## Finding Herbal Alternatives to bear bile



#### Contents

About us04
Traditional Medicine and bear bile05
Finding alternatives to bear bile08
Results:
Clearing Heat and Detoxifying
• Clearing Liver Fire
• Brightening Eyesight Through Nourishing the Liver38
• Brightening Eyesight and Clearing Away Liver Fire43
Request for feedback
Contact us

#### © WSPA 2005

The illustrations and descriptions of the materia medica used in this article are drawn from *Chinese Herbal Medicine: Materia Medica* (3rd Edition) and are copyrighted. They are reprinted here by permission of the publisher,

Eastland Press, Inc., P.O. Box 99749, Seattle, WA 98139, USA.

#### 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

7

#### 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	

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	

#### Brightening eyesight and clearing away liver fire

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.

- 11 ------



World Society for the Protection of Animals ---- Clearing Heat and Detoxifying

## Bai Hua She She Cao



## Bai Jiang Cao



- 14 -



-15-

## Bai Xian Pi



## Chuan Xin Lian

- 17 -----



Andrographitis Paniculatae **Botanical name:** Andrographis

paniculata (Burm. f) Nees

Family: acanthaceae

English name: Green chiretta

Found: China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

Properties: Bitter, cold

Channels entered: Large Intestine, Lung, Small Intestine, Stomach

## Chui Pen Cao



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

Never	73%
Sometimes	20%
Often	2%
No Answer	5%

# Da Qing Ye



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

## Hong Teng

Pharmaceutical name: Caulis Sargentodoxae Cuneatae Botanical name: Sargentodoxa cuneata (Oliv.) Rehd. Family: lardizabalaceae English name: Sargentgloryvine Found: China and Vietnam\* Properties: Bitter, neutral Channels entered: Large Intestine, Liver

name. Sargenigion	VIIIE				1
China and Vietnam*			A		120
ties: Bitter, neutral		NOLA	LOA	A	(XX)
els entered: Large Ir	ntestine. Liver	$\mathcal{O}\mathcal{M}$	ALA	ATA)	ALL AN
	mma	PCIN	(FA)	RHED	1259 -
	No al		129	NSSA.	De sol
	VA F OF	8-2-2-Z			CEST -
	and la	STED -	/ \\	SI -	(BEE)
	Strate and a state of the state				
	EK	SA 17	N.		$\sim$
	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		. <b>3</b> 30		0
	84	"Way		7/	
		90	⇙ᠫ᠕᠓	B	CONTROL OF
	CED.	A 9	R 4		
	13330		Mi		
	CROOL		T		
		and the second s	/	8 R.	
		71 - T		- NA	
		¥ 237		X	800
		KS)		11ª	0 0
		De la		•	
		300 F ( )	BINT		
How often do				BION A	
this herb for		** ~~	LSC E	ray b	,
heat and det	oxifying?				
Never	42%	6	F 168 1	KX C	
Sometimes	46%	~~	~ (	00 000	
Often	11%				
No Answer	1%	* Listed as 'Rare' i	n UNEP-WCMC 2005	5 Threatened speci	es database

## Jin Yin Hua



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

Lian Qiao



## Ma Bo

Pharmaceutical name: Fructificatio Lasiosphaerae seu Calvatiae Botanical name: Lasiosphaera fenslii Reich., L. nipponica (Kawam.) Y. Kobayashi, Calvatia gigantean (Batsch ex Pers.), How often do you use or C. lilacina (Mont. et Berk) this herb for clearing Family: lycoperdaceae heat and detoxifying? English name: Puff-ball Never 57% Found: China Sometimes 35% Properties: Acrid, neutral Often 8% No Answer 0% Channels entered: Lung

- 23 -

## Ma Chi Xian



# Pu Gong Ying

Pharmaceutical name: Herba Taraxaci Mongolici cum Radice Botanical name: Taraxacum mongolicum Hand.-Mazz Family: compositae English name: Dandelion herb Found: China Properties: Bitter, sweet, cold Channels entered: Liver, Stomach How often do you use this herb for clearing heat and detoxifying? Never 2% Sometimes 28% Often 63% No Answer 7%

- 25 —

# Qing Dai



Pharmaceutical name: Indigo Pulverata Levis

Botanical name: Isatis tinctoria L., I indigota Fort., Baphicacanthus cusia (Nees) Bremek., Polygonum tinctorium Ait. Or Clerodendron cyrtophyllum Turcz.

Family: cruciferae (*isatis*), acanthaceae (*baphicacanthus*), polygonaceae (*polygonum*), verbenaceae (*clerodendron*)

English name: Natural indigo

Found: China

Properties: Salty, cold

Channels entered: Liver, Lung, Stomach

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

Never	38%
Sometimes	49%
Often	12%
No Answer	1%

World Society for the Protection of Animals ---- Clearing Heat and Detoxifying



- 27 —

Never	32%
Sometimes	53%
Often	14%
No Answer	1%

## Shan Dou Gen



World Society for the Protection of Animals ---- Clearing Heat and Detoxifying

# 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

e Belamcanda rhizome			Л	A	A
China, India, Vietnam	and Japan.	C A			///
er, cold				av/m	1/1
red: Lung How often do	you use				
this herb for			33584700	T MA	
heat and det		Z		C ANNI	1
Never	31%	~ 1000	ALL AL	10000	
Sometimes	52%				
Often	16%				
No Answer	1%	1			



