

# Herba Lycopi versus Herba Eupatorii



## Source

**\*Herba Lycopi**  
is the dried aerial part of  
*Lycopus lucidus* Turcz. var. *hirtus* Regel  
in the family Labiatae

**Herba Eupatorii#**  
is the dried aerial part of  
*Eupatorium fortunei* Turcz.  
in the family Compositae

## Overview

Herba Lycopi and Herba Eupatorii are both listed in Schedule 2 of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance and the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020). According to the research in the *Species Systematization and Quality Evaluation of Commonly Used Chinese Traditional Drugs*, consistent confusion exists between the source and name of these two Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) has been recorded in ancient literatures. According to the Chinese Pharmacopoeia, Herba Lycopi can activate blood to regulate menstruation; eliminate stasis and disperse abscesses; and drain water to disperse swelling. On the other hand, Herba Eupatorii can resolve dampness with aroma; enliven the spleen and increase the appetite; and effuse the exterior to release summerheat. Due to variations in properties, these two CMM should be used accordingly.

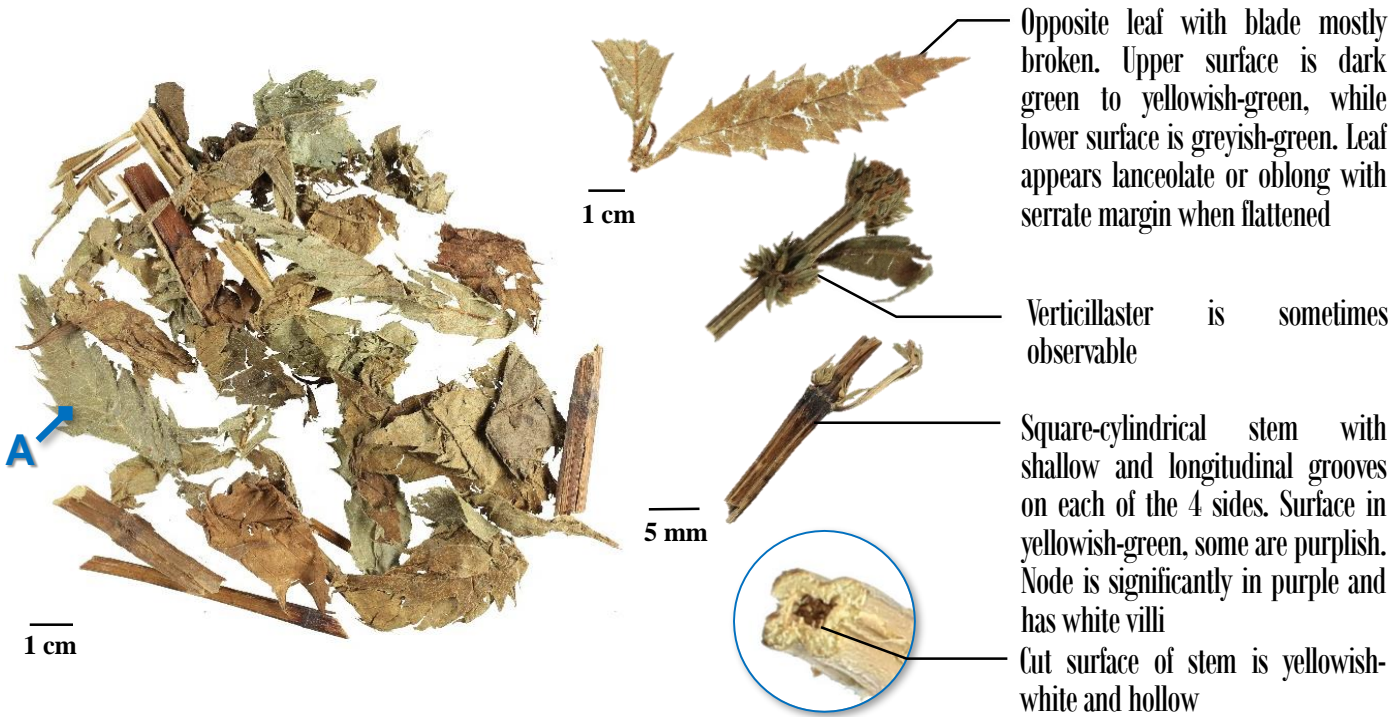
Note:

\*Its name in Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020) is “Lycopi Herba”.

