

Herbal Medicinal Materials for Health/Functional Foods in Korea

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Abstract : In April, 2015, the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety's announcement that only 10 of the 207 products that list *Cynanchum Wilfordii Radix* among their ingredients were confirmed to actually contain "iyeobupiso" the counterfeit version of the "baeksuo" raised a fog to consumers who purchased health/functional foods supposedly containing the herbal medicinal material, "baeksuo" in Korean. Baeksuo is the main ingredient of the product "EstroG-100" that contain *Phlomis umbrosa* and *Angelica gigas* too (NaturalEndoTech, S.Korea). The hot water extract of the herbal medicinal materials (HMM) was approved as a product specific Health/Functional Food (HFF) having a helpful function to women reaching menopause by Korea Food & Drug Administration (Ministry of Food & Drug Safety at present). The origin of "baeksuo" is the root of *Cynanchum wilfordii* Hemsley in Korea (But "iyeobupiso, the root of *Cynanchum auriculatum* Royle ex Wight is considered as the origin of "baeksuo" in China). In Korea, about 116 HMMs are listed as the food materials in Korea Food Code among the total 187 HMMs could be used for food and medicine purpose simultaneously. But there are some chances of the HMMs (shared use for food and medicine purpose) could be misused by the part and HMMs not permitted for HFF such as the "baeksuo" case. In this study, some of HMMs (shared use for food and medicine purpose) are examined to alleviate the misuse chance of HMMs for HFFs in Korea. For the purpose of this study, the origin, shape, edible parts, efficacy and the side effects of the similar HMMs to be misused for HFF are investigated.

Keywords : herbal medicinal materials, healthy/functional foods, misuse, shared use

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