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#### **About Us**

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) is an international animal welfare organisation with its headquarters in London UK, and with 13 other offices worldwide. Holding consultative status with the United Nations and observer status with the Council of Europe, WSPA forms the largest federation of animal welfare organisations in the world with more than 120 different countries through its network of over 550 member societies.

WSPA works to alleviate animal suffering using a combined and collaborative approach encompassing hands on work, educational initiatives, lobbying and awareness campaigns. Areas of work include stray animal control, humane education, disaster relief, farm animals and commercial exploitation of wildlife.

In particular, WSPA is well known for its 'Libearty' campaign which aims to protect bears from cruelty and exploitation around the world. One of WSPA's best known 'Libearty' campaigns is to bring an end to the practice of bear farming in Asia.

#### Traditional Medicine and bear bile

Although the vast majority of Traditional Medicine practitioners today no longer use bear bile, it is still consumed in significant quantities. The use of bear bile in Traditional Medicine dates back over 3000 years. It is classified as 'cold' and 'bitter' and its uses include the treatment of fever, swelling and pain in cases of trauma, liver conditions and sore eyes. Bear bile is still consumed in many different countries around the world, often as a result of illegal trade. Some of the largest consumer countries include China, Japan and Republic of Korea.

#### **Bear Farming**

In the early 1980s, in an attempt to reduce pressures on wild populations, China started to farm bears in order to extract their bile on a commercial basis. The practice of bear farming has since spread to other countries in Asia, most notably Vietnam and the Republic of Korea.

"We definitely do not have to use bear bile as it can be replaced by herbs, which are cheaper too."

Dr Sun Ji Xian The Chinese Association of Preventative Medicine, Beijing, China

Most bears kept in bear farms live in cages measuring around 1 metre wide, 1 metre high and 2 metres long. Many bears are wounded and scarred from rubbing or hitting themselves against the bars of their tiny metal cages, where they cannot stand up nor easily turn around. Many survive in these conditions for over 20 years.

In China a surgical operation is carried out to create a tube leading into the bear's gall bladder to allow the bile to be extracted. Untrained workers with no veterinary skills often carry out this operation. The animals endure the most appalling levels of cruelty and neglect. During WSPA investigations, bears were seen with inflamed, infected and bleeding wounds, open incisions for bile extraction and swellings in the abdominal area. In some farms sick bears lay recumbent without movement. In Vietnam bile is extracted using ultrasound equipment and a hypodermic syringe, bile is extracted approximately once a month. In Korea, bears do not have bile extracted from them when they are alive. Instead, the bears are raised to a certain age and are then slaughtered for their body parts.

For animal welfare reasons alone, WSPA believes that the practice of bear farming should be phased out completely. However, many traditional medicine practitioners have stated that the use of bear bile is also unnecessary and that many alternative remedies exist. Below are a number of statements, gathered by Animals Asia Foundation (AAF), from people who believe that bear bile has no place in modern Traditional Medicine.

"Herbal alternatives have the same effect - so why kill the animals?"

Dr Ho Ka Cheong President Hong Kong Chinese Herbalist Association Ltd

"There are many hundreds of ingredients in our Pharmacopoeia, and whatever beneficial effect may be achieved by using endangered species, there are equally beneficial effects by using other alternatives. Please understand that we are in the business of healing people, not in the business of causing danger to wild animal species."

Word-Fei Cheung Assistant Manager of the Institute of Chinese Medicine, China.

"One main reason why I have, all along, participated in the work of protecting endangered animals is to make the public understand that the majority of Chinese medicine made from endangered medicine is not indispensable. We can easily replace them with herbal medicines, which are cheaper and easier to find. If the Chinese medicine community ceases to use endangered animals as medicine, it can not only join in helping to save endangered species from extinction, but can also raise the international reputation of Chinese medicine to that of a sophisticated branch of medicine."

Dr. Lo Yan Wo

Chinese Association of Medicine and Philosophy, Hong Kong.

"On Behalf of the Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (UK), the largest Traditional Chinese Medicine organization in Britain. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly state that ATCM strictly condemn and prohibit the use of bear bile by TCM practitioners in treatment regardless of illness. This is based on the grounds that we believe the process of extracting bear bile to be inhumane and therefore unethical, especially it is against the general principle and Law of Traditional Chinese Medicine i.e. emphasis on keeping the balance between mankind and nature. There is no need for stretching to such an extreme measure to obtain a purely exotic sounding substance from an already endangered species, when there are countless other available alternatives." Dr Jidong Wu

President of the Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (UK), Middlesex University

#### Finding alternatives to bear bile

In its campaign to bring an end to bear farming, WSPA recognises that herbal alternatives to bear bile need to be identified. With this in mind we are now in the process of identifying both individual herbs and herbal formulas that are known to have the same properties or effects as bear bile. As we work to do this, WSPA strongly believes that collaboration with the Traditional Medicine community is essential.

To find herbal alternatives to bear bile, the first step is to find out what main actions and indications bear bile is purported to have. With the help of Traditional Medicine practitioners in the United Kingdom, WSPA has identified four main actions and indications of bear bile. Though not necessarily exhaustive, they are:

- Clearing heat and detoxifying
- Clearing liver fire
- Brightening eyesight through nourishing the liver
- Brightening eyesight and clearing away liver fire

Using the information above, we have identified herbs that have one or more of the same actions or indications as bear bile:

#### Clearing heat and detoxifying

Chinese pin yin	Pharmaceutical name
Ban Bian Lian	Herba Lobeliae Chinensis
Bai Hua She She Cao	Herba Hedyotidis Diffusae
Bai Jiang Cao	Herba Patriniae
Bai Tou Weng	Radix Pulsatillae
Bai Xian Pi	Cortex Dictamni
Chuan Xin Lian	Herba Andrographitis
Chui Pen Cao	Herba Sedi
Da Qing Ye	Folium Isatidis
Hong Teng	Caulis Sargentodoxae

Jin Yin Hua	Flos Lonicerae	
Lian Qiao	Fructus Forsythiae	
Ma Bo	Lasiosphaera seu Calvatia	
Ma Chi Xian	Herba Portulaceae	
Pu Gong Ying	Herba Taraxaci	
Qing Dai	Indigo Naturalis	
Qin Pi	Cortex Fraxini	
Shan Dou Gen	Radix Sophorae Subprostratae	
She Gan	Rhizoma Belamcandae	
Yu Xing Cao	Herba Houttuyniae	
Zao Xiu or Chonglou	Rhizoma Paridis	
Zi Hua Di Ding	Herba Violae	

#### Clearing liver fire

Chinese pin yin	Pharmaceutical name
Long Dan Cao	Radix Gentianae
Lu Hui	Aloe
Zao Xiu or Chonglou	Rhizoma Paridis
Zi Hua Di Ding	Herba Violae

#### Brightening eyesight through nourishing the liver

Chinese pin yin	Pharmaceutical name
Sha Yuan Zi	Semen Astragali
Gou Qi Zi	Fructus Lycii
Nu Zhen Zi	Fructus Ligustri Lucidi
Shi Hu	Herba Denbrobii

#### Brightening eyesight and clearing away liver fire

Chinese pin yin	Pharmaceutical name
Che Qian Zi	Semen Plantaginis
Gou Qi Zi	Fructus Lycii
Gu Jing Cao	Flos Eriocauli
Jue Ming Zi	Semen Cassiae
Ju Hua	Flos Chrysanthemi
Man Jing Zi	Fructus viticis
Mi Meng Hua	Flos Buddlejae
Mu Zei	Herba Equiseti Hiemalis
Nu Zhen Zi	Fructus Ligustri Lucidi
Qin Pi	Cortex Fraxini
Qing Xiang Zi	Semen Selosiae
Sang Ye	Folium Mori
Xia Ku Cao	Spica Prunellae
Shi Jue Ming	Concha Haliotidis
Zhen Zhu Mu	Concha Margaritifera Usta

This list formed the basis of a survey we distributed to TM practitioners in Australia, Canada, USA and the UK. For each herb the respondent was asked to indicate how often they use the herb for the given action or indication. They were given a choice of three responses:

- 1. Never
- 2. Sometimes
- 3. Often

In total 190 surveys have been returned to WSPA, on behalf of individual practitioners and larger TM associations, the results are summarised in the following four sections of this report. Please also see the Request for Feedback section where practitioners can provide much needed comment and information. This will form the basis of further important research into herbal alternatives to bear bile.

