

# Caulis Trachelospermi

versus

# Psychotriae Caulis et Folium



## Source

**\*Caulis Trachelospermi**  
is the dried stem with leaf of  
*Trachelospermum jasminoides* (Lindl.) Lem.  
in the family Apocynaceae

**Psychotriae Caulis et Folium**  
is the dried stem and branch with leaf of  
*Psychotria serpens* L.  
in the family Rubiaceae

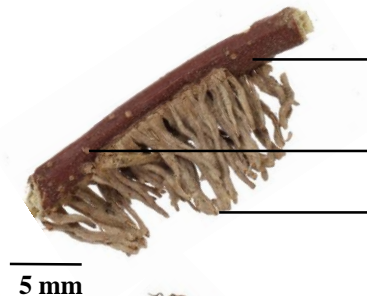
## Overview

Caulis Trachelospermi has been listed in both Schedule 2 of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance and Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020), while Psychotriae Caulis et Folium has not been listed in either references. According to the *Chinese Materia Medica Standards in Guangdong Province* and *Guang dong zhong yao zhi*, different regions have customarily used plants from different families or genera as “Luo shi teng”; while most regions of the Guangdong province use the plant *Psychotria serpens*. According to the Chinese Pharmacopoeia, Caulis Trachelospermi is slightly cold in property. It can dispel wind to free the collateral vessels and cool the blood and disperse swelling; while the *Chinese Materia Medica Standards in Guangdong Province* stated that Psychotriae Caulis et Folium is slightly warm in property. It can dispel wind and relieve pain, and relax sinews and activate collaterals. The efficacy, source and medicinal properties of both Chinese Materia Medica vary, therefore, should be used accordingly.

Note:  
\*Its name in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020) is “Trachelospermi Caulis et Folium”.

## Key identification features

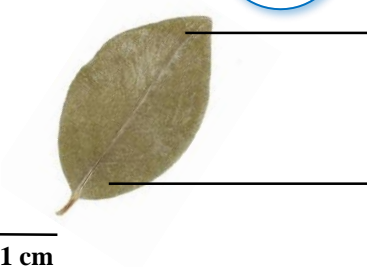
### Macroscopic features of Caulis Trachelospermi



Surface of stem is reddish-brown or greyish-brown and has longitudinal wrinkles  
Some with dotted lenticels observable  
Some with adventitious roots



Cut surface of the wood of stem is whitish or yellowish-white and has pith in the centre  
Usually hollow in young branch



Intact blade appears ovoid, elliptical or rounded when flattened. With obtuse apex, entire and slightly revolute margin and stalk  
Upper surface is dark green or brownish-green and the lower surface has a lighter colour

