



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

# Semen Platycladi\*



## Source

The dried ripe kernel of *Platycladus orientalis* (L.) Franco in the family Cupressaceae

## Property and flavour

Neutral; sweet

## Meridian affinity

Heart, kidney and large intestine meridians

## Actions

To nourish the heart and calm the mind; to moisten the intestine and promote bowel movements; to stop sweating

Note:

\* Its name in Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020 Edition) is “Platycladi Semen”.

## Micro-morphological features

### Shape

Ovate or long ovate



2 mm

Apex is slightly pointed

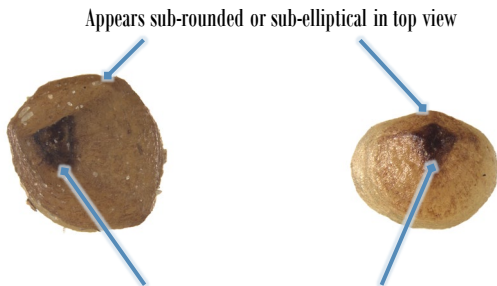


With membranous endotesta remained at the upper part

Base is obtuse

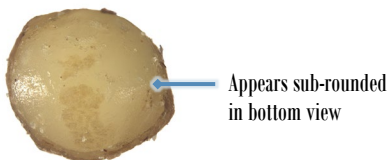
Surface view

1 mm



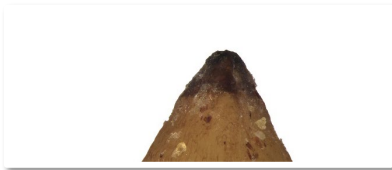
Usually with triangular pyramidal or pyramidal apex

Top view



Bottom view

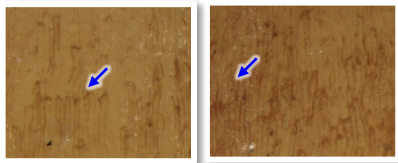
1 mm

**Surface****Apex is deep brown**


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 0.5 mm

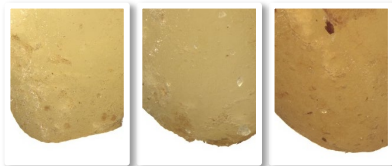
**Surface of endotesta is light yellowish-brown or yellowish-brown, sometimes with irregularly distributed brown longitudinal striations (→)**




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 0.2 mm

**Kernel has lighter surface colour than endotesta, appears light yellow, yellowish-white or light yellowish-brown**



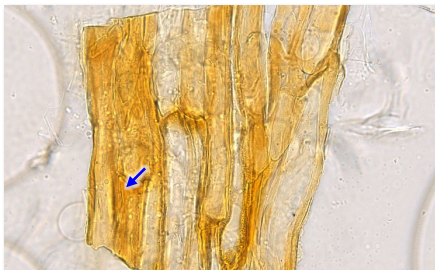

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 0.5 mm
**Odour****With slight aroma**

## Powder microscopic features

### Testa

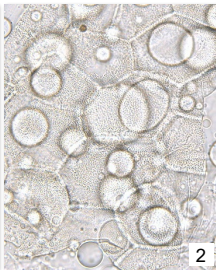
#### Endotesta cell



Appears long strip-shaped in surface view, usually adheres to hypodermal cell which has indistinct cell boundary and contains irregular brown pigment masses (→)

### Endosperm

#### Epidermal cell of endosperm



Light yellow (1) or colourless (2), appears polygonal or sub-polygonal in surface view, with small and dense reticulate striations, with slightly thick wall

## Key identification features

### Micro-morphology

- ⊙ Ovate or long ovate, apex is slightly pointed, base is obtuse
- ⊙ With membranous endotesta remained at the upper part
- ⊙ Apex is deep brown, surface of endotesta is sometimes with irregularly distributed brown longitudinal striations, kernel has lighter surface colour than endotesta

### Powder microscopy

- ⊙ Endotesta cell: appears long strip-shaped in surface view, usually adheres to hypodermal cell
- ⊙ Epidermal cell of endosperm: with small and dense reticulate striations in surface view, with slightly thick wall

For more information, please refer to [website of the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards](#):

Platycladi Semen — HKCMMS (Vol 8)

Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute

Department of Health

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