Often

No Answer

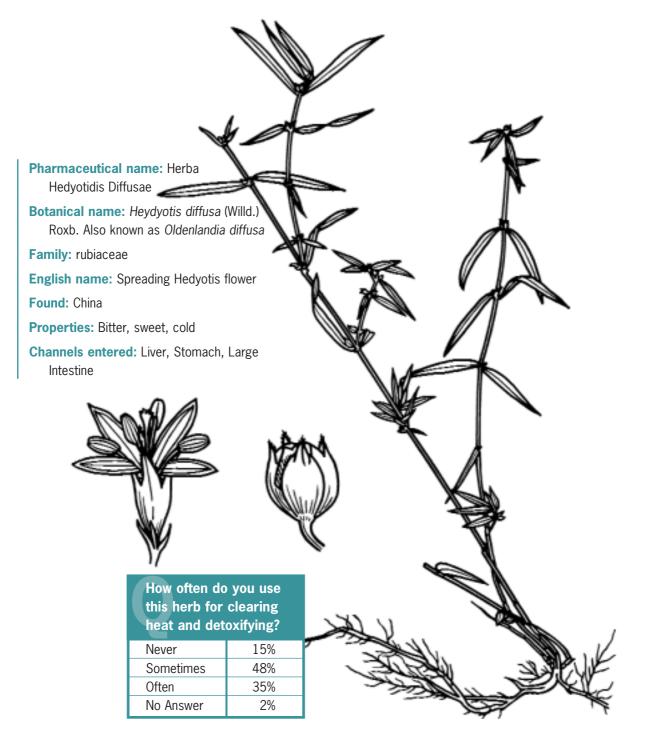
#### Clearing Heat and Detoxifying

#### Ban Bian Lian Pharmaceutical name: Herba Lobeliae Chinensis cum Radice Botanical name: Lobelia chinensis Lour. Family: campanulaceae English name: Chinese Lobelia herb Found: China **Properties:** Sweet neutral Channels entered: Heart, Lung, Small Intestine How often do you use this herb for clearing heat and detoxifying? Never 36% Sometimes 55%