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

## Zao Xiu/Chonglou

Pharmaceutical name: Rhizoma Paridis

Botanical name: Paris polyphylla Smith Family: Liliaceae English name: Chinese Paris root Found: China Properties: Bitter, slightly cold Channels entered: Liver How often do you use this herb for clearing heat and detoxifying? 53% Never Sometimes 34% Often 12% No Answer 1%

# Zi Hua Di Ding



Clearing Liver Fire

– 33 ———

#### **Clearing Liver Fire**

## Long Dan Cao



## Lu Hui



#### **Clearing Liver Fire**

# Zao Xiu/Chonglou



- 36 —

World Society for the Protection of Animals ----- Clearing Liver Fire

## Zi Hua Di Ding

Pharmaceutical name: Herba cum Radice Violae Yedoensitis
Botanical name: Viola yedoensis Mak.
Family: violaceae
English name: Viola herb
Found: China
Properties: Acrid, bitter, cold
Channels entered: Heart, Liver

How often do this herb for liver fire?	
Never	17%
Sometimes	34%
Often	41%
No Answer	8%

World Society for the Protection of Animals — Finding Alternatives to bear bile
Brightening Eyesight Through Nourishing the Liver

### Brightening Eyesight Through Nourishing the Liver

## Sha Yuan Zi



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

### Brightening Eyesight Through Nourishing the Liver



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%



#### Brightening Eyesight Through Nourishing the Liver

Shi Hu

Pharmaceutical name: Herba Dendrobii

Botanical name: Dendrobium nobileLindl.

Family: orchidaceae

English name: Dendrobium

Found: China

Properties: Sweet, slightly salty, bland, cold

Channels entered: Kidney, Stomach

Please note that this plant is included in Appendix 2 of CITES and Annex B of the EU Regulation implementing CITES in Europe. Plants not clearly qualifying for the exemption must be accompanied by appropriate CITES documents. For further information refer to the CITES database at www.cites.org/eng/resources/species.html How often do you use this herb for brightening eyesight through nourishing the liver?

Never	24%
Sometimes	41%
Often	33%
No Answer	2%

## Che Qian Zi



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

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%	



# Jue Ming Zi

Botanical name: Cassia obtusifolia L. or C. tora L. Family: leguminosae English name: Cassia seed Found: China, Thailand and Puerto Rico Properties: Bitter, sweet, cool Channels entered: Liver, Kidney, Large Intestine

Pharmaceutical name: Semen Cassiae



- 47 —

## Ju Hua



# Man Jing Zi



## Mi Meng Hua



Immaturis Botanical name: Buddleia officinalis Maxim.

Family: loganiaceae

English name: Pale Butterflybush flower

Found: China

Properties: Sweet, cool

Channels entered: Liver

away liver fire?

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

# Mu Zei



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 you use this herb for brightening eyesight and clearing away liver fire?		
	Never	51%	
	Sometimes	37%	
	Often	12%	
-	No Answer	0%	

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

- 51 ----



Nu Zhen Zi Pharmaceutical name: Fructus Ligustri Lucidi How often do you use Botanical name: Ligustrum lucidum Ait. this herb for brightening eyesight and clearing Family: oleaceae away liver fire? English name: Glossy Privet fruit Never 11% Found: China Sometimes 28% Properties: Bitter, sweet, neutral Often 54% Channels entered: Kidney, Liver

7%

No Answer



Qing Xiang Zi



# Sang Ye

Pharmaceutical name: Folium Mori Zoological name: Morus alba L. Family: moraceae English name: Mulberry leaf Found: China and Liechtenstein\* Properties: Sweet, bitter, cold Channels entered: Liver, Lung

Ç	L X X	(II)
	K	Y

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

Never	22%
Sometimes	42%
Often	34%
No Answer	2%

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

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

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%





Channels entered: Kidney, Liver

Finding Alternatives to bear bile

World Society for the Protection of Animals

## Zhen Zhu Mu



How often do you use this herb for brightening eyesight and clearing 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.

### **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

Pharmaceutical name

-63 —

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



— 64 ——

### **Request for feedback**

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

— 65 ——

#### Contact us

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

WSPA USA 89 South Street, Suite 201 Boston, MA 02111 USA Phone: +1 617 896 9214 Fax: +1 617 737 4404 E-mail: wspa@wspausa.org

#### For enquiries and feedback in Canada contact:

WSPA CANADA 90 Eglinton Avenue East Suite 960 Toronto Ontario M4P 2Y3 Phone: +1 416 369 0044 Fax: +1 416 369 0147 E-mail: wspa@wspa.ca

#### For enquiries and feedback in Australia contact:

WSPA AUSTRALIA Suite 1 2 Northcote Street St Leonards NSW 2065 Phone: +61 2 9902 8000 Fax: +61 2 9906 1166 E-mail: wspa@wspa.org.au

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

WSPA INTERNATIONAL 89 Albert Embankment London SE1 7TP United Kingdom Phone: +44 (0)20 7587 5000 Fax: +44 (0)20 7793 0208 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.