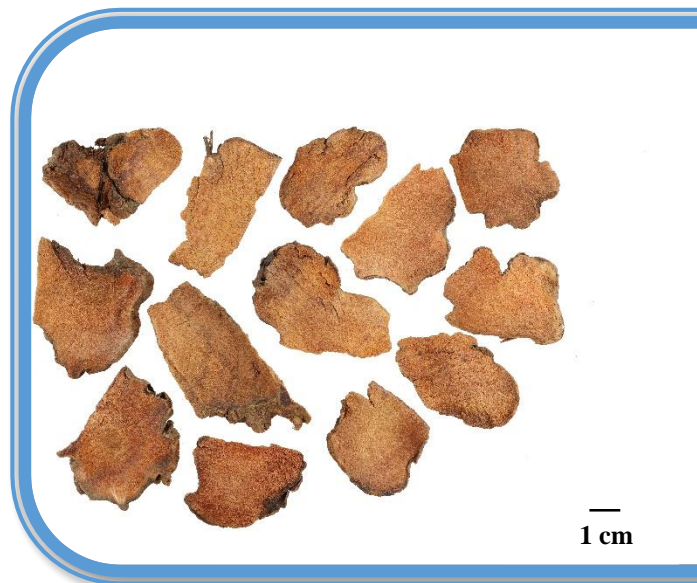
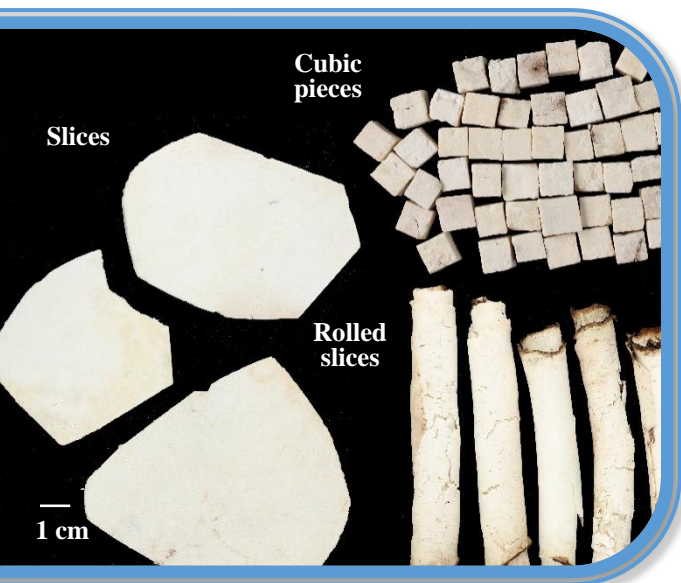


Poria versus Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae



Source

Poria
is the dried sclerotium of
Poria cocos (Schw.) Wolf
in the family Polyporaceae

Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae*
is the dried rhizome of
Smilax glabra Roxb.
in the family Liliaceae

Overview

The Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) Poria is only listed in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020), while Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae is listed in both the Schedule 2 of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance and the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020). According to *Zhong hua ben cao*, Poria was first endorsed in the name of “Fu ling” in the *Wu shi er bing fang*. According to *Species Systematization and Quality Evaluation of Commonly Used Chinese Traditional Drugs*, the original name of Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae was “Yu yu liang”, and it was first endorsed in *Ben cao jing ji zhu*. Furthermore, the name “Tu fu ling” was originated from *Ben cao gang mu*. According to Chinese Pharmacopoeia, Poria can induce diuresis to drain dampness, fortify the spleen and quiet the heart; while Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae can detoxify, eliminate dampness, free the joints. Although the Chinese names of these two CMM differ only by one word, their source and efficacy varies significantly, therefore, should be used accordingly.

Note:

