

Cacumen Platycladi versus Folium Podocarpi



1 cm



1 cm

Source

*Cacumen Platycladi

is the dried twig or leaf of
Platycladus orientalis (L.) Franco
in the family Cupressaceae

Folium Podocarpi

is the dried branch and leaf of
Podocarpus macrophyllus (Thunb.) D. Don or
P. macrophyllus var. *maki* Endl.
in the family Podocarpaceae

Overview

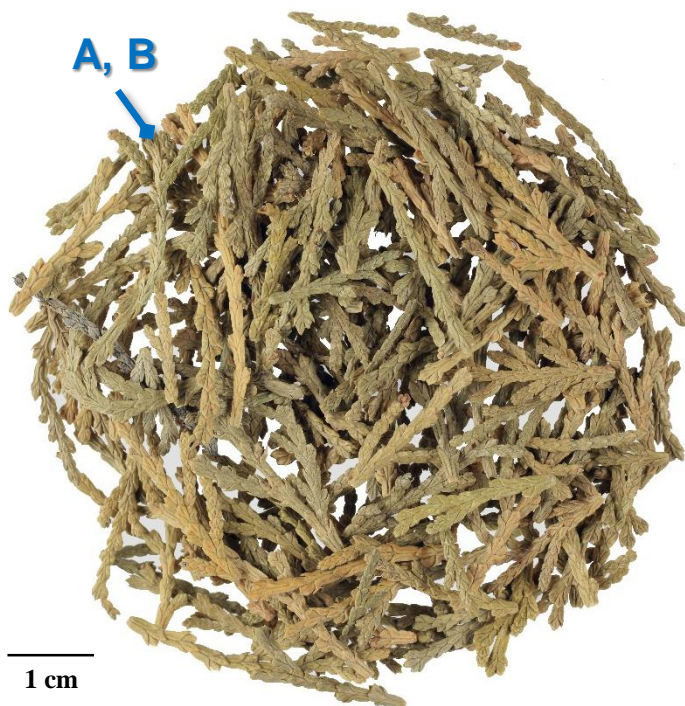
Cacumen Platycladi is listed in both Schedule 2 of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance and the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020), while Folium Podocarpi has not been recorded in either reference. Both Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) originate from the evergreen trees of gymnosperm. According to the research by the *Herbology Research, Review & Identification of Chinese Medicinal Materials, the non-Authorization Species Used in Hong Kong*, the Guangdong region had recorded Folium Podocarpi in the *Guang dong zhong yao zhi* as “Jiang nan bai”. According to the Chinese Pharmacopoeia, Cacumen Platycladi can cool the blood to stop bleeding, resolve phlegm and suppress cough, and promote hair growth and darkening. On the other hand, *Zhong hua ben cao* has recorded Folium Podocarpi with hemostatic function. As these two CMM possess different functions, they should be used accordingly.

Note:

*Its name in Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020) is “Platycladi Cacumen”.

Key identification features

Macroscopic features of Cacumen Platycladi



Blade is deep green or yellowish-green, small squamiform, decussate and appressed on the branch

Frequently branched

Flat

1 mm

1 cm

Micro-morphological features

A: Dented in the middle



(Upper surface of the leaf)

