

# Herba Artemisiae Anomalae versus Artemisia Lactiflora Herba



## Source

**Herba Artemisiae Anomalae**  
is the dried aerial part of  
*Artemisia anomala* S. Moore  
in the family Compositae

**Artemisia Lactiflora Herba**  
is the dried aerial part of  
*Artemisia lactiflora* Wall.ex DC.  
in the family Compositae

## Overview

The Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) Herba Artemisiae Anomalae, but not Artemisia Lactiflora Herba, is listed in Schedule 2 of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance. Neither of these two CMM had been included in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2020). According to *Species Systematization and Quality Evaluation of Commonly Used Chinese Traditional Drugs*, the species of Herba Artemisiae Anomalae is complicated, research studies believed that *Artemisia anomala* in the family Compositae is the authentic species. The *Chinese Materia Medica Standards in Guangdong Province* also stated that CMM of different family and genus has also been customarily used as “Liu ji nu”, and Artemisia Lactiflora Herba is one of the species customarily used in Guangdong and Guangxi regions, which is also called “Guang dong liu ji nu”. According to *Zhong hua ben cao*, Herba Artemisiae Anomalae can break blood and expel stasis, and unblock the meridian, stop bleeding and disperse swelling, promote digestion and resolve accumulation; while Artemisia Lactiflora Herba can activate blood and dissipate stasis, regulate qi and resolve dampness. As the efficacy of these two CMM differs, they should be used accordingly.

## Key identification features

### Macroscopic features of Herba Artemisiae Anomalae decoction pieces



◆ Stem is hard



### Micro-morphological feature

A: With observable light yellow or yellowish-white glandular hairs(→) in the shape of figure “8” on the surface



## Macroscopic features of Artemisia Lactiflora Herba



◆ Stem is slightly tough and not easily broken



5 mm

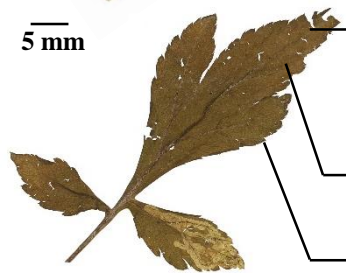
Cylindrical stem

Surface is yellowish-brown, deep brown or yellowish-green and has distinctly protruded longitudinal ridge

Leaves are mostly broken and shriveled. Intact blade has pinnatipartite or pinnatisect margin when flattened

Lobe is ovoid and the one near to the apex is relatively large

Margin has relatively large serrae



1 cm



Yellowish-white capitula are aggregated and arranged in spike or panicle

1 cm

### Micro-morphological feature

A: With observable sub-rounded or sub-elliptical light yellow and slightly shriveled glandular hairs(→) on the surface







(Corolla)

200 μm

Microscopic feature comparison of Herba Artemisiae Anomalae decoction pieces and Artemisia Lactiflora Herba powder



	Herba Artemisiae Anomalae decoction pieces	Artemisia Lactiflora Herba
Glandular hair	<div><p>(in top view)</p><p>(in lateral view)</p><p>Observable, relatively large, appears sub-elliptical from top view, cells seriated in pairs and surrounded by cuticle on the exterior; with several layers of cell in lateral view, without stalk</p></div>	<div><p>(in top view)</p><p>(in lateral view)</p><p>Barely found, relatively small, appears sub-elliptical from top view, cells seriated in pairs and surrounded by cuticle on the exterior, some shriveled to masses; with several layers of cell in lateral view, without stalk</p></div>

50 μm



### Summary

Major differences in the features between Herba Artemisiae Anomalae decoction pieces and Artemisia Lactiflora Herba:

		Herba Artemisiae Anomalae decoction pieces	Artemisia Lactiflora Herba
Macroscopic and micro-morphological features	Appearance of leaf	With relatively small serrae at margin	Intact blade has pinnatipartite or pinnatisect margin when flattened. Margin has relatively large serrae
	Surface of stem	With slightly protruded longitudinal ridges	With distinctly protruded longitudinal ridges
	Corolla	With observable light yellow or yellowish-white glandular hairs in the shape of figure “8” on the surface	With observable sub-rounded or sub-elliptical light yellow and slightly shriveled glandular hairs on the surface
Microscopic feature	Glandular hair	Relatively large	Relatively small