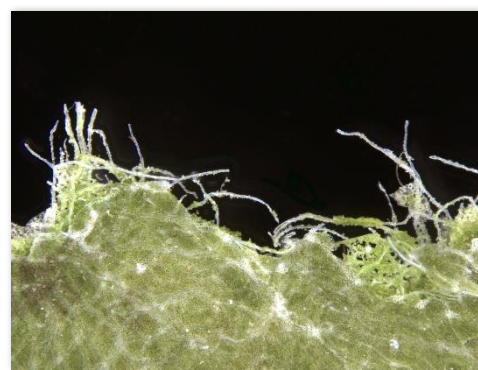
### Micro-morphological features

A: Usually with relatively long non-glandular hairs

B: Usually with exposed fibres in fracture

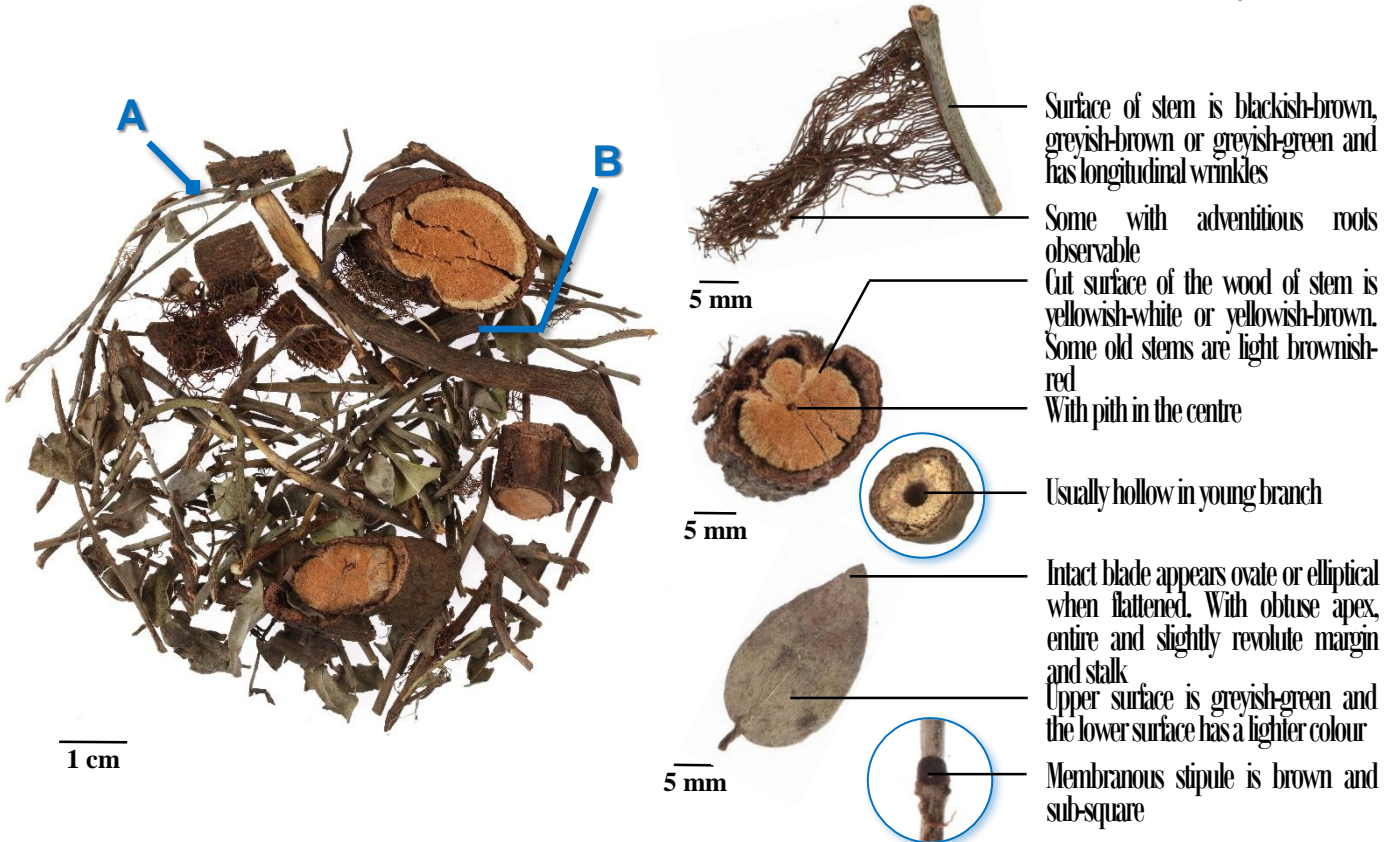


(Surface of the young branch) 500 µm



(Lateral view of the fracture of leaf) 500 µm

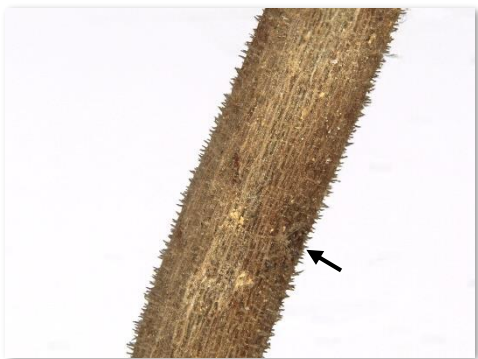
## Macroscopic features of Psychotriae Caulis et Folium



