Cortex Lycii*

Source	The dried root bark of *Lycium chinense* Mill. or *L. barbarum* L. in the family Solanaceae
Property and Flavour	Cold; sweet
Meridian Affinity	Lung, liver and kidney meridians
Actions	To cool blood and relieve bone-steaming sensation, clear lung heat and reduce fire
Production Area	Mainly produced in Gansu, Ningxia, Hebei, Hubei, Shanxi, Henan, *etc.*

Notes:

* Its name in Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2025 Edition) is "Lycii Cortex".

衞生署
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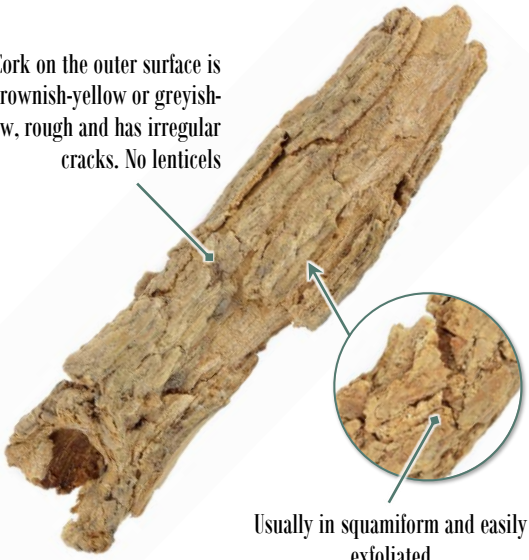
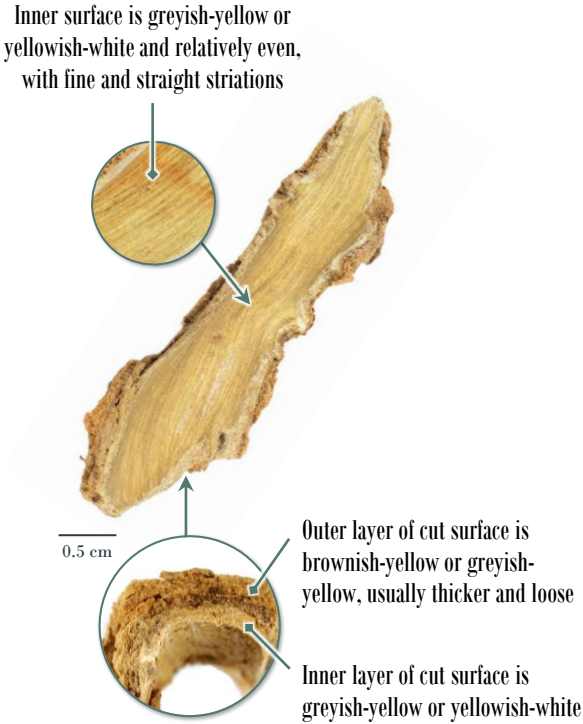
Macroscopic Identification Features

Shape Irregularly-quilled or trough-shaped, some in flat slices




Inner surface is greyish-yellow or yellowish-white and relatively even, with fine and straight striations
0.5 cm
Outer layer of cut surface is brownish-yellow or greyish-yellow, usually thicker and loose
Inner layer of cut surface is greyish-yellow or yellowish-white

Texture Light, fragile and easily broken

Fracture Uneven, small amount of dust wafts when broken

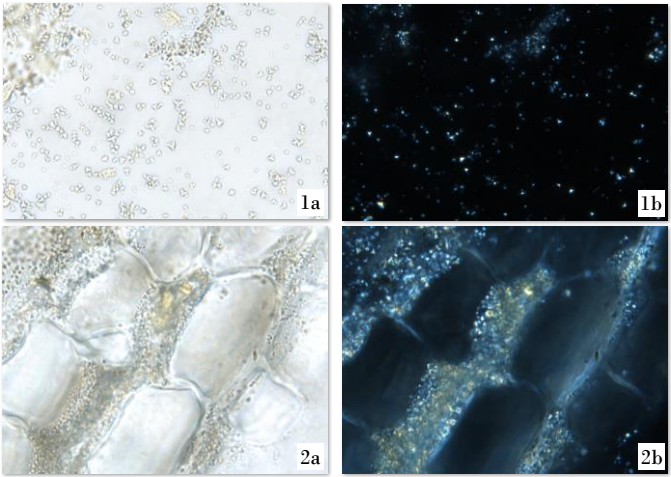
0.2 cm

Odour Slight

Features of Simplified Powder Microscopic Identification

- Crystal -

Crystal sand of calcium oxalate

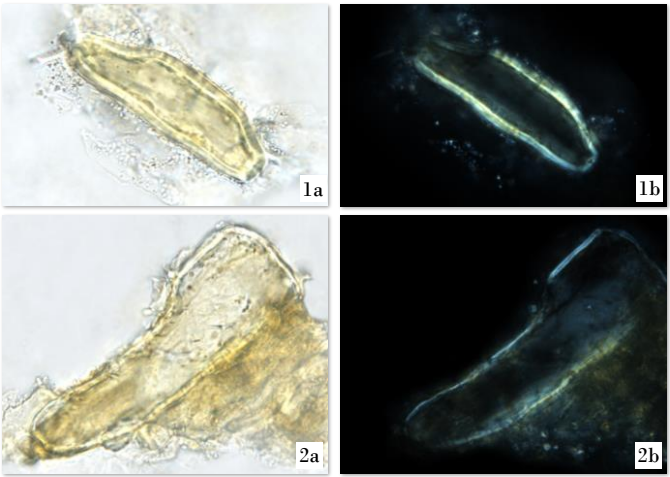


Small, numerous, slightly appears arrowhead-shaped, scattered (1) or present in parenchymatous cell (2); bright white or orange-yellow under polarized light microscope