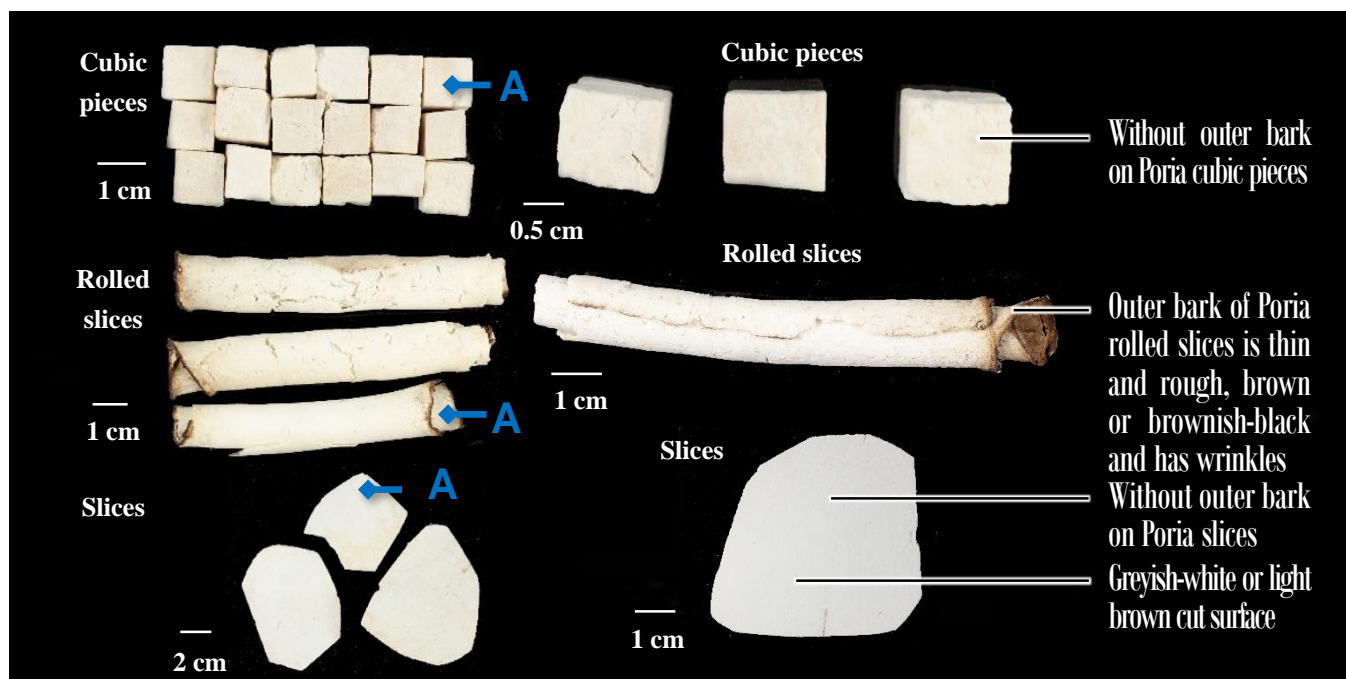
*Its name in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020) is “Smilacis Glabrae Rhizoma”.

Key identification features

Macroscopic features of Poria decoction pieces



◆ Cubic, roll-like or irregular thick slices



Micro-morphological feature

A: White or light yellow, with light brown striations



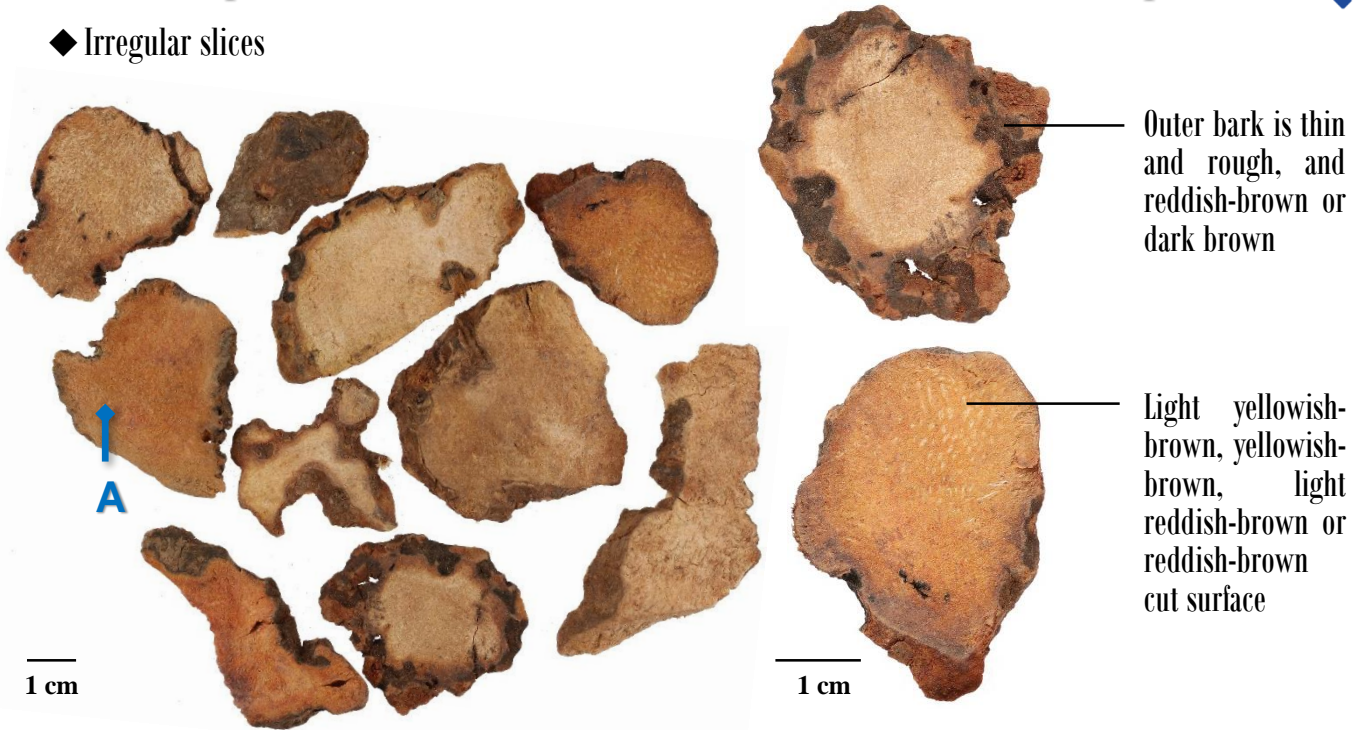
(Cut surface)

