tones” have been added in Pinyin to facilitate practice by users. Pinyin syllabication (in parentheses) is provided to facilitate correct pronunciation.
- Scientific name: Latin scientific name of the source of the Chinese Materia Medica.
- English name: Commonly used English name of the Chinese Materia Medica.

4 Chinese Materia Medica

4.1

Latin name: *Abri herba*

Chinese name: 鸡骨草 (雞骨草)

Pinyin name: Jī gu cǎo (jī gǔ cǎo)

English name: prayer-beads; Canton love-pea vine

dried herb of *Abrus cantoniensis* Hance (Fam. *Leguminosae*)

4.2

Latin name: *Acanthopanax cortex*

Chinese name: 五加皮 (五加皮)

Pinyin name: Wú jiā pí (wǔ jiā pí)

English name: acanthopanax root bark; slenderstyle acanthopanax bark

dried root bark of *Acanthopanax gracilistylus* W.W.Smith (Fam. *Araliaceae*)

4.3

Latin name: *Acanthopanax senticosi radix et rhizoma seu caulis*

Chinese name: 刺五加 (刺五加)

Pinyin name: Cì wú jiā (cì wǔ jiā)

English name: spiny acanthopanax; manyprickle acanthopanax

dried root and rhizome or stem of *Acanthopanax senticosus* (Rupr. et Maxim.) Harms (Fam. *Araliaceae*)

4.4

Latin name: *Achyranthis bidentatae radix*

Chinese name: 牛膝 (牛膝)

Pinyin name: Niú xī (niú xī)

English name: achyranthes root; twotoothed achyranthes root

dried root of *Achyranthes bidentata* Bl. (Fam. *Amaranthaceae*)

4.5

Latin name: *Achyranthis radix terrena*

Chinese name: 土牛膝 (土牛膝)

Pinyin name: Tǔ niú xī (tǔ niú xī)

English name: local achyranthis root

dried root and rhizome of *Achyranthes aspera* L. (Fam. *Amaranthaceae*)

4.6

Latin name: *Aconiti kusnezoffii folium*

Chinese name: 草乌叶 (草烏葉)

Pinyin name: Cǎo wū yè (cǎo wū yè)

English name: kusnezoff monkshood leaf

dried leaf of *Aconitum kusnezoffii* Reichb. (Fam. *Ranunculaceae*)

4.7

Latin name: *Aconiti kusnezoffii radix*

Chinese name: 草乌 (草烏)

Pinyin name: Cao wu (cǎo wū)

English name: wild aconite root; kusnezoff monkshood root
dried root tuber of *Aconitum kusnezoffii* Reichb. (Fam. *Ranunculaceae*)

4.8

Latin name: *Aconiti radix*

Chinese name: 川乌 (川烏)

Pinyin name: Chuan wu (chuān wū)

English name: Sichuan aconite root; common monkshood mother root
dried parent root tuber of *Aconitum carmichaeli* Debx. (Fam. *Ranunculaceae*)

4.9

Latin name: *Aconiti radix lateralis praeparata*

Chinese name: 附子 (附子)

Pinyin name: Fu zi (fù zǐ)

English name: prepared aconite accessory root; prepared common monkshood daughter root
processed daughter root of *Aconitum carmichaeli* Debx. (Fam. *Ranunculaceae*)

4.10

Latin name: *Acori tatarinowii rhizoma*

Chinese name: 石菖蒲 (石菖蒲)

Pinyin name: Shi chang pu (shí chāng pú)

English name: grassleaf sweetflag rhizome
dried rhizome of *Acorus tatarinowii* Schott. (Fam. *Araceae*)

4.11

Latin name: *Adenophorae radix*

Chinese name: 南沙参 (南沙參)

Pinyin name: Nan sha shen (nán shā shēn)

English name: adenophora root; fourleaf ladybell root
dried root of *Adenophora tetraphylla* (Thunb.) Fisch or *Adenophora stricta* Miq. (Fam. *Campanulaceae*)

4.12

Latin name: *Aesculi semen*

Chinese name: 娑罗子 (娑羅子)

