



**International
Standard**

ISO 19047

**Traditional Chinese Medicine —
Polygonum multiflorum root**

*Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Racine de Polygonum
multiflorum*

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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 document 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 medicine*, Subcommittee SC 1, *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

Polygonum multiflorum root (also called *Fallopia multiflora* root) is the dried root of *Polygonum multiflorum* Thunb. (Fam. Polygonaceae), which is known as *Heshouwu* (何首乌 in Chinese) in China. It has a long history of medicinal use in East Asian countries and is traditionally valued and reported for its hair-blackening, liver- and kidney-tonifying and anti-aging effects as well as its low toxicity.

Although *Polygonum multiflorum* root and its related prescriptions are limited in the international market due to concerns over liver injury, there is still a large demand for *Polygonum multiflorum* root in the Chinese materia medica market to date; 200 t to 300 t per year of *Polygonum multiflorum* root are exported to Japan, the Republic of Korea, Hongkong (China), and other countries and regions. In addition, *Polygonum multiflorum* root is ranked no. 26 in the priority list of single herbal medicines for developing standards in ISO/TR 23975:2025.

There is currently no unified International Standard for *Polygonum multiflorum* root. The regulatory authorities in many countries have not adequately differentiated the adulterants of *Polygonum multiflorum* root. Additionally, the quality of *Polygonum multiflorum* root provided from different areas varies a lot. Therefore, an International Standard for *Polygonum multiflorum* root in terms of quality control of this herb and its products is required to ensure the safe use of these medicinal materials.

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

Traditional Chinese Medicine — *Polygonum multiflorum* root

1 Scope

This document specifies the quality and safety requirements and test methods of *Polygonum multiflorum* root, which is derived from the dried root of *Polygonum multiflorum* Thunb. (Fam. Polygonaceae).

This document is applicable to raw and processed *Polygonum multiflorum* root that are sold and used as natural medicines in international trade, including Chinese materia medica (whole medicinal material) and decoction pieces derived from this plant.

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/TS 21310, *Traditional Chinese medicine — Microscopic examination of medicinal herbs*

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

ISO 22217, *Traditional Chinese medicine — Storage requirements for raw materials and decoction pieces*

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

ISO 23723:2021, *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

***Polygonum multiflorum* root**

***Fallopia multiflora* root**

Reynoutria multiflora root

dried root of *Polygonum multiflorum* Thunb [syn. *Reynoutria multiflora* (Thunb.) Moldenke; *Fallopia multiflora* (Thunb.) Haraldson] in the family of Polygonaceae

4 Descriptions

In this document, the structure of *Polygonum multiflorum* Thunb. (Fam. Polygonaceae) and the dried root are shown in [Figure 1](#).