

Astragali Radix



Astragali Radix (黄芪) is the dried root of *Astragalus membranaceus* (Fisch) Bge. var. *mongholicus* (Bge.) Hsiao, or *A. membranaceus* (Fisch.) Bge., family Fabaceae (Leguminosae-Papilionoideae).

Other name Milkvetch Root, Huangqi (Chinese name)

Macroscopic character

Cylindrical, some branched, upper part relatively broad. External pale brownish-yellow or pale brown, with irregular, longitudinal wrinkles or furrows. Texture hard and tenacious, uneasily broken, fracture highly fibrous and starchy, wood pale yellow, with radiate striations and fissures, the center part of old root occasionally rotten-wood-shaped, blackish-brown or hollowed. Odor, slightly; taste, slightly sweet, and slightly bean-like on chewing.



Important cultivation area

Shanxi, Hebei, Jilin provinces and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Processing method

1. Huangqi: Eliminate foreign matters, grade according to size, wash clean, soften thoroughly, cut into thick slices and dry.

2. Zhihuangqi: Mix Huangqi with dilute refined honey in an appropriate quantity of boiling water (use 25 kg of honey for 100 kg of Huangqi), allow to stand until moistened. Stir-fry on a gentle fire until not sticky to the fingers, take out and dry.



Traditional Chinese Medicine action

Sweet; slightly warm. Enter lung and spleen channels.

1. Huangqi: Tonify *qi*, stop sweating, promote urination to alleviate edema, engender *jin* and nourish blood, move *qi*, relieve pain, healing wound and promote skin generation.

2. Zhihuangqi: Stir-fry with honey enhance potency in tonify *qi* to tonify spleen and stomach.

Thai Traditional Medicine action

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Usage and dosage

10-15 g, decoction for oral use. 30-60 g can be used.

Contraindication and precaution

Contraindicated in patient with indigestion, *yin* deficiency, *yang* and excessive pattern ulcer.

Precaution use in large dose, may cause dizziness, oppression in the chest, insomnia, severe limb pain, or cause allergy, itchy, skin rash, or others. Anaphylactic shock can be occurred in severe case.