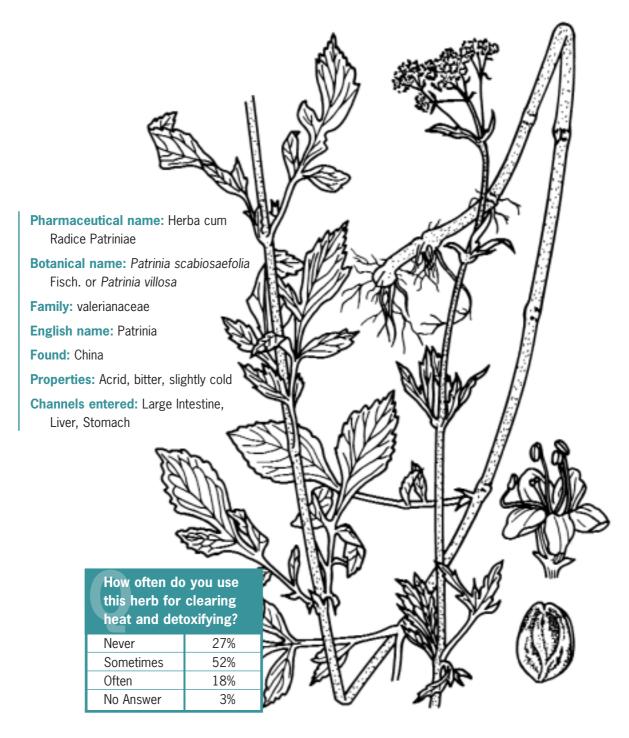
8%

1%

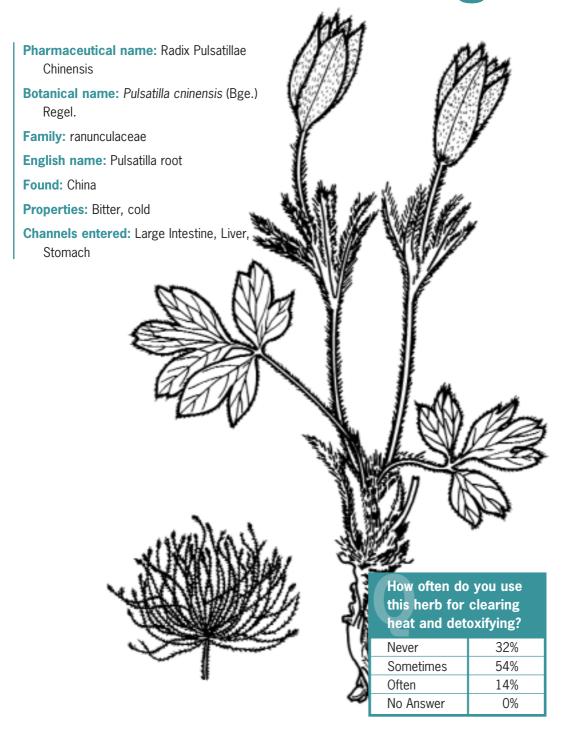
# Bai Hua She She Cao



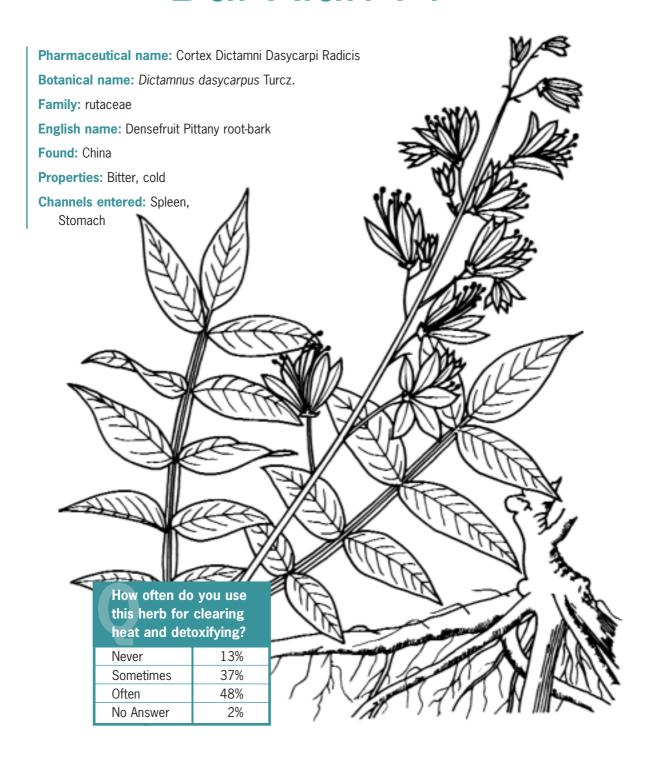
# Bai Jiang Cao



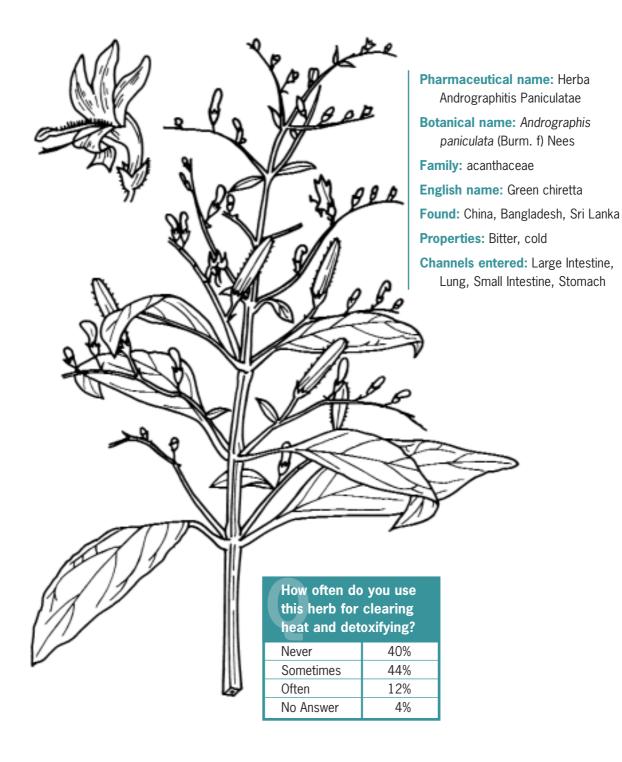
# Bai Tou Weng



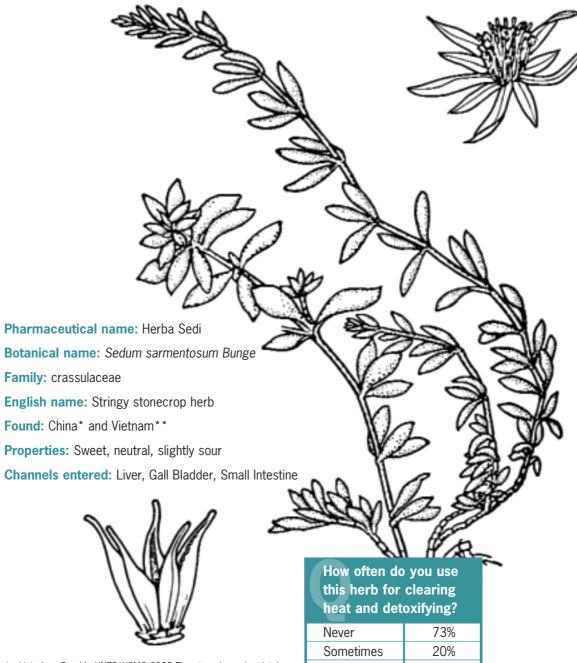
## Bai Xian Pi



# Chuan Xin Lian

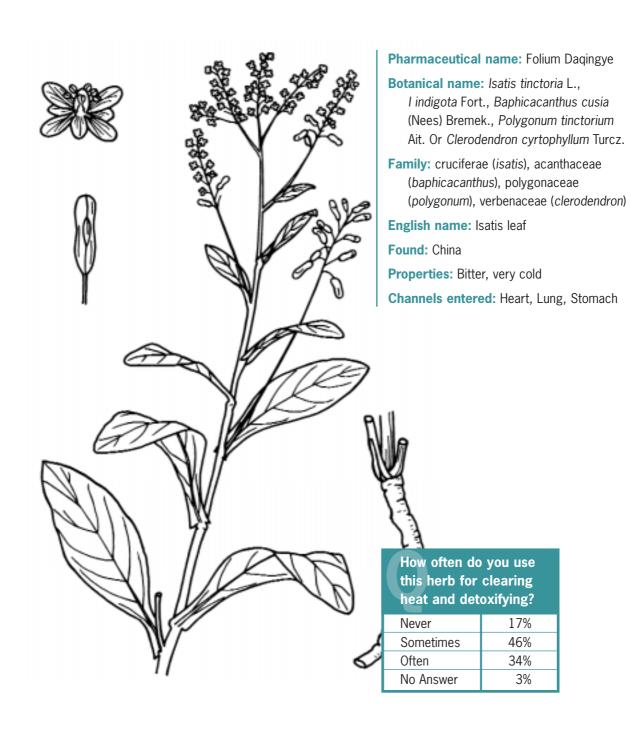


# Chui Pen Cao



- \* Listed as 'Rare' in UNEP-WCMC 2005 Threatened species database
- \*\* Listed as 'Endangered' in UNEP-WCMC 2005 Threatened species database

# Da Qing Ye



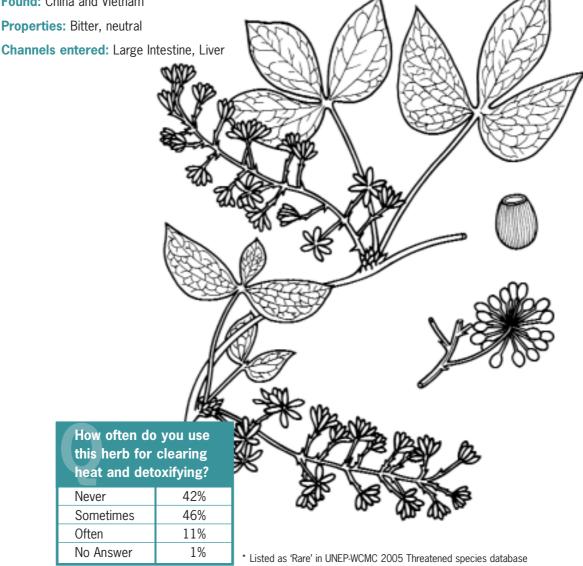
# Hong Teng

Pharmaceutical name: Caulis Sargentodoxae Cuneatae Botanical name: Sargentodoxa cuneata (Oliv.) Rehd.

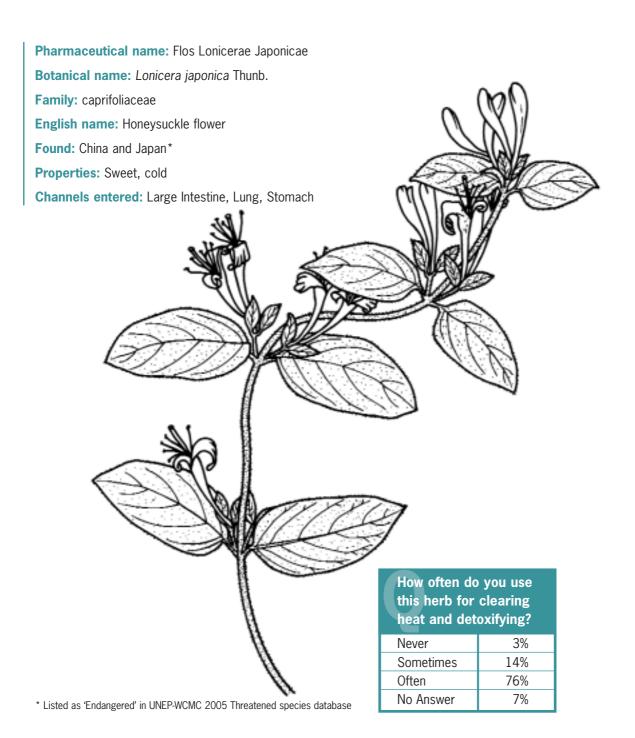
Family: lardizabalaceae

English name: Sargentgloryvine

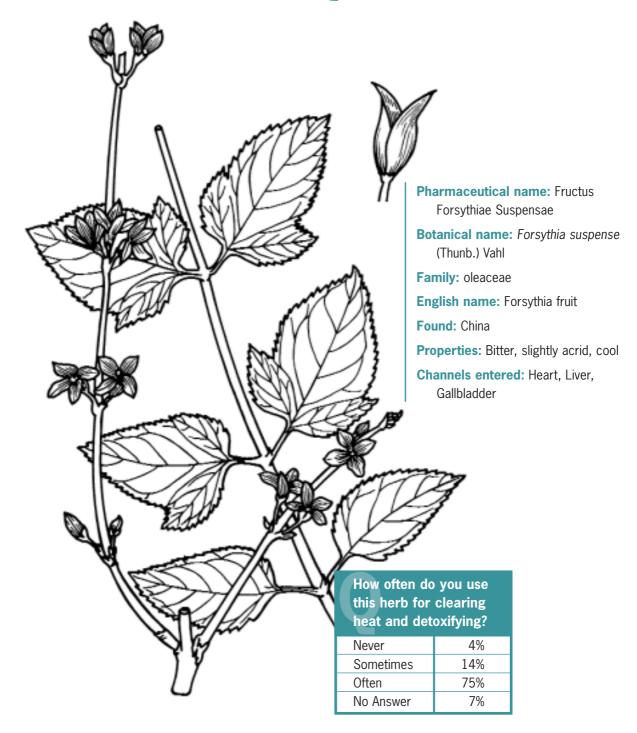




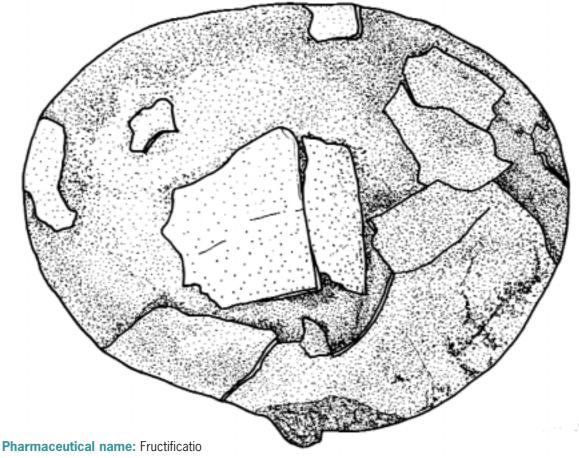
# Jin Yin Hua



# Lian Qiao



# Ma Bo



Lasiosphaerae seu Calvatiae

Botanical name: Lasiosphaera fenslii Reich.,

L. nipponica (Kawam.) Y. Kobayashi, Calvatia gigantean (Batsch ex Pers.),

or C. lilacina (Mont. et Berk)

