
**Traditional Chinese medicine —
Bupleurum chinense, *Bupleurum
scorzonerifolium* and *Bupleurum
falcatum* root**

*Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Racine de Bupleurum chinense,
Bupleurum scorzonerifolium et Bupleurum falcatum*



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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
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.

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.

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

Bupleurum chinense, *Bupleurum scorzonerifolium* and *Bupleurum falcatum* root, namely Bupleuri Radix, are well-known traditional Chinese materia medica which have liver-protection, antipyretic and anti-inflammatory qualities. Bupleuri Radix is sold in many countries as medicinal materials or decoction pieces. Bupleuri Radix originates from cross-pollinating plants, which can easily lead to a hybrid of their provenance, in turn resulting in mixed sources of herbs. This can lead to difficulties in herb authenticity, as well as variations in herb efficacy and safety. Bupleuri Radix is included in several pharmacopeia, but with different plant origins. Thus, there is a need to standardize the quality to bring benefits to consumers and the enterprises involved in the processing, management and trade of *Bupleurum chinense*, *Bupleurum scorzonerifolium* and *Bupleurum falcatum* root.

As national implementation can differ, national standards bodies can modify the values given in [5.3](#), [5.4](#), [5.5](#) and [5.8](#) in their national standards. Examples of national and regional values are given in [Annex G](#).

Traditional Chinese medicine — *Bupleurum chinense*, *Bupleurum scorzonerifolium* and *Bupleurum falcatum* root

1 Scope

This document specifies minimum requirements and test methods for *Bupleurum chinense*, *Bupleurum scorzonerifolium* and *Bupleurum falcatum* root.

This document applies to *Bupleurum chinense*, *Bupleurum scorzonerifolium* and *Bupleurum falcatum* root that are sold and used as natural medicines in international trade, including Chinese materia medica (whole medicinal materials) and decoction pieces.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 18664, *Traditional Chinese Medicine — Determination of heavy metals in herbal medicines used in Traditional Chinese Medicine*

ISO 21371, *Traditional Chinese medicine — Labelling requirements of products intended for oral or topical use*

ISO 22258, *Traditional Chinese medicine — Determination of pesticide residues in natural products by gas chromatography*

ISO 22590, *Traditional Chinese medicine — Determination of sulfur dioxide in natural products by titration*

ISO 23723, *Traditional Chinese medicine — General requirements for herbal raw material and materia medica*

3 Terms and definitions

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

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

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

3.1

root mass

average mass of final samples of root

Note 1 to entry: Root mass is measured in grams.

3.2

root length

largest distance from the bottom of the tap root to the stem scar

Note 1 to entry: Root length is measured in centimetres.