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

- Sclerenchyma -

Stone cell



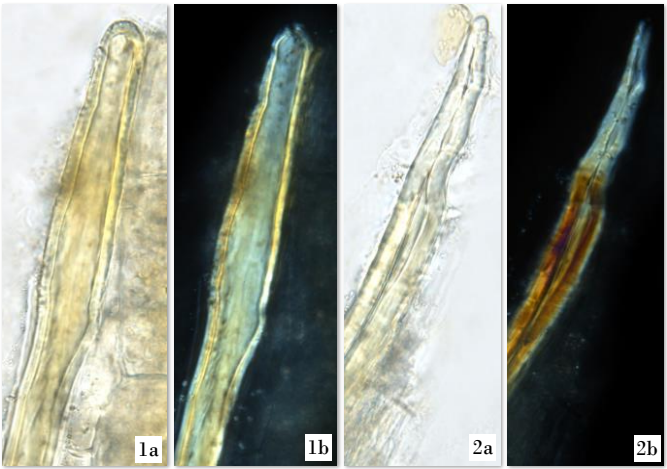
Absent or occasionally found, light yellow, wall is slightly thick (1) or thin (2), intact ones appear sub-elliptical, sub-rectangular, sub-rounded or irregular, some with sparse pits and pit canals; light yellow or bright white under polarized light microscope

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

Additional Features of Powder Microscopic Identification

- Sclerenchyma -

Fibre

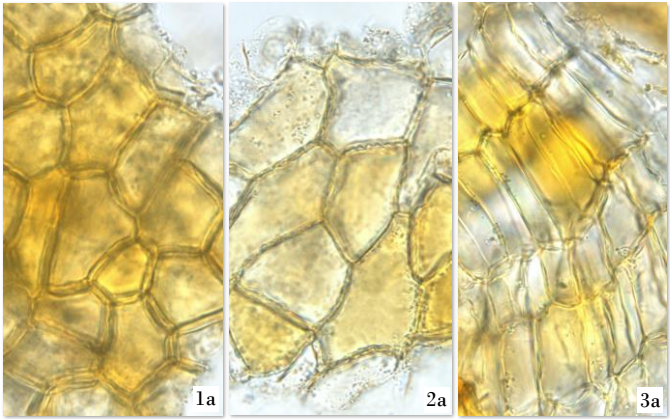


Barely found, light yellow, usually singly scattered, wall is slight thick (1) or thick (2), some with sparse pits and pit canals; bright white, orange-yellow or polychromatic under polarized light microscope

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

- Protective tissue -

Cork cell

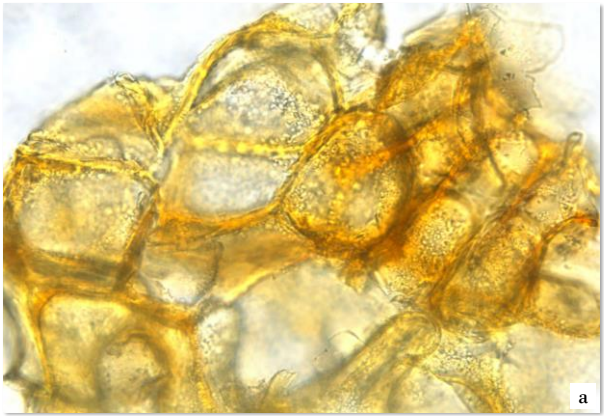


50 μm

Light yellow or light brownish-yellow, appears sub-polygonal or sub-square in surface view, wall is slightly thick (1) or thin (2), straight or slightly wavy; appears sub-rectangular in lateral view

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

Parenchymatous cell of rhytidome

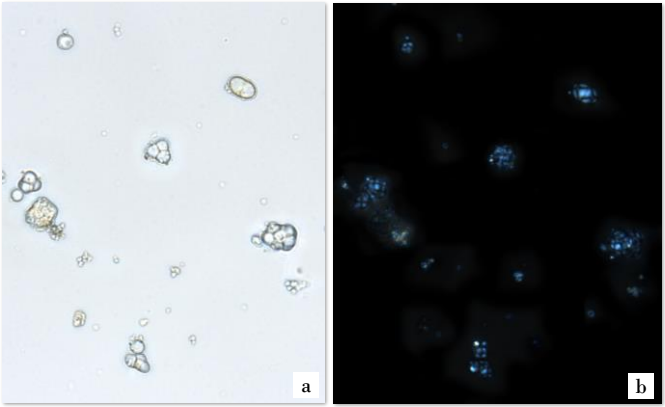


Usually broken, brownish-yellow or brown, wall is slightly thick, intact ones appear sub-square, sub-polygonal or polygonal, usually contains crystal sand of calcium oxalate

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

- Starch -

Starch granule



50 μm

Mainly is compound granule. Simple granule is sub-rounded or sub-elliptical, compound granule consists of 2-9 units; black and cruciate-shaped under polarized light microscope

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

Key Identification Features

- Macroscopic features -

- Cork on the outer surface is rough and has irregular cracks. No lenticels. It is usually in squamiform and easily exfoliated
- Fracture is uneven, small amount of dust wafts when broken

- Powder microscopic features -

- Crystal sand of calcium oxalate is small, numerous and slightly appears arrowhead-shaped
- Stone cell is absent or occasionally found and has slightly thick or thin wall

For more information, please refer to website of the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards:

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