

Standard Pharmacognostic Characteristic of Some Thai Herbal Medicine

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ABSTRACT

The pharmacognostic characteristics of four popular medicinal herbs : Kaempferia parviflora Wall. ex Baker (Kra-chai-dahm), Gynostemma pentaphyllum (Thumb.) Makino. (Jiau-gu-lahn), Stevia rebaudiana Bertoni M. (Yaa-waan) and Thunbergia laurifolia Lindl. (Raang-chuet) have been standardized on part used for each plant. The result showed that they had significant differences in plant taxonomy, pharmacognostic characters and chemical constituents. The characteristics of medicinal herb comprise of botanical name, family name, part used, chemical constituent, medical use, character of powdered drug, microscopic character of powdered drug and primary test of plant extract which are useful to standardize and investigate contamination and adulteration.

Key words : Standard pharmacognostic characteristic, Thai herbal medicine

INTRODUCTION

The quality of medicinal plants significantly influences the development of drugs or health products for efficacy and efficiency to use. One factor that affects their quality is the variation of their active constituents which occurs in a variety of plant species, age, environment, non-standardised production process and the problems from adulteration as well as contamination. Standardization for quality control of both raw materials and finished products is believed not only to solve this poor quality problem but also to promote value of locally-natural resources, writing of Thai Herbal Pharmacopoeia, public confidence to use medicinal plant products, international trade forum and being the member of natural drug lists which corresponds to the public health's policy.

OBJECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY

The objectives of this research are to investigate and collect medicinal plants, including *Stevia rebaudiana* Bertoni M. (Yaa-waan), *Gynostemma pentaphyllum* (Thumb.) Makino. (Jiau-gu-lahn), *Thunbergia laurifolia* Lindl. (Raang-chuet) and *Kaempferia parviflora* Wall. ex Baker (Kra-chai-dahm) for preparation of