#Its name in Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020) is “Eupatorii Herba”.

## Key identification features

### Macroscopic features of Herba Lycopi decoction pieces



◆ Aromatic and slightly bitter taste

### Micro-morphological features

A1: Densely distributed with glandular dots

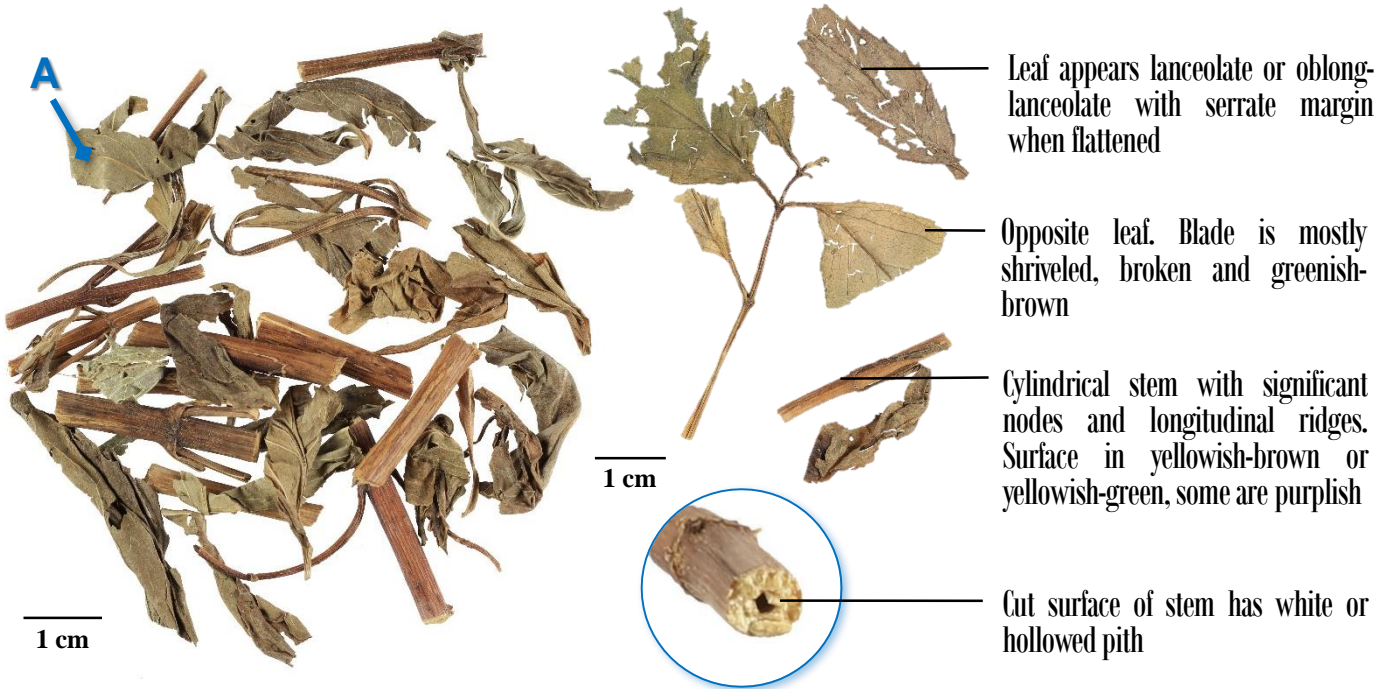
A2: Short hair is frequently observable and usually denser at the vein



(Lower surface of the leaf)

1 mm

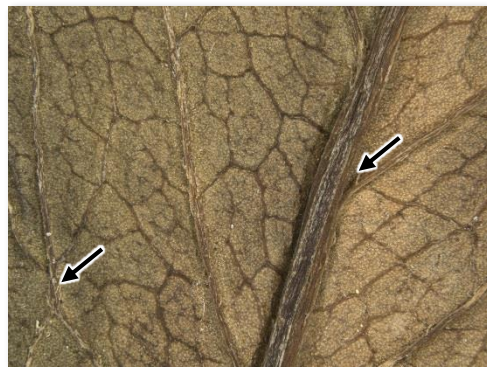
## Macroscopic features of Herba Eupatorii decoction pieces