Pinyin name: Suo luo zi (suō luó zǐ)

English name: horse chestnut; buckeye seed
dried ripe seed of *Aesculus chinensis* Bge., *Aesculus chinensis* Bge. var. *chekiangensis* (Hu et Fang) Fang or *Aesculus wilsonii* Rehd. (Fam. *Hippocastanaceae*)

4.13

Latin name: *Agkistrodon*

Chinese name: 蕘蛇 (蕘蛇)

Pinyin name: Qi she (qí shé)

English name: agkistrodon

dried body of *Agkistrodon acutus* (Güenther). (Fam. *Viperidae*)

4.14

Latin name: *Agrimoniae herba*

Chinese name: 仙鹤草 (仙鹤草)

Pinyin name: Xian he cao (xiān hè cǎo)

English name: agrimony

dried aerial part of *Agrimonia pilosa* Ledeb. (Fam. *Rosaceae*)

4.15

Latin name: *Ailanthi cortex*

Chinese name: 椿皮 (椿皮)

Pinyin name: Chun pi (chūn pí)

English name: ailanthus bark; tree-of-heaven bark

dried root bark or stem bark of *Ailanthus altissima* (Mill.) Swingle (Fam. *Simaroubaceae*)

4.16

Latin name: *Ajugae herba*

Chinese name: 筋骨草 (筋骨草)

Pinyin name: Jin gu cao (jīn gǔ cǎo)

English name: decumbent bugle herb

dried herb of *Ajuga decumbens* Thunb. (Fam. *Labiatae*)

4.17

Latin name: *Akebiae caulis*

Chinese name: 木通 (木通)

Pinyin name: Mu tong (mù tōng)

English name: akebia caulis; akebia stem

dried lianoid stem of *Akebia quinata* (Thunb.) Decne., *Akebia trifoliata* (Thunb.) Koidz. or *Akebia trifoliata* (Thunb.) Koidz. var. *australis* (Diels) Rehd. (Fam. *Lardizabalaceae*)

4.18

Latin name: *Akebiae fructus*

Chinese name: 预知子 (预知子)

Pinyin name: Yu zhi zi (yù zhī zǐ)

English name: akebia fruit

dried nearly ripe fruit of *Akebia quinata* (Thunb.) Decne., *Akebia trifoliata* (Thunb.) Koidz. or *Akebia trifoliata* (Thunb.) Koidz. var. *australis* (Diels) Rehd. (Fam. *Lardizabalaceae*)

4.19

Latin name: *Albiziae cortex*

Chinese name: 合欢皮 (合歡皮)

Pinyin name: He huan pi (hé huān pí)

English name: silktree bark; silktree albizia bark

dried stem bark of *Albizia julibrissin* Durazz. (Fam. *Leguminosae*)

4.20

Latin name: *Alismatis rhizoma*

Chinese name: 泽泻 (澤瀉)

Pinyin name: Ze xie (zé xiè)

English name: alisma rhizome; oriental waterplantain rhizome

dried tuber of *Alisma orientale* (Sam.) Juzep. (Fam. *Alismataceae*)

4.21

Latin name: *Allii fistulosi bulbus*

Chinese name: 葱白 (蔥白)

Pinyin name: Cong bai (cōng bái)

English name: scallion

bulb of *Allium Fistulosum* L. (Fam. *Liliaceae*)

4.22

Latin name: *Allii macrostemi bulbus*

Chinese name: 薤白 (薤白)

Pinyin name: Xie bai (xiè bái)

English name: Chinese garlic; longstamen onion bulb

dried bulb of *Allium macrostemon* Bge. or *Allium chinensis* G. Don. (Fam. *Liliaceae*)

4.23

Latin name: *Allii sativi bulbus*

Chinese name: 大蒜 (大蒜)

Pinyin name: Da suan (dà suàn)

English name: garlic bulb

dried bulb of *Allium sativum* L. (Fam. *Liliaceae*)

4.24

Latin name: *Allii tuberosi semen*

Chinese name: 韭菜子 (韭菜子)

Pinyin name: Jiu cai zi (jiǔ cài zǐ)

