

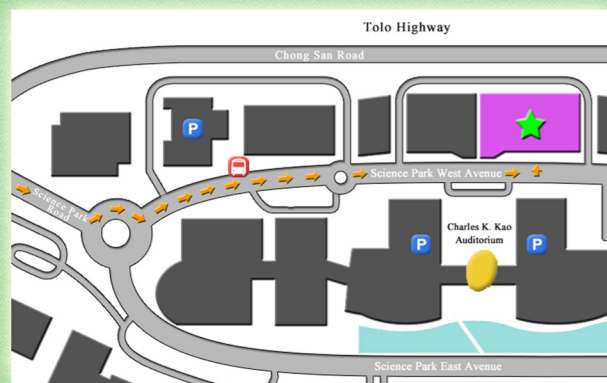
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Getting Here



By Public Transport:

Kowloon Motor Bus 272K, 272S, 43P, 74D, 74P
Green minibus No. 27

By Car:

Pak Shek Kok Entrance to
Hong Kong Science Park



GCMTI's Website

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Thematic Showcases

This zone shows different thematic subjects regularly. Specimens of Southeast Asia herbal medicines are now on display in Chinese Medicines Herbarium.

Southeast Asia herbal medicines primarily refer to herbal remedies originating from and locally-used in the Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Indonesia, East Timor, and the Philippines.

The development and utilisation of Southeast Asia herbal medicines as foreign medicinal resources contribute to the enrichment of Chinese medicines resources and promote the sustainable utilisation of Chinese medicines resources.



Panacis Vietnamensis Rhizoma et Radix (left)
and Ginseng Radix et Rhizoma (right)

Featured Showcase

Hong Kong was once a famous trade port of Agarwood, hence it is believed that Hong Kong (which means "Incense Harbour") had derived its name from it. Agarwood, a famous and precious Chinese medicines, is the resin-containing wood of *Aquilaria* species (Thymelaeaceae). The trade in wild Agarwood is now controlled by the Convention on International Trade in



Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Specimens of Agarwood (a courtesy of AFCD) are now displayed in our Chinese Medicines Herbarium, as a remembrance of the indissoluble bonding between Agarwood and Hong Kong.



Apart from Agarwood, some other wild sources of Chinese medicines have also become endangered due to destruction of their habitat or being over-exploited. Also displayed in the featured showcase are specimens donated by AFCD, including rhinoceros horns, an antelope horn and scales of pangolin to promote awareness on the protection and sustainable use of Chinese medicines resources.

Over 3 300 plants species have been found in Hong Kong with at least 16 of them being first discovered in Hong Kong and hence named after it. In the lower section of the showcase, eight watercolour paintings (drawn by a local artist) of species which were named after Hong Kong are displayed, to reflect the unique characteristics of Hong Kong.



Asarum hongkongense (left) &
Aristolochia westlandii (right)



Department of Health

Government Chinese Medicines
Testing Institute

Chinese Medicines Herbarium

Background

In the 2015 Policy Address, the Government announced the planning and development of a testing centre for Chinese medicines to be managed by the Department of Health. The testing centre, now named as the Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute (GCMTI), will specialise in the testing of, and scientific research on, Chinese medicines with a view to setting internationally recognised reference standards for the safety, quality and testing methods of Chinese medicines. Pending the establishment of the permanent GCMTI, a temporary institute has been set up in the Hong Kong Science Park and has commenced operation in phases from March 2017.

Traditional Chinese medicine is a treasure of the Chinese nation, which embodies the essence of the Chinese traditional culture. As Chinese medicines constitute an important part of traditional Chinese medicine, Chinese Medicines Herbarium has been set up in the GCMTI in the Science Park with an aim to promote the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong by collecting and managing of Chinese medicines and *Lingnan* herbal medicines specimens, as well as providing physical specimens for comparative identification and studies.



We hope that Chinese Medicines Herbarium can support the research and testing of Chinese medicines via the collection and management of various specimens of Chinese medicines and other traditional herbs, as well as to promote public knowledge of Chinese medicines through display of specimens.

Functions

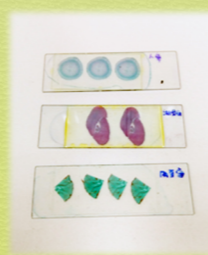
- * To provide authoritative specimens and to promote the research of Chinese medicines through the collection of medicinal materials specimens with their corresponding source plants specimens and microscopic slides; and
- * To give public a better understanding of Chinese medicine and to inherit culture of Chinese medicine.



Plants Specimens



Medicinal Materials Specimens



Microscopic Slides

Voucher Specimens of "Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards" Zone

The "Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (HKCMMS)" project has been carried out since 2002. Standards of over 270 Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) have been compiled so far in HKCMMS with more than 3 000 specimens collected from Hong Kong and Mainland. In this exhibition area, some of the voucher specimens are displayed, such as CMM with multiple sources, CMM from different growing areas, and *Daodi* medicinal materials.

CMM with multiple sources

CMM are mostly from plants. Plants with close genetic relationship often manifest similar chemical compositions and similar clinical effects. In order to expand medicinal resources, some CMM will have more than one source from the same genus, for example, *Rheum Radix et Rhizoma*.



Multiple sources of *Rheum Radix et Rhizoma*

CMM from different growing areas

There is a close relationship among the chemical composition, morphological features, production areas and growing environments of CMM. You may find in our herbarium, a collection of CMM (for example *Panaxis Quinquefolii Radix*) from different growing areas.



Panaxis Quinquefolii Radix from different growing areas

Chinese Materia Medica Specimens Donated by National Medical Products Administration

The National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) and its affiliated institution, National Institutes for Food and Drug Control offer technical advice and opinions to the establishment of the Chinese Medicines Herbarium. They have also arranged to gift precious and representative specimens of commonly used CMM to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. Some of the specimens have been on display at the GCMTI since 2019, including a set of cordyceps showcasing different growth stages and specimens from various production regions.



Cordyceps specimens of different growth stages

Lingnan Herbal Medicines Zone

"Lingnan herbal medicines" refer to herbal medicines which are produced in Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan provinces etc., commonly used by *Lingnan* local peoples. A majority of samples displayed in this exhibition area are collected by our staff from Hong Kong's countryside after obtaining a licence from Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).