◆ Slight odour and weak taste

### Micro-morphological feature

A: Without glandular dots; short hair is barely observable





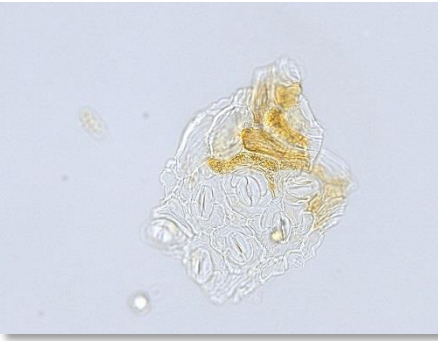



(Lower surface of the leaf)

1 mm



**Microscopic feature comparison of Herba Lycopi decoction pieces and Herba Eupatorii decoction pieces powder**

	<b>Herba Lycopi decoction pieces</b>	<b>Herba Eupatorii decoction pieces</b>
<b>Glandular scale</b>	 <p>Head appears sub-rounded, 8 cells</p>	 <p>Absent</p>
<b>Non-glandular hair</b>	 <p>Numerous, mostly broken, with warty protuberances on the surface</p>	 <p>Occasionally found, mostly broken</p>
<b>Lower epidermal cell</b>	 <p>Sinuous anticlinal wall, diacytic stomata, occasionally anomocytic</p>	 <p>Sinuous anticlinal wall, anomocytic stomata</p>

50 µm

## Summary

Major differences in the features between Herba Lycopi decoction pieces and Herba Eupatorii decoction pieces:

		Herba Lycopi decoction pieces	Herba Eupatorii decoction pieces
Macroscopic and micro-morphological features	<b>Shape of stem</b>	Square-cylindrical	Cylindrical
	<b>Lower surface of the leaf</b>	Densely distributed with glandular dots	Without glandular dots
Microscopic features	<b>Glandular scale</b>	Present	Absent
	<b>Non-glandular hair</b>	Numerous	Occasionally found
	<b>Lower epidermal cell</b>	Diacytic stomata, occasionally anomocytic	Anomocytic stomata