English name: Chinese leek seed; tuber onion seed

dried ripe seed of *Allium tuberosum* Rottl. ex Spreng. (Fam. *Liliaceae*)

4.25

Latin name: *Aloe*

Chinese name: 芦荟 (蘆薈)

Pinyin name: Lu hui (lú huì)

English name: aloes

dried concentrated matter obtained from the juice of the leaf of *Aloe barbadensis* Miller, *Aloe ferox* Miller or other species of the same genus. *Aloe barbadensis* is commonly known as “old aloe” and *Aloe ferox* is known as “new aloes” (Fam. *Liliaceae*)

4.26

Latin name: *Alpiniae katsumadai semen*

Chinese name: 草豆蔻 (草豆蔻)

Pinyin name: Cao dou kou (cǎo dòu kòu)

English name: katsumada galangal seed

dried almost ripe seed of *Alpinia katsumadai* Hayata (Fam. *Zingiberaceae*)

4.27

Latin name: *Alpiniae officinarum rhizoma*

Chinese name: 高良姜 (高良薑)

Pinyin name: Gao liang jiang (gāo liáng jiāng)

English name: lesser galangal rhizome

dried rhizome of *Alpinia officinarum* Hance (Fam. *Zingiberaceae*)

4.28

Latin name: *Alpiniae oxyphyllae fructus*

Chinese name: 益智 (益智)

Pinyin name: Yi zhi (yì zhì)

English name: alpinia fruit; sharpleaf galangal fruit

dried ripe fruit of *Alpinia oxyphylla* Miq. (Fam. *Zingiberaceae*)

4.29

Latin name: *Alumen*

Chinese name: 白矾 (白礬)

Pinyin name: Bai fan (bái fán)

English name: alum

processed mineral of sulfates of alumstone, containing mainly potassium aluminium sulfate $[KAl(SO_4)_2 \cdot 12H_2O]$

4.30

Latin name: *Amomi fructus*

Chinese name: 砂仁 (砂仁)

Pinyin name: Sha ren (shā rén)

English name: amomum fruit

dried ripe fruit of *Amomum villosum* Lour., *Amomum villosum* Lour. var. *xanthioides* (T.L. Wu et Senjen) or *Amomum longiligulare* (T.L. Wu) (Fam. *Zingiberaceae*)

4.31

Latin name: *Amomi rotundus fructus*

Chinese name: 豆蔻 (豆蔻)

Pinyin name: Dou kou (dòu kòu)

English name: round cardamon fruit

dried ripe fruit of *Amomum kravanh* Pierre ex Gagnep. or *Amomum compactum* Soland ex Maton (Fam. *Zingiberaceae*)

4.32

Latin name: *Ampelopsis radix*

Chinese name: 白藜 (白藜)

Pinyin name: Bai lian (bái liǎn)

English name: Japanese ampelopsis root; ampelopsis

dried root tuber of *Ampelopsis japonica* (Thunb.) Makino (Fam. *Vitaceae*)

4.33

Latin name: *Andrographis herba*

Chinese name: 穿心莲 (穿心蓮)

Pinyin name: Chuan xin lian (chuān xīn lián)

English name: andrographis; common andrographis herb

dried aerial part of *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm. f.) Nees (Fam. *Acanthaceae*)

4.34

Latin name: *Anemarrhenae rhizoma*

Chinese name: 知母 (知母)

Pinyin name: Zhi mu (zhī mǔ)

English name: anemarrhena rhizome; common anemarrhena rhizome

dried rhizome of *Anemarrhena asphodeloides* Bge. (Fam. *Liliaceae*)

4.35

Latin name: *Anemones raddeanae rhizoma*

Chinese name: 两头尖 (兩頭尖)

Pinyin name: Liang tou jian (liǎng tóu jiān)

English name: radde anemone rhizome

dried rhizome of *Anemone raddeana* Regel (Fam. *Ranunculaceae*)

4.36

Latin name: *Angelicae dahuricae radix*

Chinese name: 白芷 (白芷)

Pinyin name: Bai zhi (bái zhǐ)

