
**Traditional Chinese medicine —
Determination of microorganisms in
natural products**

*Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Détermination des micro-
organismes dans les produits naturels*

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Foreword

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Introduction

Natural products used in traditional Chinese medicine are widely used around the world due to their high medicinal values and mild side effects. It is a common phenomenon that natural products are contaminated by microorganisms which not only impact their quality and efficacy, but also restrict the international trade in them and related products. Although the Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China, the British Pharmacopoeia, the Japanese Pharmacopoeia, the European Pharmacopoeia and the United States Pharmacopoeia have stipulated the microbial limits of natural products, there is no International Standard for microorganism detection methods, which adversely affects communication and trade between researchers and factories in different countries. Furthermore, microorganism levels on or in natural products usually exceed the maximum limit levels set by many international organizations and countries due to the lack of an International Standard.

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