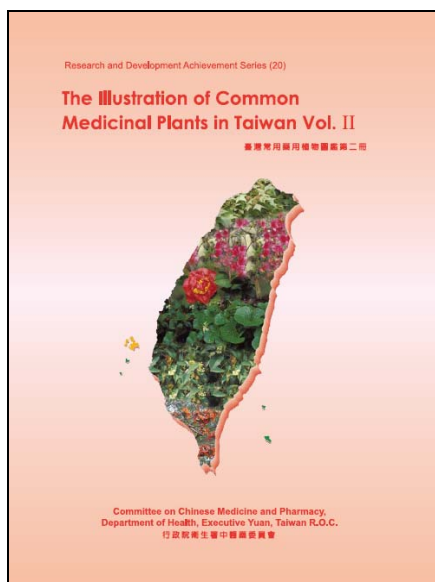


The Illustration of Common Medicinal Plants in Taiwan Vol.II

臺灣常用藥用植物圖鑑第二冊



Introduction

Since ancient times medicinal plants have been vital for human health is extremely important. In Taiwan, there are more than 12,000 traditional medicines recorded, of which most are herbal medicines. In recent years advocating a healthy and natural trend of the world, and consumers increasing security concerns in chemical drugs, all major pharmaceuticals in the world are now vigorously devoting in to research. The new market of herbal medicine can be inaugurated from both aspects of preventive medicine and treatment.

The nature environment of Taiwan is very favorable, the climate range from temperate, subtropical to tropical. There are abundant resources of biological species. According to the Council of Agriculture estimated that about 15 million species in Taiwan, equivalent to 1.5% of all species in the world. However, in Taiwan`s ever accelerating social economic environment large parts of the western coastline have been developed in industrialized zones, while the eastern coastline is gradually

irrigated by concrete. As a result, a variety of species in coastal lines, intertidal zone and wetlands are lost in large quantity. Natural reserves in Taiwan are severely threatened and may face endangerment. In view of this, as early as 1993, the Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy Department commissioned a series of research on medicinal plants in Taiwan's contains about 1,217 wild or cultivated medicinal plants are recorded. The name, species name, family name, variant name, morphology, producing area, distribution, content, pharmacology, effects etc. are all listed. The research results corresponding pictures for all the medicinal and compiled into a book, published in Chinese for the reference of general public.

This series is comprised of a total three series, the first volume in this series contains 328 kinds of medicinal herbs, the Chinese version was published in September 2002, and it ranked first place in "2003 Outstanding Government Publication" competition in March 2003. The second and third volume in series Chinese version was published in October 2004, respectively, contains 436 and 453 medicinal herbs providing TCM pharmaceutical, academic and related fields with accurate knowledge of medicinal herbs.

Since 1995, the foreign experts and scholars gradually come to Taiwan to participate in "International Traditional / alternative medicine (CAM / TM)" were interested in this series and recommended translated into English to provide the world academic reference. In view of this, the Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy has especially commissioned international famous botanical experts, Professor Huang, Tseng-Chieng and his research team, to compose a new edition. After many of the editorial discussion, the book in this series will be revised, edited, laid out and translated into English. The fist volume of English version has been published in December 2009. The second volume has completed print and will be published. It is anticipated that as this book becomes available, it would be able to accelerate the exchange of relevant information, to form international links, and to promote the internationalization of Taiwan`s traditional medicine.

**(Lin-Huang Huang, MD., MPH
Chairperson
Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy
Department of Health, Executive Yuan
November, 2011)**