500 μm

Macroscopic features of Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae decoction pieces

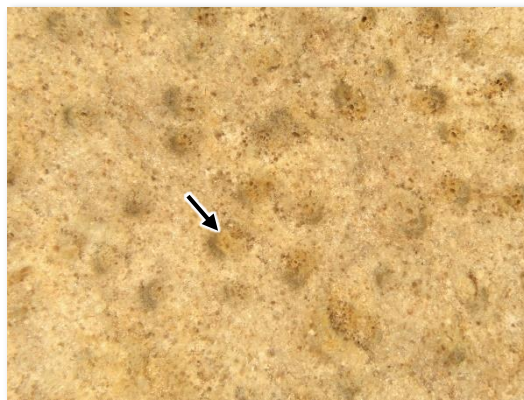


◆ Irregular slices



Micro-morphological feature

A: With observable dotted vascular bundles


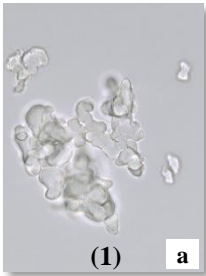


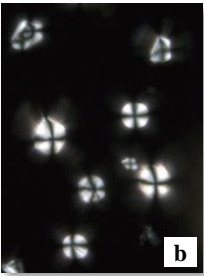
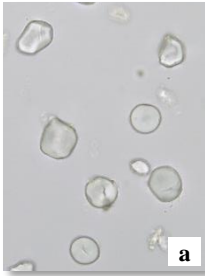

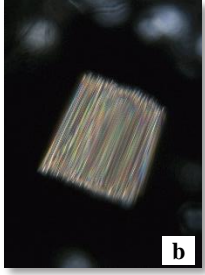



(Cut surface)

1mm

Microscopic feature comparison of Poria decoction pieces and Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae decoction pieces powder



	Poria decoction pieces	Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae decoction pieces
Hypha#	<div></div> <p>Accounted for the majority of the powder, with 2 forms. One type is colourless and irregularly granular or like masses which obtusely branched at the end(1); another type is colourless, white or light brown, slender and slightly curved, some with branches(2)</p>	<div></div> <p>Absent</p>
Starch granule	<div></div> <p>Absent</p>	<div></div> <p>Numerous, simple granule sub-spherical, polygonal or sub-square, hilum slit-shaped, stellate, trifurcate or dotted, large granule with striations observable; compound granule consists of 2-4 units; black and cruciate-shaped under the polarized light microscope</p>
Raphide of calcium oxalate	<div></div> <p>Absent</p>	<div></div> <p>Present in mucilage cells or scattered; polychromatic under the polarized light microscope</p>

a. features under bright field; b. features under polarized light

Note:

#Prepare the slide by adding glycerol acetic acid test solution without heating and observe.

50 μm

Summary

Major differences in the features between of Poria decoction pieces and Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae decoction pieces:

		Poria decoction pieces	Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae decoction pieces
Macroscopic and micro-morphological features	Shape	Cubic, roll-like or irregular thick slices	Irregular slices
	Cut surface	White or light yellow, with light brown striations	With observable dotted vascular bundles
Microscopic features	Hypha	Present	Absent
	Starch granule	Absent	Present
	Raphide of calcium oxalate	Absent	Present

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



Smilacis Glabrae Rhizoma - Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (Volume 4)

