令和2年度「日本薬局方の試験法等に関する研究」研究報告 生薬の鏡検に関する研究 (第4報)*6

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Study of Microscopic Examination for Crude Drugs (Part 4)

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Summary

In the Japanese Pharmacopoeia (JP), microscopic examination of crude drugs is very important to decide whether or not they conform to the required specifications. Observations of morphology, the size of organs or cells, and the cell contents form a key part of the JP criteria.

However, in the absence of visual information, such as schematic drawings or illustrations for each crude drug, considerable experience is needed to observe and identify internal morphology by means of microscopic observation.

Therefore, the aims of this study were as follows: (1) to investigate the external morphological characteristics of specimens of Notopterygium, (2) to collect images of the section for the specimens of Notopterygium or commercial Notopterygium, (3) to examine how the kind of original plant or the method used to prepare crude drugs from the raw materials affects the appearance, and (4) to interpret the internal anatomical characteristics with the aid of these images in the context of the JP.

Key words

The Japanese Pharmacopoeia, Crude Drugs, Microscopic Examination, Identification, Tissue Sections, Internal Morphology, Notopterygium.