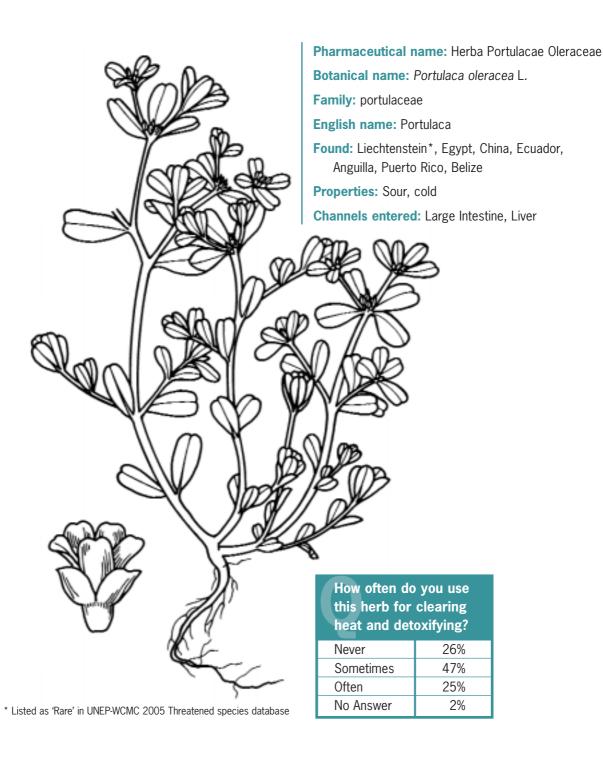
Family: lycoperdaceae
English name: Puff-ball

Found: China

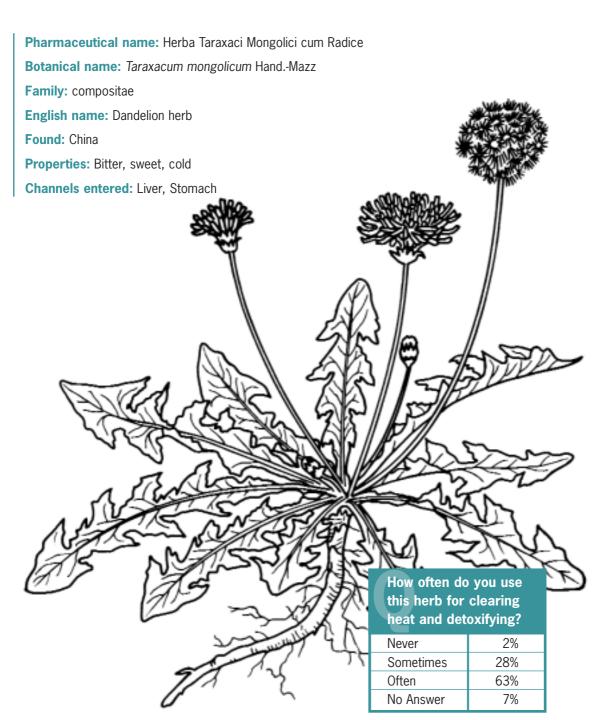
**Properties:** Acrid, neutral **Channels entered:** Lung

How often do you use this herb for clearing heat and detoxifying?		
Never	57%	
Sometimes	35%	
Often	8%	
No Answer	0%	

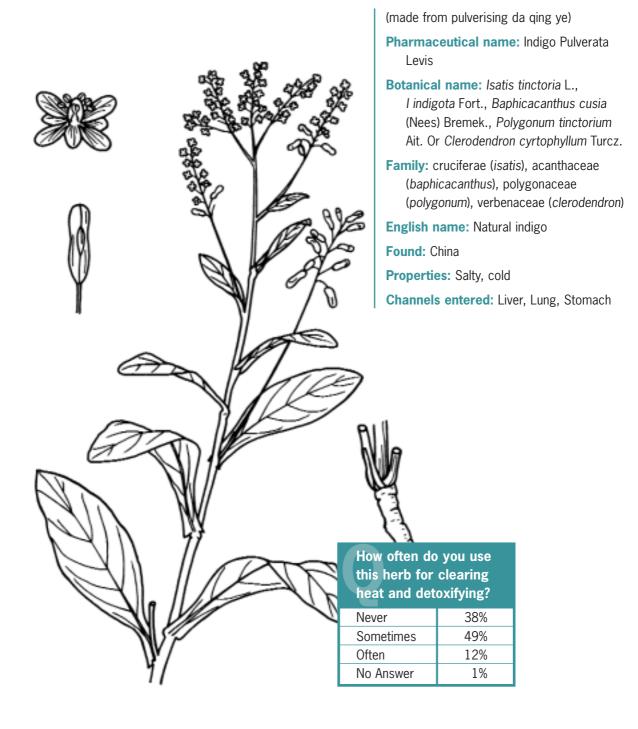
## Ma Chi Xian



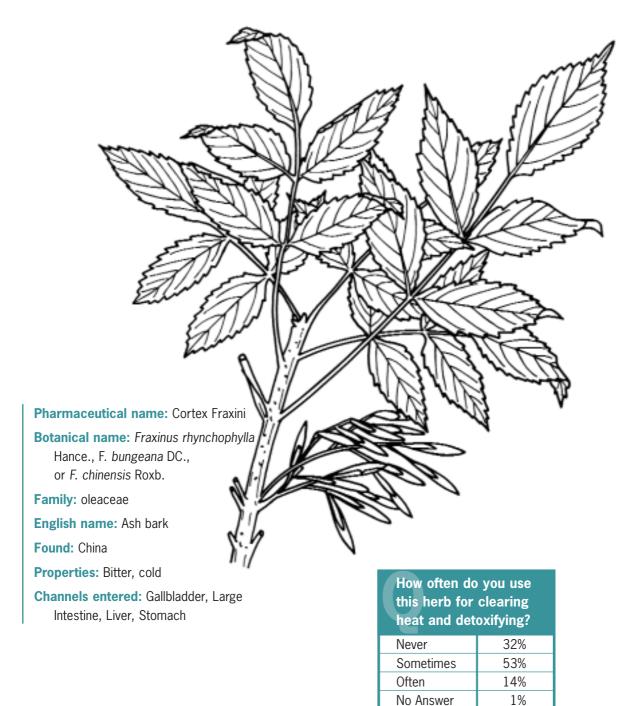
# Pu Gong Ying



# Qing Dai



# Qin Pi



# Shan Dou Gen



Pharmaceutical name: Radix Sophorae

**Tonkinensis** 

Botanical name: Sophora tonkinensis Gapnep.

Family: leguminosae

**English name:** Subprostrate Sophora root

Found: China and Vietnam Properties: Bitter, cold

Channels entered: Large Intestine, Lung

Often

No Answer

10%

1%

# World Society for the Protection of Animals —— Finding Alternatives to bear bile

# She Gan

Pharmaceutical name: Rhizoma Belamcandae

Chinensis

Botanical name: Belamcanda chinensis (L.) DC.

Family: iridaceae

English name: Belamcanda rhizome

Found: Russia, China, India, Vietnam and Japan.

**Properties:** Bitter, cold **Channels entered:** Lung



How often do you use this herb for clearing heat and detoxifying?

Never	31%
Sometimes	52%
Often	16%
No Answer	1%

Thunb.

