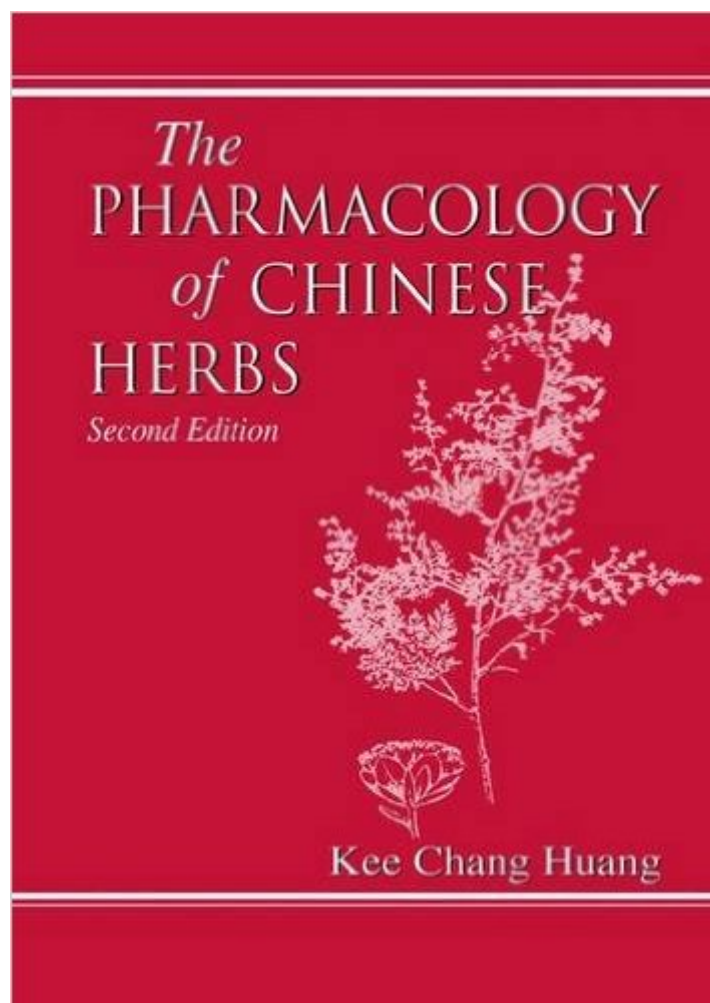


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# The Pharmacology Of Chinese Herbs, Second Edition



## Synopsis

Records cataloging the healing powers of natural substances - plants, minerals, and animal byproducts - date back more than 4,000 years. There is no denying the effectiveness of traditional Chinese medicine, yet - until recently - the roots of this knowledge were largely lost in superstition and folklore. However, the use of herbs as an alternative medical treatment for many illnesses has increased steadily over the last decade, particularly since such herbs are categorized as "Natural Food Products" and are not yet subject to strict control by the FDA. Reports published in 1996 indicate that more than 10% of the US population has used herbal remedies. This book does not debate the value of Eastern or Western medicine but brings together Chinese herbal lore and Western scientific methods in a current, comprehensive treatise on the pharmacology of Chinese herbs. This second edition of *The Pharmacology of Chinese Herbs* presents the chemical composition, pharmacological action, toxicity, and therapeutic value of 473 herbs. The book:

- Classifies herbs according to their therapeutic value
- Informs how active ingredients in herbs may adversely interact with other herbs or drugs
- Evaluates which herbs have the potential for more investigation and possible use as drugs
- Describes the pharmacological action of each herb based on recent scientific study and describes each herb according to Chinese pharmacopoeia and folk medicine
- Provides a review of Chinese medical history
- Presents information on how to use modern chemical techniques for enhancing or modifying herbal ingredients into better agents with more strength and activity

**What's New in the Second Edition**

- Discussions on:
  - Herbs and their specific effects on the immune system
  - Herbs and fertility/infertility
  - Anti-cancer herbs
  - Anti-HIV herbs
  - Anti-malarial herbs
  - Ginseng and ginsenosides
  - Anti-Alzheimer herbs
  - Herbs affecting the nervous system

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a Ph.D. student in biochemistry I have sought out critical references that would be accurate and legitimate treatises on the biochemistry and pharmacology of herbs. If one is truly interested in understanding the biochemistry and pharmacology of Chinese herbs, then this is the reference to purchase. Very intelligently presented in a concise scientific journal format, presenting critical and relevant studies on the herbs as they are currently understood with many references to the original research papers. I would certainly purchase other titles similar to this if their coverage of other herbs (e.g. South American, Ayurvedic) were as comprehensive, relevant, and credible as this one. Not for the herbologist interested in a hokey metaphysical distortion of truth. Ideal for the intelligent and/or educated layman that really wants to know what compounds are present in various Chinese herbs and what their activities are. Pitfalls: Some listings are very brief (less than a page) For instance the discussion of *Centella asiatica* is only 1/2 page and listed under antipyretic herbs and makes no mention of nootropic effects if they, in fact, exist-Nobody's perfect.

Very outstanding among the books on chinese herbs written in English (to be fair, many better books in Chinese exist but not well translated!) Starting from the chemistry and ending with the toxicology, each important herbs included are presented in a well-balanced format; the therapeutic values are thus projected clearly on the empirical grounds. The new edition is an updated gist of those related scientific works done but could not be tracked on the great MedLine due to the language barrier.

I keep checking Dr Huang's text out from our school library and photocopying different chapters. I nearly have enough to bind for my own private copy. (Is this a copyright infringement?) This book is truly an AMAZING compendium of information. I would spring for the hefty price had not a full 25 years passed since its publication. I know of nothing else even close to it in English language publishing. (If you do, please tell me!) Here is a sample of some of the fascinating (and potentially clinically useful) factoids (that you will find nowhere else, at least in the English language, to my knowledge) I especially appreciated: Yi Mu Cao Small doses stimulate the heart; Large doses will "inhibit" it. Dang Gui Water-soluble and nonvolatile components cause stimulation; Alcohol-soluble

components relax the uterus. Du Zhong In low doses it dilates peripheral blood vessels; In high doses it causes VASOCONSTRICTION. Ju Hua Alcohol-based extract has antihypertensive effect; Water-based extract DOES NOT Wu Wei Zi Antagonizes the CNS effects of caffeine And, oh, there is so much more. Dr Huang, maybe we could all get together and CROWD SOURCE funding for you to produce a 2015 edition? (Hey, they did it for the Halloween parade.)

Frightfully expensive. I can't believe I paid that much. I have owned this book for more than a decade. Its worth has proven invaluable. I only wish there was a third edition on the way as surely more research has been done on traditional Chinese pharmacopeia. Wow wouldn't it be wonderful to have a version of this book dealing with both Ayur-Veda and Jamu (Java) pharmacopeia

I'm shipping this book back. It isn't worth the price tag given the info it provides. It is basically a regurgitation of pubmed.com research and abstracts. In fact with some of the entries I can almost read verbatim the abstract that it references. (In general I find CRC press books too pricey)

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