Additional information

Photo of crude Poria

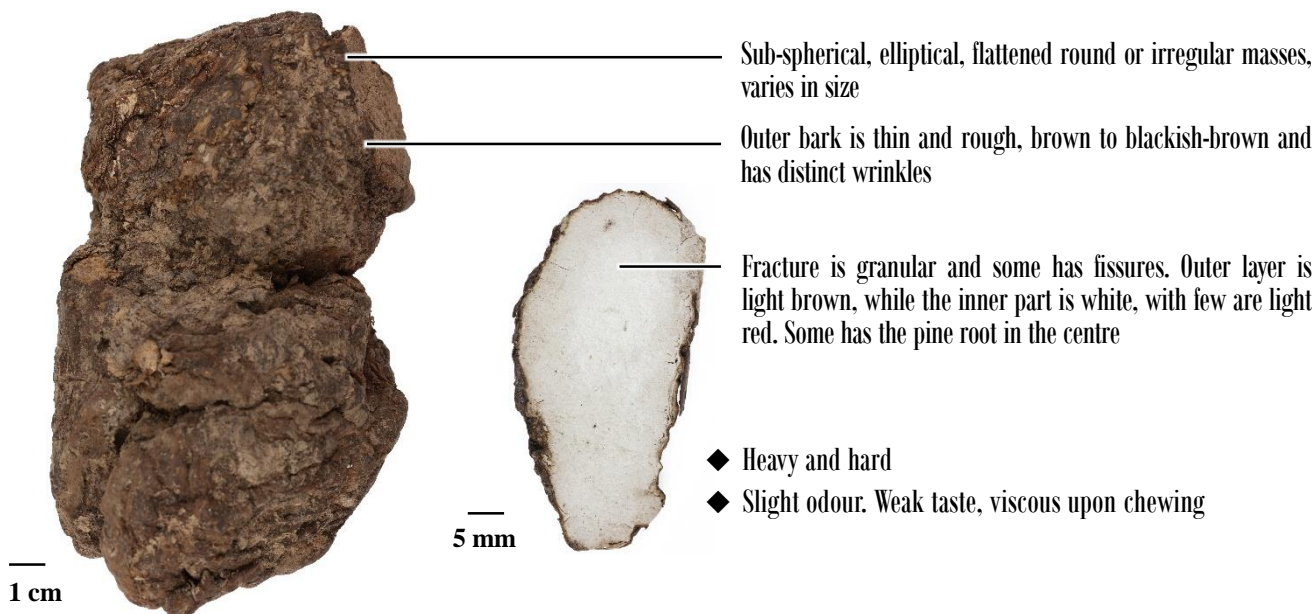
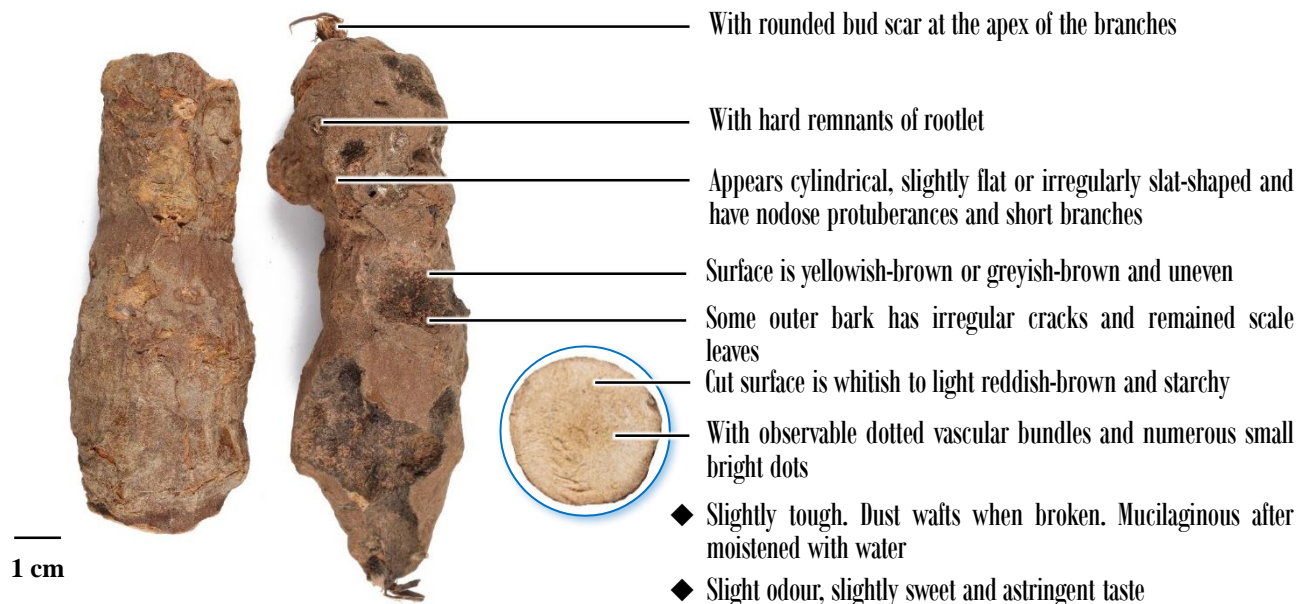


Photo of crude Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae



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Website: www.cmro.gov.hk

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