#### Clearing Heat and Detoxifying

#### Yu Xing Cao Pharmaceutical name: Herba cum Radice Houttuyniae Cordatae Botanical name: Hottuynia cordata Family: saururaceae English name: Houttuynia Found: China and Korea\* How often do you use Properties: Acrid, cool this herb for clearing heat and detoxifying? Channels entered: Large Intestine, Lung Never 13%

Sometimes

No Answer

Often

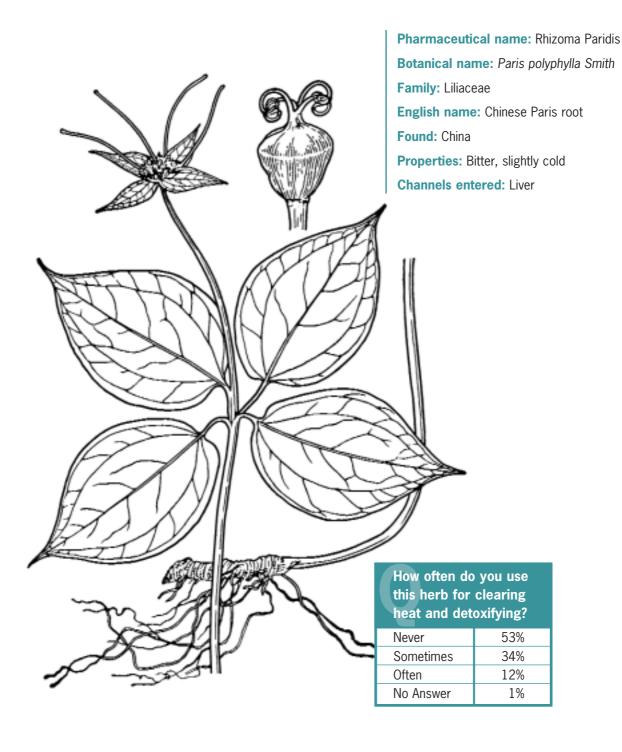
38%

45%

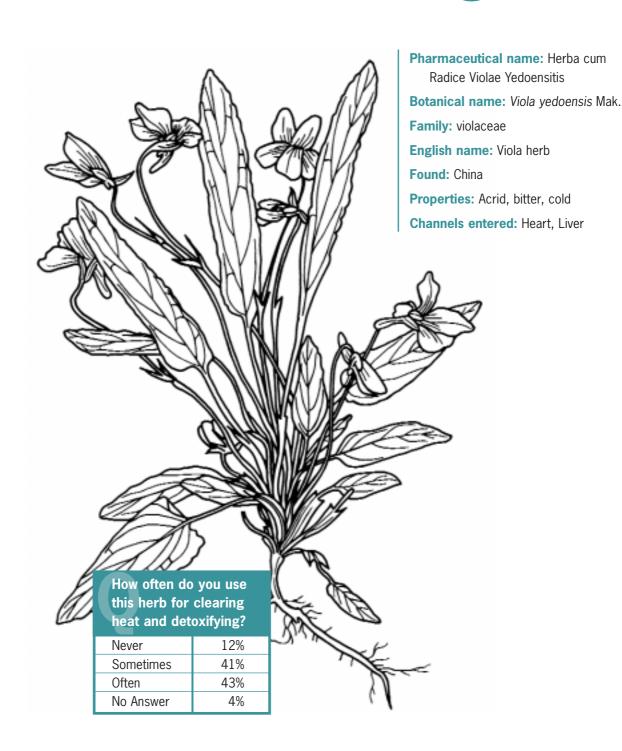
4%

<sup>\*</sup>Listed as 'Rare' in UNEP-WCMC 2005 Threatened species database

# Zao Xiu/Chonglou



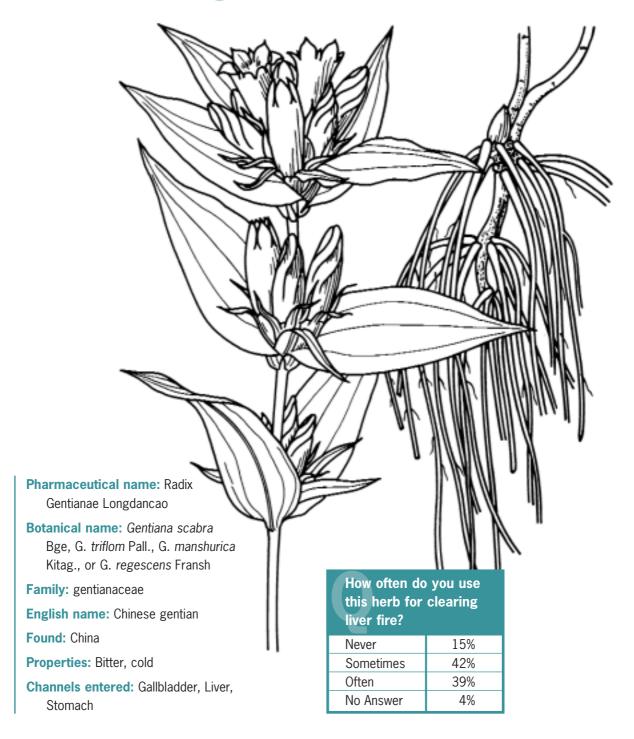
# Zi Hua Di Ding



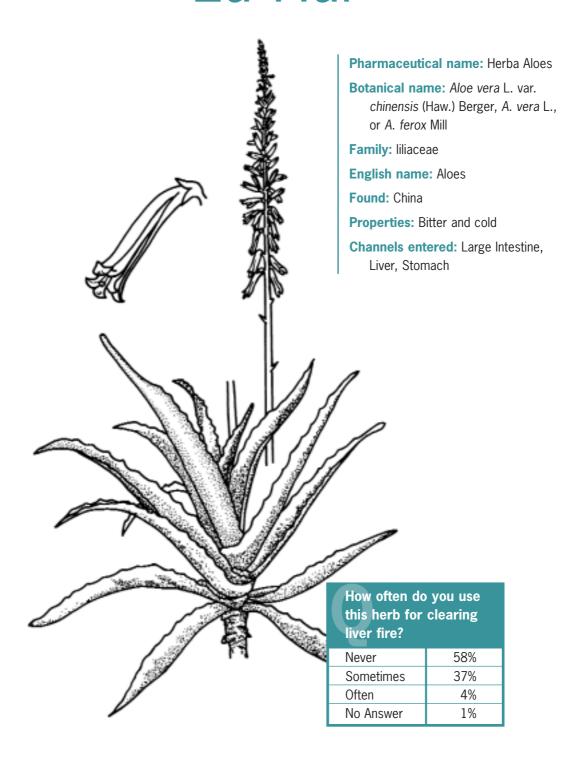
# Clearing Liver Fire

#### Clearing Liver Fire

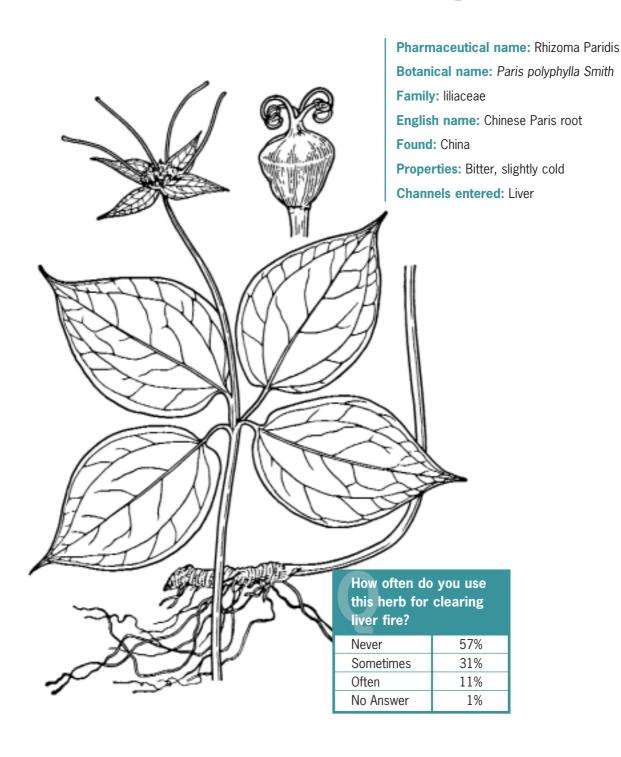
# Long Dan Cao



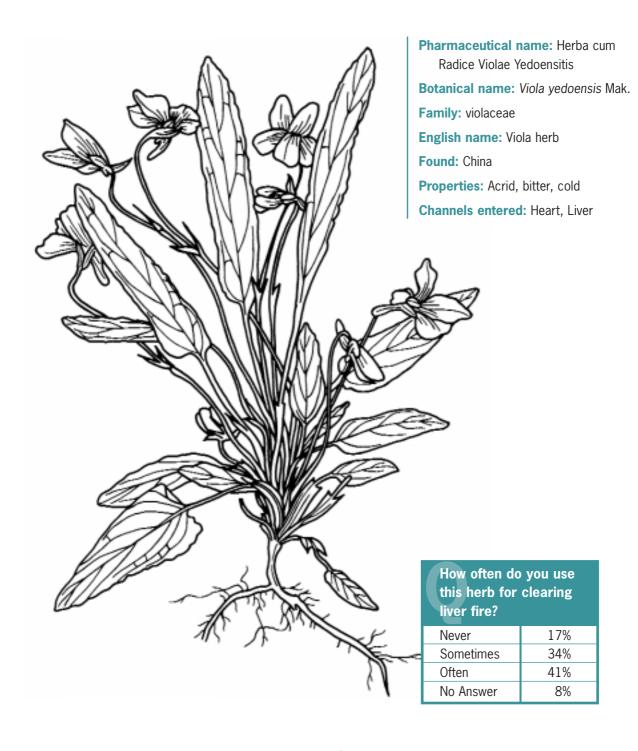
# Lu Hui



# Zao Xiu/Chonglou



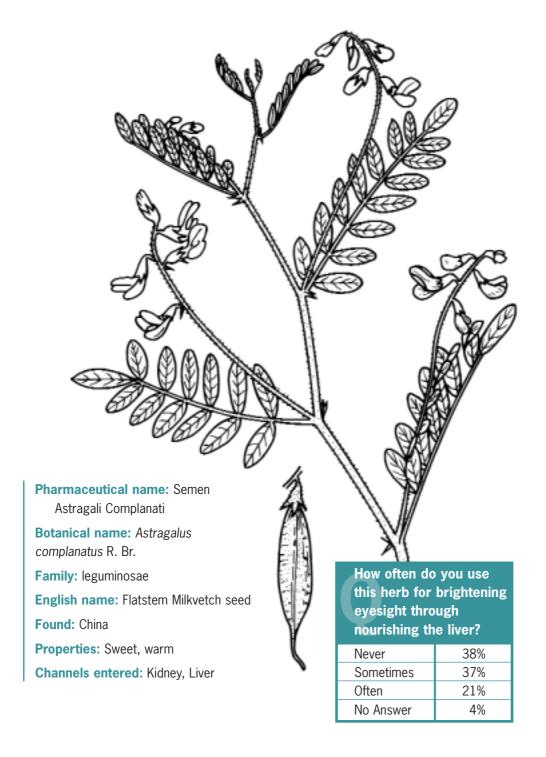
# Zi Hua Di Ding



# Brightening Eyesight Through Nourishing the Liver

# Brightening Eyesight Through Nourishing the Liver

### Sha Yuan Zi



# Brightening Eyesight Through Nourishing the Liver

## Gou Qi Zi



Pharmaceutical name: Fructus Lycii Botanical name: Lycium barbarum L.

