
**Traditional Chinese medicine —
Vocabulary —**

**Part 2:
Processing of Chinese Materia Medica**

Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Vocabulaire —

Partie 2: Transformation des matières médicinales 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

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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.

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