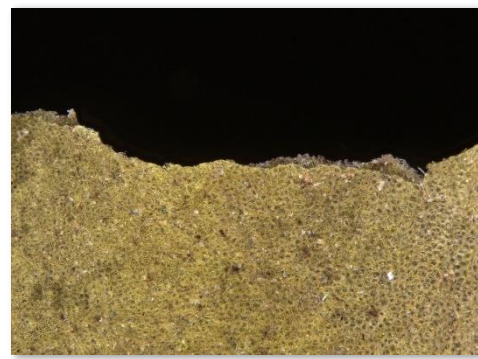
### Micro-morphological features

A: Usually with relatively short non-glandular hairs

B: Without exposed fibres in fracture





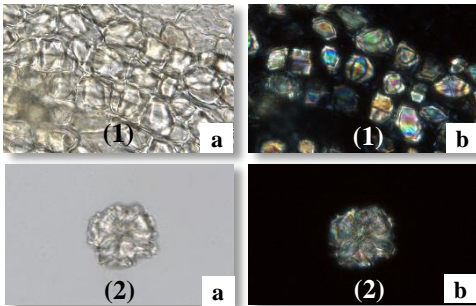
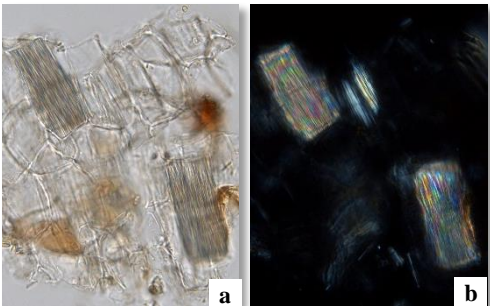


(Surface of the young branch) 500 µm



(Lateral view of the fracture of leaf) 500 µm

## Microscopic feature comparison of Caulis Trachelospermi and Psychotriae Caulis et Folium powder



	<b>Caulis Trachelospermi</b>	<b>Psychotriae Caulis et Folium</b>
<b>Lactifer</b>	 <p><b>a</b></p> <p>Long strip-shaped, present in parenchyma, contains colourless or yellow droplet-like or granular substances</p>	 <p>Absent</p>
<b>Crystal of calcium oxalate</b>	 <p><b>(1)</b> <b>a</b> <b>(1)</b> <b>b</b></p> <p><b>(2)</b> <b>a</b> <b>(2)</b> <b>b</b></p> <p>Prism of calcium oxalate and cluster of calcium oxalate. Prism of calcium oxalate(1) frequently found, scattered or present in groups in parenchymatous cell; polychromatic under the polarized light microscope. Cluster of calcium oxalate(2) observable or frequently found, scattered or present in parenchymatous cell; polychromatic under the polarized light microscope</p>	 <p><b>a</b> <b>b</b></p> <p>Raphide of calcium oxalate, numerous, scattered or in bundles, some present in parenchymatous cell; polychromatic under the polarized light microscope</p>
<b>Non-glandular hair</b>	 <p><b>a</b></p> <p>Consists of 1-8 cells, relatively long, slightly thick or thick wall, usually with warty protuberances</p>	 <p><b>a</b></p> <p>Unicellular, relatively short, thick wall, with slightly warty protuberances</p>

*a. features under bright field; b. features under polarized light*

50 μm

## Summary

Major differences in the features between Caulis Trachelospermi and Psychotriae Caulis et Folium:

		Caulis Trachelospermi	Psychotriae Caulis et Folium
Macroscopic and micro-morphological features	<b>Surface of the stem</b>	Some with dotted lenticels observable and some with adventitious roots	Some with adventitious roots observable
	<b>Cut surface of the wood of the stem</b>	Whitish or yellowish-white	Yellowish-white or yellowish-brown. Some old stems are light brownish-red
	<b>Lateral view of the fracture of leaf</b>	Usually with exposed fibres in fracture	Without exposed fibres in fracture
Microscopic features	<b>Lacticifer</b>	Present	Absent
	<b>Crystal of calcium oxalate</b>	With prism of calcium oxalate and cluster of calcium oxalate	Only with raphide of calcium oxalate
	<b>Non-glandular hair</b>	Consists of 1-8 cells, relatively long	Unicellular, relatively short

For more information, please refer to the [Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards website](#):



Trachelospermi Caulis et Folium - Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (Volume 5)



Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute  
Department of Health  
Enquiry Hotline: 3188 8079  
Website: [www.cmro.gov.hk](http://www.cmro.gov.hk)

*The information in this pamphlet may be re-disseminated or reproduced, provided that the Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute (GCMTI), as the source of information, is acknowledged and that the re-dissemination or reproduction is for non-commercial use. Any other reproduction, adaptation, distribution, dissemination or making available of the information in this pamphlet for commercial use is strictly prohibited unless prior written authorization is obtained from the GCMTI.*