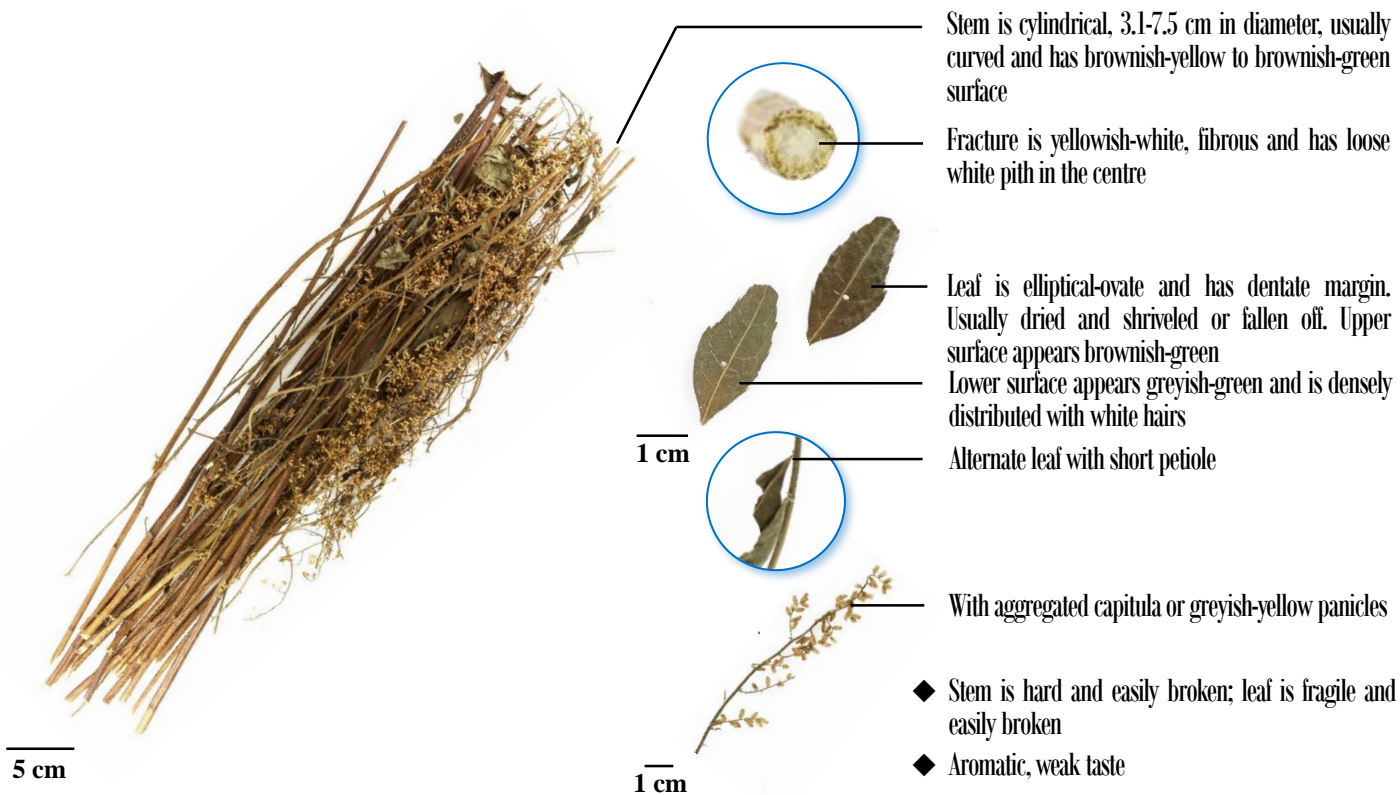
For more information, please refer to the [Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards website](#) :



Artemisiae Anomalae Herba - Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (Volume 10)

## Additional information

### Photo of crude Herba Artemisiae Anomalae



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