1 mm

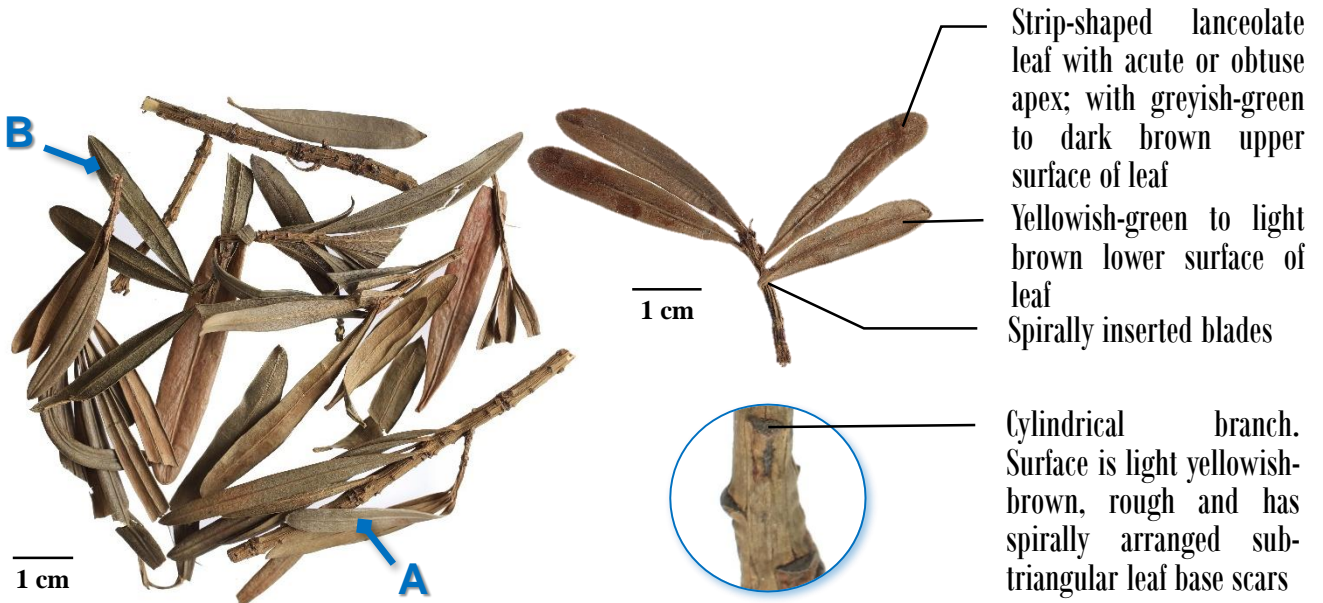
B: With irregularly arranged white dots



(Lower surface of the leaf)

1 mm

Macroscopic features of Folium Podocarpi



Micro-morphological features

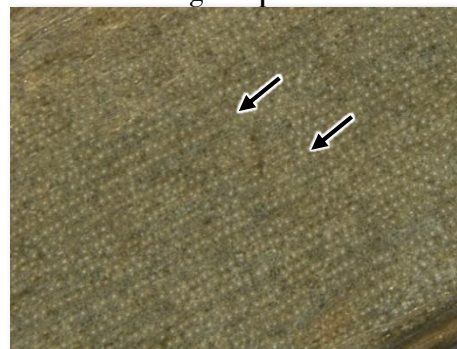
A: Midrib protruded



(Upper surface of the leaf)

1 mm

B: Densely distributed with white dots arranged in parallel

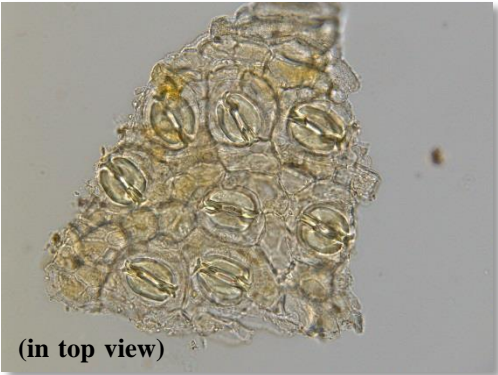
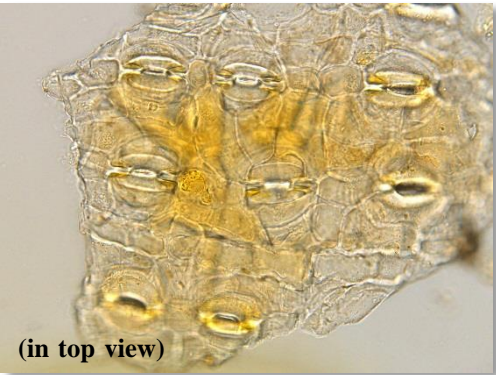




(Lower surface of the leaf)

0.5 mm

Microscopic feature comparison of
Cacumen Platycladi and Folium Podocarpi powder



	Cacumen Platycladi	Folium Podocarpi
Lower epidermal cell of leaf	 <p>(in top view)</p>	 <p>(in top view)</p>
	 <p>(in lateral view)</p> <p>Sub-rectangular and sub-polygonal; numerous anomocytic stomata, guard cell appears dumbbell-shaped in lateral view and irregularly arranged</p>	 <p>(in lateral view)</p> <p>Sub-square; numerous diacytic stomata, guard cell appears dumbbell-shaped in lateral view and arranged in several rows in parallel</p>

50 μm

Summary

Major differences in the features between Cacumen Platycladi and Folium Podocarpi:

		Cacumen Platycladi	Folium Podocarpi
Macroscopic and micro-morphological features	Leaf	Small squamiform	Strip-shaped lanceolate
	Surface of leaf	Middle of the upper surface of leaf dented; with irregularly arranged white dots on the lower surface of leaf	Midrib protruded on the upper surface of leaf; with white dots densely distributed and arranged in parallel on the lower surface of leaf
	Insert method of leaf	Decussate and appressed on the branch	Spirally inserted
Microscopic features	Lower epidermal cell of leaf	Anomocytic stomata irregularly arranged	Diacytic stomata arranged in several rows in parallel

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



Platycladi Cacumen - Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (Volume 5)



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