or L. chinense Mill.

Family: solanaceae

English name: Barbary Wolfberry fruit

Found: China

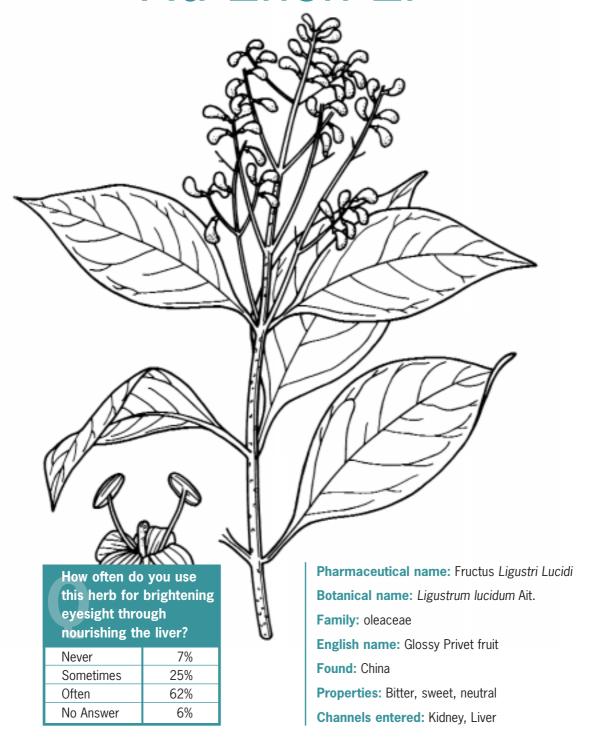
Properties: Sweet, neutral

Channels entered: Liver, Lung, Kidney

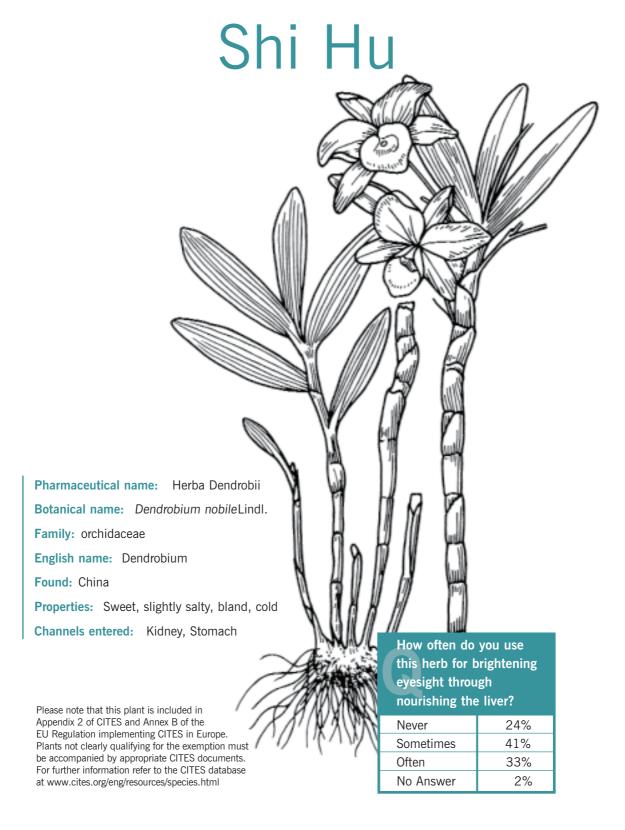
How often do you use this herb for brightening eyesight through nourishing the liver?

Never	3%
Sometimes	14%
Often	74%
No Answer	9%

### Nu Zhen Zi



## Brightening Eyesight Through Nourishing the Liver



## Che Qian Zi



How often do you use this herb for brightening eyesight and clearing away liver fire?

unity into into		
Never	12%	
Sometimes	36%	
Often	47%	
No Answer	5%	

Pharmaceutical name: Semen Plantaginis

Botanical name: Plantago asiatica L. or P. depressa Wild.

Family: plantaginaceae

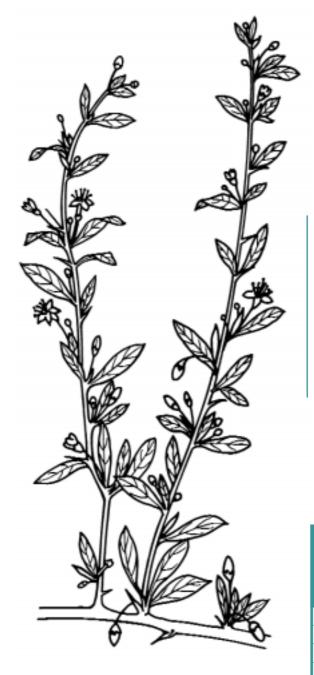
English name: Plantain seed

Found: China

Properties: Sweet, cold

Channels entered: Bladder, Kidney, Liver, Lung

# Gou Qi Zi



Pharmaceutical name: Fructus Lycii

Botanical name: Lycium barbarum L.

or L. chinense Mill.

