Herba Andrographis

Chuanxinlian


Official drug\(^{(1)}\): Common Andrographis Herb is the dried aerial part of Andrographis paniculata (Burm. f.) Nees (Fam. Acanthaceae). The drug is collected in early autumn when foliage branch growing luxuriantly, sliced and dried in the sun.

Description of the drug\(^{(1)}\): Stems square and frequently branched, 50 – 70 cm long, nodes slightly swollen; texture fragile, easily broken. Leaves simple, opposite, short petioled or nearly sessile; lamina crumpled and easily broken, when whole, lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate, 3 – 12 cm long, 2 – 5 cm wide, with acuminate apex and cuneate-decurrent base, margin entire of undulate; the upper surface green, the lower surface greyish-green, glabrous on both surfaces. Odour, slight; taste, extremely bitter.

Pretreatment of the raw drug\(^{(1)}\): Foreign matters and legumes are eliminated, washed clean, cut into sections and dried.

Medicinal use\(^{(1,2)}\): Inflammations, hepatitis, febrile diseases, common cold, laryngitis, cough, diarrhoe, mastitis, externally carbuncles, sores and nodules

### Effects and indications according to Traditional Chinese Medicine\(^{(1)}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taste:</th>
<th>extremely bitter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temperature:</td>
<td>cold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Channels entered:</td>
<td>acts on the lung, stomach, large intestine and small intestine channels</td>
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<td>Effects:</td>
<td>clears pathogenic heat, relieves depressed liver, removes dampness, alleviates pain and promotes diuresis</td>
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<td>Symptoms and indications:</td>
<td>jaundice with hypochondriac distress, epigastric distensions and pain, acute and chronic hepatitis, mastitis</td>
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</table>
Main constituents:\(^{(2)}\):  

- **Diterpene lactones:** andrographolide, neoandrographolide, deoxy-didehydroandrographolide, deoxy-oxoandrographolide, deoxyandrographolide, dideoxyandrographolide (andrograpanin), andrographiside, deoxyandrographoside (andropanoside), deoxy-methoxyandrographolide

- **Flavone derivatives:** oroxylin, wogonin, andrographidine A, B, C, D, E, F

- **Sesquiterpen lactones:** paniculide A, B, C

- **Acidic polysaccharides:** PA, PB

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**Fig. 1:** Formulae of the main constituents