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

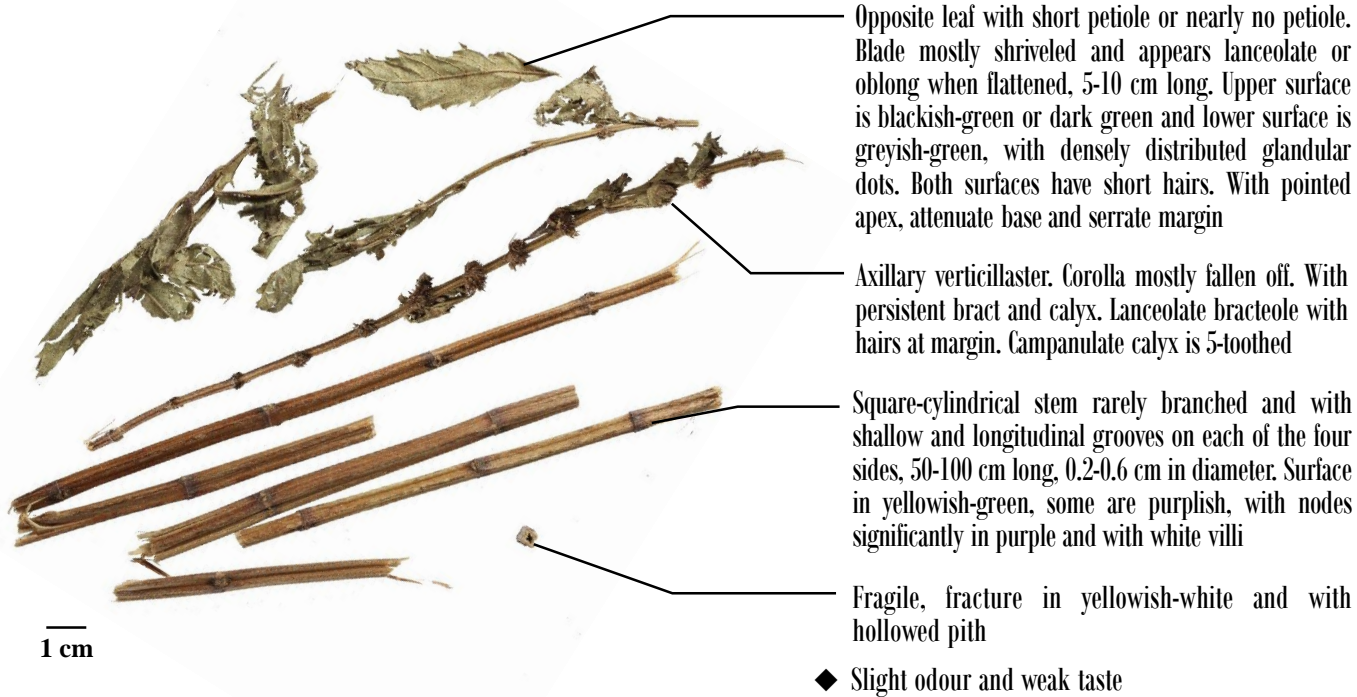


Lycopi Herba - Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (Volume 6)

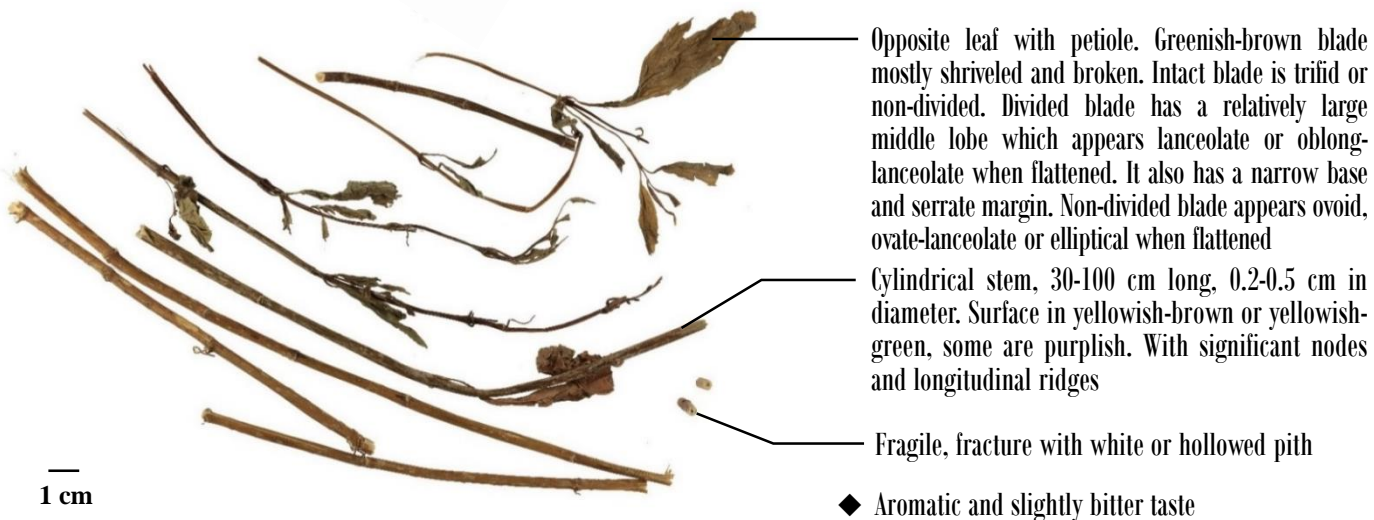
Eupatorii Herba - Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (Volume 5)

## Additional information

### Photo of crude Herba Lycopi



### Photo of crude Herba Eupatorii



Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute  
Department of Health  
Enquiry Hotline: 3188 8079  
Website: [www.cmro.gov.hk](http://www.cmro.gov.hk)

*The information in this pamphlet may be re-disseminated or reproduced, provided that the Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute (GCMTI), as the source of information, is acknowledged and that the re-dissemination or reproduction is for non-commercial use. Any other reproduction, adaptation, distribution, dissemination or making available of the information in this pamphlet for commercial use is strictly prohibited unless prior written authorization is obtained from the GCMTI.*