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Traditional Chinese medicine — *Epimedium brevicorum, Epimedium sagittatum, Epimedium pubescens,* and *Epimedium koreanum* herb

Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Plantes Epimedium brevicorum, Epimedium sagittatum, Epimedium pubescens *et* Epimedium koreanum

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 249/SC 1, *Traditional medicine*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Traditional Chinese medicine*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

The genus *Epimedium* belongs to the family *Berberidaceae*. It has more than 50 species, distributed in North Africa, northern Italy to the Black Sea, Western Himalayas, Northeast Asia including Korea, Japan, and part of China. *Epimedium* is a typical forest plant. In nature, plants of this genus form dense thickets and bloom on humus-rich, slightly moist soil under the canopy of foothill forests, where the young foliage fully obscure the sun. They are not tolerant direct sunlight, especially in hot summer. Even in the spring, except in the morning and evening, their leaves can get burned when exposed to direct sunlight. Therefore, when planting *Epimedium*, it is desirable to create the conditions similar to their natural habitat and to place them in the shade or partial shade from tall trees and shrubs. China is the geographical distribution centre of *Epimedium*, where nearly 40 species are found, comprising over 80 % of the genus.

In China, *Epimedium* herb (known as “Yin Yang Huo”) mainly includes four species, *Epimedium brevicornu* Maxim., *Epimedium sagittatum* (Sieb.et Zucc.) Maxim., *Epimedium pubescens* Maxim. and *Epimedium koreanum* Nakai. *Epimedium koreanum* Nakai is also distributed in North Korea, Japan, Russia, and Italy.

Modern pharmacological studies show that *Epimedium* herb has various bioactivities, including anti-aging, antitumor, anti-depression and anti-osteoporosis effects. It can also enhance immunity, promote hematopoiesis, increase cardiovascular flow, and regulate bone metabolism.

As national implementation can differ, national standards bodies are invited to modify the values given in 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 in their national standards. Examples of national and regional values are given in Annex C.

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Traditional Chinese medicine — *Epimedium brevicorum, Epimedium sagittatum, Epimedium pubescens,* and *Epimedium koreanum* herb

1 Scope

This document specifies the minimum requirements and test methods for wild and cultivated *Epimedium* herb.

This document applies to *Epimedium* herb that is sold and used as natural medicines in international trade, including Chinese materia medica (whole medicinal materials) and decoction pieces derived from this plant.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 18664, *Traditional Chinese Medicine — Determination of heavy metals in herbal medicines used in Traditional Chinese Medicine*

ISO 21310, *Traditional Chinese medicine — Microscopic examination of medicinal herbs*

ISO 21371, *Traditional Chinese medicine — Labelling requirements of products intended for oral or topical use*

ISO 22217, *Traditional Chinese medicine —Storage requirements for raw materials and decoction pieces*

ISO 22258, *Traditional Chinese medicine — Determination of pesticide residues in natural products by gas chromatography*

ISO 23723, *Traditional Chinese medicine — General requirements for herbal raw material and materia medica*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
***Epimedium* herb**
terrestrial part or leaves of *Epimedium brevicornu* Maxim., *Epimedium sagittatum* (Sieb.et Zucc.) Maxim., *Epimedium pubescens* Maxim., and *Epimedium koreanum* Nakai (Fam. Berberidaceae)

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