English name: dahurian angelica root

dried root of *Angelica dahurica* (Fisch. ex Hoffm.) Benth. et Hook. f. or *Angelica dahurica* (Fisch. ex Hoffm.) Benth. et Hook. f. var. *formosana* (Boiss.) Shan et Yuan (Fam. *Umbelliferae*)

4.37

Latin name: *Angelicae pubescentis radix*

Chinese name: 独活 (獨活)

Pinyin name: Du huo (dú huó)

English name: pubescent angelica root; doubleteeth pubescent angelica root
dried root of *Angelica pubescens* Maxim. f. *biserrata* Shan et Yuan (Fam. *Umbelliferae*)

4.38

Latin name: *Angelicae sinensis radix*

Chinese name: 当归 (當歸)

Pinyin name: Dang gui (dāng guī)

English name: tangkuei; Chinese angelica root
dried root of *Angelica sinensis* (Oliv.) Diels (Fam. *Umbelliferae*)

4.39

Latin name: *Anisi stellati fructus*

Chinese name: 八角茴香 (八角茴香)

Pinyin name: Ba jiao hui xiang (bā jiǎo huí xiāng)

English name: Chinese star anise
dried ripe fruit of *Illicium verum* Hook. f. (Fam. *Magnoliaceae*)

4.40

Latin name: *Apocyni veneti folium*

Chinese name: 罗布麻叶 (羅布麻葉)

Pinyin name: Luo bu ma ye (luó bù má yè)

English name: dogbane leaf
dried leaf of *Apocynum venetum* L. (Fam. *Apocynaceae*)

4.41

Latin name: *Aquilariae lignum resinatum*

Chinese name: 沉香 (沉香)

Pinyin name: Chen xiang (chén xiāng)

English name: aquilaria wood; Chinese eaglewood wood
resin containing wood of *Aquilaria sinensis* (Lour.) Gilg (Fam. *Thymelaeaceae*)

4.42

Latin name: *Arcae concha*

Chinese name: 瓦楞子 (瓦楞子)

Pinyin name: Wa leng zi (wǎ léng zǐ)

English name: arc shell
shell of *Arca subcrenata* Lischke, *Arca granosa* Linnaeus or *Arca inflata* Reeve (Fam. *Arcidae*)

4.43**Latin name:** *Arctii fructus***Chinese name:** 牛蒡子 (牛蒡子)**Pinyin name:** Niu bang zi (niú bàng zǐ)**English name:** great burdock achenedried ripe fruit of *Arctium lappa* L. (Fam. *Compositae*)**4.44****Latin name:** *Ardisiae crenatae radix***Chinese name:** 朱砂根 (朱砂根)**Pinyin name:** Zhu sha gen (zhū shā gēn)**English name:** coral ardisia rootdried root of *Ardisia crenata* Sims (Fam. *Myrsinaceae*)**4.45****Latin name:** *Ardisiae japonicae herba***Chinese name:** 矮地茶 (矮地茶)**Pinyin name:** Ai di cha (ǎi dì chá)**English name:** Japanese ardisia herbdried herb of *Ardisia japonica* (Thunb.) Blume (Fam. *Myrsinaceae*)**4.46****Latin name:** *Arecae pericarpium***Chinese name:** 大腹皮 (大腹皮)**Pinyin name:** Da fu pi (dà fù pí)**English name:** areca peeldried pericarp of *Areca catechu* L. (Fam. *Palmae*)**4.47****Latin name:** *Arecae semen***Chinese name:** 槟榔 (檳榔)**Pinyin name:** Bing lang (bīn láng)**English name:** areca seeddried ripe seed of *Areca catechu* L. (Fam. *Palmae*)**4.48****Latin name:** *Arisaematis rhizoma***Chinese name:** 天南星 (天南星)**Pinyin name:** Tian nan xing (tiān nán xīng)**English name:** Jack-in-the-pulpit tuberdried tuber of *Arisaema erubescens* (Wall.) Schott., *Arisaema heterophyllum* Bl. or *Arisaema amurense* Maxim. (Fam. *Araceae*)