Herba Artemisiae Scopariae

Yinchen

Pharmacopoeia\(^{(1)}\):

Official drugs\(^{(1)}\):
Virgate Wormwood Herb is the dried aerial part of *Artemisia scoparia* Waldst. et Kit. or *Artemisia capillaris* Thunb. (Fam. Asteraceae).

The drug is collected in spring when the seedling is 6-10 cm high, or in autumn when the bud is forming, removed from foreign matter and older stem, and dried in the sun. The drug collected in spring is known as “Mianyinchen” and collected in autumn is known as “Yinchenhao”.

Origin\(^{(4,5)}\):
China (province Shaanxi, Shanxi and Anhui), Japan, Taiwan

Description of the drugs\(^{(1)}\):

Mianyinchen
Mostly rolled into masses. Greyish-white, or greyish-green, densely covered with white pubescences throughout, soft like a nap. Stems thin and small, 1.5-2.5 cm long, 1-2 mm in diameter, longitudinal striations distinct after removing the white pubescences on the surface; texture fragile, easily broken. Leaves petioled, when whole, 1-3 pinnatipartisect, lamina 1-3 cm long, about 1 cm wide; segment ovoid or slightly ob lanceolate, stripe-shaped, apex acute. Odour, delicately aromatic; taste, slightly bitter.

Yinchenhao
Stems cylindrical, frequently branched, 30-100 cm long, 2-8 mm in diameter; externally pale purple or purple, striated longitudinally, pubescent; texture light, fragile, fracture almost white. Leaves densely gathered, or mostly fallen off. Basal leaves 2-3 pinnatipartite, segments stripe-shaped or finely stripe-shaped, densely covered with white pubescences on both surfaces; cauline leaves 1-2 pinnatipartisect, amplexicaul at the base, segments filamentous; capitulum ovoid, mostly gathered in conical, 1.2-1.5 mm long, 1-1.2 mm in diameter; short petioled; involucres 3-4 layers, ovoid, bracts 3-lobed; the outer female flowers 6-10, some times up to 15, the inner bisexual flowers 2-10; achenes oblong, yellowish-brown. Odour. Aromatic; taste, slightly bitter.
Herba Artemisiae Scopariae – Yinchen

Pretreatment of the raw drug(1): Remains of roots and foreign matters are eliminated, rubbed or cut into pieces. For “Mianyinchen” (see page 1, Description of the drugs), sifted to removed dust.

Medicinal use(3): Used for the treatment of hypertension, respiratory diseases, chronic cervicitis and also for the treatment of epidemic hepatitis.

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<th>Effects and indications of Herba Artemisiae according to Traditional Chinese Medicine(1,2,4)</th>
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Main constituents(3):  

- **Flavones**  
cirsilineol (5,4’-dihydroxy-6,7,3’-trimethoxyflavone), cirsimaritin (5,4’-dihydroxy-6,7-dimethoxyflavone), genkwanin (5,4’-dihydroxy-7-methoxyflavone), rhamnocitrin (3,5,4’-trihydroxy-7-methoxy-flavone), arcapillin (5,2’,4’-tri hydroxy-6,7,5’-trimethoxyflavone), eupatolitin (3,5,3’,4’-tetrahydroxy-6,7-dimethoxyflavone), arcapillin, capillarisin

- **Phenylcarboxylic acid**  
chlorogenic acid, isochlorogenic acids

- **Cumarins/p-Cumaric acid derivatives**  
scoparone, scopoletin, capillartemisin A, B, umbelliferone

- **Terpenoids/Essential oil (Artemisia scoparia)**  
p-cymene, t-caryene, α-terpinol, bornyl acetate, methyleugenol, β-elemene, β-caryophyllene α-pinene, β-pinene, myrcene, cineol, p-cymol, carvone, thujone, apiole, isoeugenol, cadinene, caryophyllene epoxide, vanillin, capillin, 1-phenyl- 2,4-hexadiyne-1-ol

- **Acetylenes derivatives**  
capillene, capillone, capillin, capillarin, dehydrofalcarnone, dehydrofalcarninol, norcapillene, capillanol, methoxycapillene, neocapillene