
**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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For an explanation on 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

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

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.

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>

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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.