



**Identification of
Tiny Seed and Fruit
Types of Chinese
Materia Medica**

Identification Key

Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) are categorised by their main colours, shapes and surface features for readers to find the corresponding monographs quickly.

Black Hue

Round, spherical or reniform

With fine and dense granular protuberances on the surface..... [Semen Vaccariae](#)

With sub-polygonal striations on the surface..... [Semen Celosiae](#)

Remained membranous perianth is frequently observable at the base..... [Fructus Polygoni Orientalis](#)

Elliptical or oblong

With fine wrinkles on the surface..... [Semen Plantaginis](#)

Semicircular or ovate

With wrinkles and fine and dense rectangular or polygonal striations on the surface..... [Semen Allii Tuberosi](#)

Green Hue

Reniform

With Smooth surface..... [Semen Astragali Complanati](#)

Reddish-brown Hue

Elliptical, ovoid, oblong, ovate or polygonal

With brown dots on the surface..... [Semen Lini](#)

With reticulate striations on the surface

Both sides usually have 2 shallow longitudinal grooves
each, one of which is usually deeper..... [Descurainiae Semen](#)

With several longitudinal grooves on one side..... [Raphani Semen](#)

Cordate

With translucent membranous trichomes on the surface..... [Semen Hygrophilae Salicifoliae](#)

Round

With granular protuberances on the surface..... [Fructus Broussonetiae](#)

Yellow or Yellowish-brown Hue

Spherical, elliptical, ovoid, oblong or ovate

With longitudinal ridges on the surface

With sinuous primary ridges and straight secondary ridges
on the surface..... [Fructus Coriandri](#)

Meriarp has 5 longitudinal ridges on the dorsal side

Odour slight, with characteristic aroma after broken by
rubbing..... [Fructus Cnidii](#)

With characteristic aroma..... [Foeniculi Fructus](#)

With reticulate protuberances on the surface..... [Semen Sinapis](#)

Meriarp is densely covered with conical spines on the dorsal side..... [Fructus Torilis](#)

With membranous endotesta remained at the upper part, apex is
deep brown..... [Platycladi Semen](#)

Quadrilateral

With 1 deep groove on both sides..... [Semen Trigonellae](#)

Five-pointed stellate

With brown or deep brown maculae and white warty protuberances
on the surface..... [Fructus Kochiae](#)

Citrus segment-shaped

Meriarp with distinct protruding radial stripes started from the
slightly dented area on both sides..... [Fructus Malvae](#)

Brown Hue**Elliptical, ovoid, oblong, ovate or spherical**

- With reticulate striations on the surface..... [Perillae Fructus](#)
- With irregularly distributed granular substances and extremely small reticulate striations on the surface..... [Cuscutae Semen](#)
- With fine and dense warty protuberances and sparse white or light yellowish-brown maculae on the surface..... [Semen Impatiensis](#)
- Usually with deep brown or blackish-brown irregular mottles on the surface..... [Fructus Aretii](#)
- With 5-pointed stellate fissure at the apex..... [Fructus Evodiae](#)
- Merica has 4 narrow wings on the dorsal side, with 1 column of flat spines on each wing..... [Fructus Carotae](#)

Deep Brown Hue

Reniform

Surface shriveled and uneven..... [Fructus Ligustri Lucidi](#)

With reticulate striations and short pubescence on the surface.... [Semen Abutili](#)

Quadrilateral

With 1 linear dent or broad band on both sides.....[Semen Cassiae](#)

Triangular pyramidal

With protruding maculae on the surface, irregularly shaped..... [Fructus Leonuri](#)

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