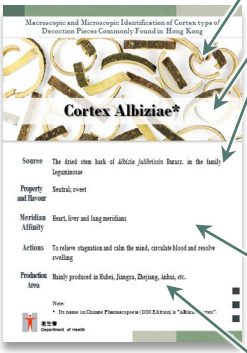
General notices

This project employs a dual approach, using both macroscopic and microscopic identification techniques, to establish a simple and accurate method for identifying cortex type of decoction pieces. The identification methods are published in the form of monographs, covering the following contents:

Basic Information of Chinese materia medica (CMM)



Photo

This section displays the appearance of CMM.

Name and Source

Reference is made to Schedules 2 of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549) and the Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China (2020 Edition) [abbreviated as the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020 Edition)]. For CMM not included in the above two, other statutory standards or reference materials are used.

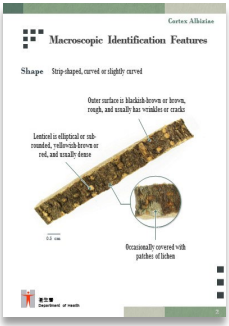
Properties and actions of CMM

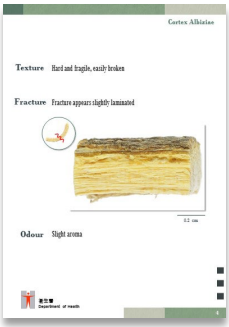
This section includes property and flavour, meridian affinity and action.

Production Area

Reference is mainly made to the results of the Fourth National Survey of Chinese Materia Medica Resources.

Macroscopic Identification Features





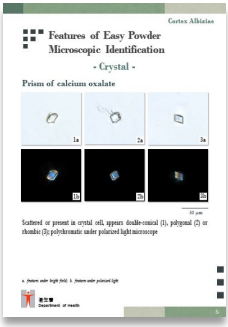
This section includes the features of shape, outer surface, inner surface, cut surface and fracture, texture and odour. Cut surface means the sectioned surface produced during the processing stage of decoction pieces, whilst fracture means the fracture surface produced by breaking the sample during identification. For the direction of sample breakage, please refer to the diagram in the upper left corner of the image.

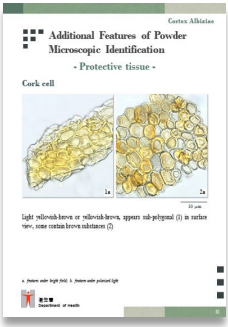
For decoction pieces of multiple sources, a single description is provided if no significant differences on macroscopic feature are observed. Meanwhile, individual descriptions are provided for CMM having various decoction pieces specifications.

For more information, please refer to Appendix II General Quality Control Method of the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (HKCMMS).

https://www.cmro.gov.hk/html/eng/useful_information/hkcmms/volumes.html

Microscopic Identification Features





This section is divided into two parts. The "Simplified Powder Microscopic Identification Features" part lists out the key features that can be observed by using simplified powder microscopic identification method, while the remaining features are listed in the "Additional Powder Microscopic Identification Features" part.

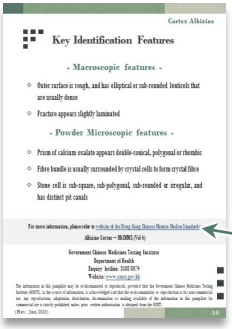
Features are listed according to their categories: crystal, sclerenchyma, secretory tissue, protective tissue and starch. General features that are commonly found in cortex type of Chinese medicines, including ray cell, sieve tube, companion cell, sieve cell and parenchymatous cell, are omitted unless they are significant to identification.

For decoction pieces of multiple sources or specifications, a single description is provided if no significant differences on microscopic feature are observed.

For more information, please refer to Appendix III Microscopic Identification of the HKCMMS.

https://www.cmro.gov.hk/html/eng/useful_information/hkcmms/volumes.html

Key Identification Features


Cortex Albiziae

Key Identification Features

- Macroscopic features -

- Outer surface is rough, and has elliptical or sub-rounded lenticels that are usually dense
- Fracture appears slightly laminated

- Powder Microscopic features -

- Prism of calcium oxalate appears double-conical, polygonal or rhombic
- Fibre bundle is usually surrounded by crystal cells to form crystal fibre
- Stone cell is sub-square, sub-polygonal, sub-rounded or irregular, and has distinct pit canals

For more information, please refer to website of the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standard: Albiziae Cortex — HKCMMS (Vol 6)

Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute
Department of Health
Enquiry hotline: 3188 8079
Website: www.cmro.gov.hk

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This section concisely describes the most critical identification features chosen from macroscopic and powder microscopic identification of the CMM.

For CMM which are included in the HKCMMS, their volume number will be included for reference.

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