Family: solanaceae

English name: Barbary Wolfberry fruit

Found: China

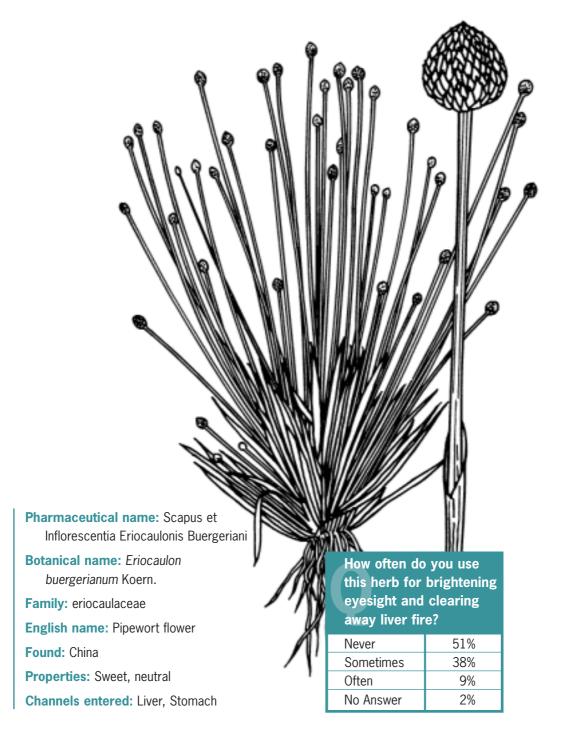
**Properties:** Sweet, neutral

Channels entered: Liver, Lung, Kidney

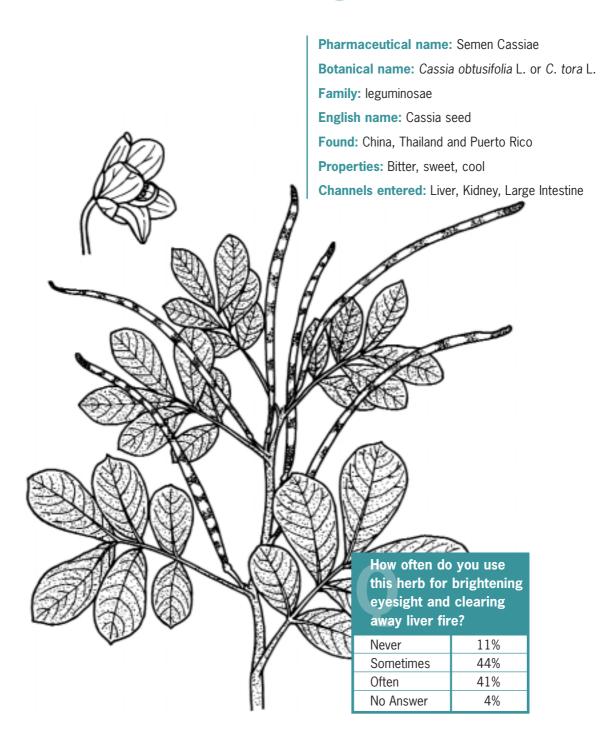
How often do you use this herb for brightening eyesight and clearing away liver fire?

Never	6%
Sometimes	16%
Often	68%
No Answer	10%

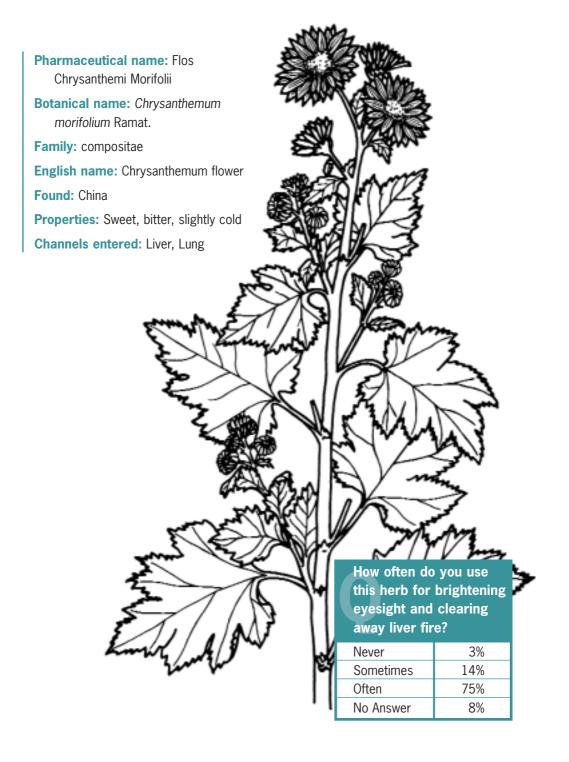
## Gu Jing Cao



## Jue Ming Zi



### Ju Hua



## Man Jing Zi



Pharmaceutical name: Fructus

Viticis

Botanical name: Vitex rotundifolia L.

or V. trifolia L.

Family: verbenaceae

English name: Shrub Chastetree fruit

**Found:** China and Singapore **Properties:** Bitter, acrid, cool

Channels entered: Bladder, Liver,

Stomach

## Mi Meng Hua



Pharmaceutical name: Flos Buddleiae Officinalis

**Immaturis** 

Botanical name: Buddleia officinalis Maxim.

Family: loganiaceae

English name: Pale Butterflybush flower

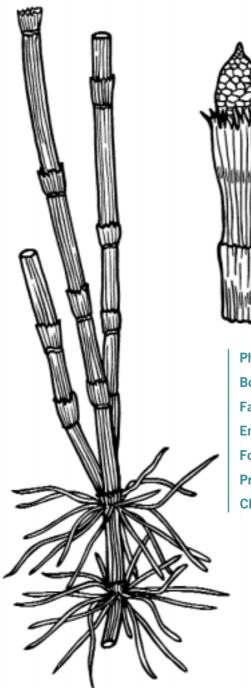
Found: China

**Properties:** Sweet, cool **Channels entered:** Liver

How often do you use this herb for brightening eyesight and clearing away liver fire?

Never	46%
Sometimes	44%
Often	8%
No Answer	2%

### Mu Zei



\*Listed as 'Rare' in UNEP-WCMC 2005 Threatened species database

Pharmaceutical name: Herba Equiseti Hiemalis

Botanical name: Equisetum hiemale L.

Family: equisetaceae

English name: Common scouring rush herb

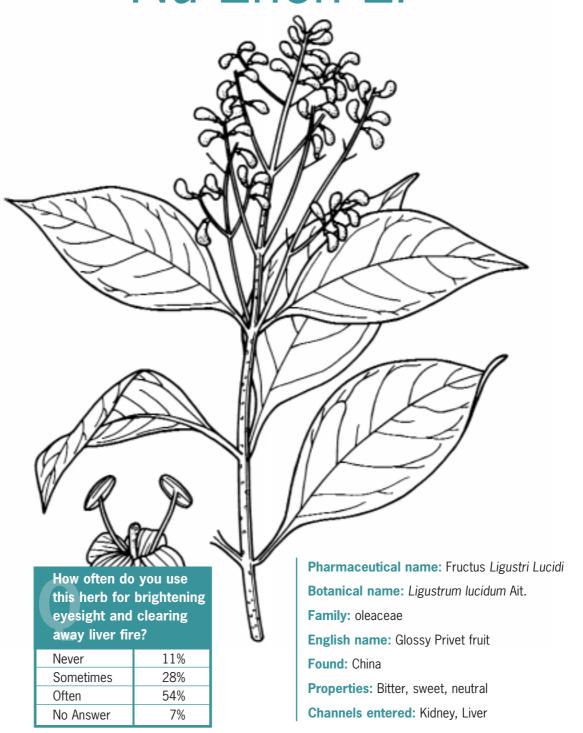
Found: China, Russia\*, Hungary\*, Liechtenstein\*

**Properties:** Sweet, bitter, neutral **Channels entered:** Liver, Lung

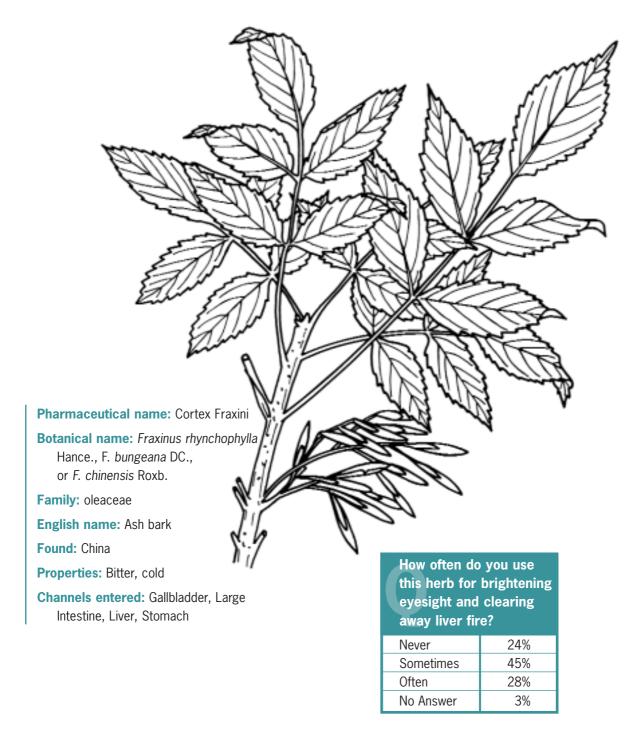
How often do this herb for eyesight and away liver fir	brightening clearing
Never	51%

Never	51%
Sometimes	37%
Often	12%
No Answer	0%

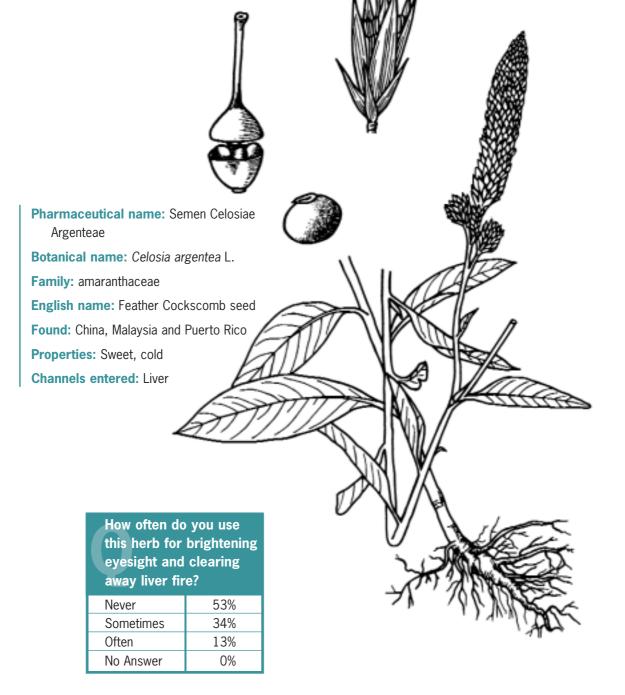
### Nu Zhen Zi

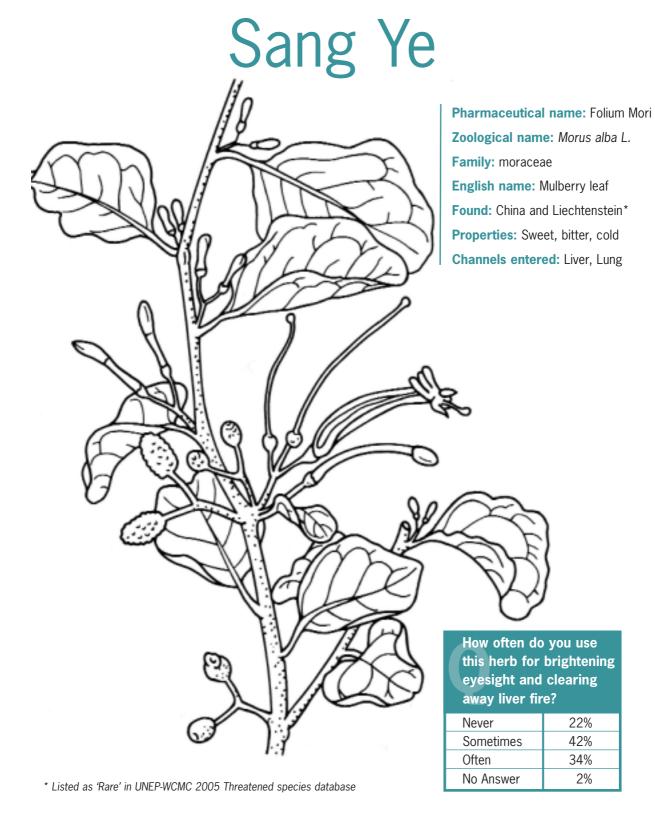


## Qin Pi



## Qing Xiang Zi





## Xia Ku Cao



Pharmaceutical name: Spica Prunellae Vulgaris

Botanical name: Prunella vulgaris L.

Family: labiatae

English name: Common selfheal fruit-spike

Found: China

Properties: Bitter, acrid, cold

Channels entered: Gallbladder, Liver

How often do you use this herb for brightening eyesight and clearing away liver fire?		
Never	7%	
Sometimes	32%	
Often 55%		
No Answer 6%		



# Shi Jue Ming



Pharmaceutical name: Concha Haliotidis

**Zoological name:** Haliotis diversicolor Reeve or H. gigantean discuss Reeve

Family: haliotidae

English name: Sea-ear shell

Found: Off coast of China and cultivated

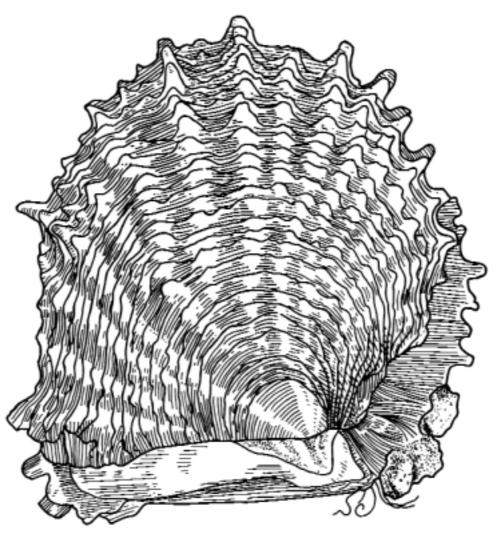
Properties: Salty, cold

Channels entered: Kidney, Liver

How often do you use this herb for brightening eyesight and clearing away liver fire?

Never	21%
Sometimes	42%
Often	27%
No Answer	0%

## Zhen Zhu Mu



How often do you use this herb for brightening eyesight and clearing away liver fire?

away liver fire?		
Never	32%	
Sometimes	48%	
Often	17%	
No Answer	3%	

Pharmaceutical name: Concha Margaritaferae

Zoological name: Pteria margaritifera (L.)

Family: pteriidae (pteria), unionidae (hydiposis, cristaria)

English name: Nacre

Found: China and cultivated

Properties: Sweet, salty, cold

Channels entered: Heart and Liver

#### Request for feedback

We need your help. The results of this survey are informative but we need to do more to compile a definitive list of herbal alternatives to bear bile. Most importantly we need input and feedback from the Traditional Medicine community.

All of your comments are welcome but below are a number of specific questions:

Do you know of any other actions or indications for bear bile?

Are there any other herbs you know of that could be added to one of the four lists in the survey?

Do you feel any of the herbs listed should not be included? If so, why?

Could you make a statement either personally or on behalf of your organisation in support of WSPA's campaign?

In the following pages there are 'Feedback Forms' where you can answer the questions listed above and make any other comments. You can fill them out, along with any other comments, and post it to the relevant WSPA office. Alternatively, you can request an electronic form from your relevant WSPA office to complete and return by email.

For both postal and email addresses please see the 'Contact Us' section.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this report and for any feedback you can provide.

# World Society for the Protection of Animals —— Request for feedback

### **Contact Details**

Name		
Organisation		
Address		
Telephone		
Email		

### Request for feedback

Do you know of any other actions or indications for bear bile?		

# Are there any other herbs you know of that could be added to one of the four lists in the survey?

#### Clearing heat and detoxifying

Chinese pin yin	Pharmaceutical name

#### Clearing liver fire

Chinese pin yin	Pharmaceutical name

### Request for feedback

#### Brightening eyesight through nourishing the liver

Chinese pin yin	Pharmaceutical name

#### Brightening eyesight and clearing away liver fire

Chinese pin yin	Pharmaceutical name

Do you feel any of the herbs listed should not be included? If so, why?

### Request for feedback

Could you make a statement either personally or on behalf of your organisation in support of WSPA's campaign?

#### Contact us

#### For enquiries and feedback in the US contact:

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E-mail: wspa@wspausa.org

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E-mail: wspa@wspa.org.au

#### For all other enquiries and feedback contact:

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E-mail: wspa@wspa-international.org

In its campaign to bring and end to bear farming, WSPA recognises that herbal alternatives to bear bile need to be identified. With this in mind we are now in the process of identifying both individual herbs and herbal formulas that are known to have the same properties or effects as bear bile. As we work to do this, WSPA strongly believes that collaboration with the Traditional Medicine community is essential.