

INSTITUT PENYELIDIKAN PERUBATAN

**I . M . R
VOLUME 1**

**MALAYSIAN HERBAL
MONOGRAPH**

IMR _____ *Institute for Medical Research* _____

MALAYSIAN HERBAL MONOGRAPH

Volume 1

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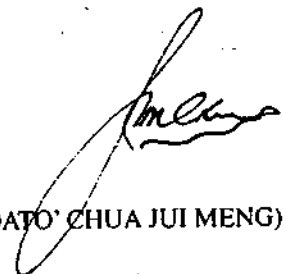
FOREWORD

Regulatory control of herbal medicines throughout the world has inevitably led to more stringent quality criteria. However, not all medicinal plant species currently used in phytotherapy are listed in official pharmacopoeias. The need for monographs which define quality standards and specifications for medicinal plant species, especially those unique to Malaysia is of vital importance to the local industry as a basis for standardisation. Inspired by the efforts exemplified by pioneers in traditional medicine, such as the People's Republic of China, India, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and others, Malaysia's first publication of the Malaysian Herbal Monograph is indeed a milestone accomplishment.

The 7th Malaysia Plan has identified several strategies to enhance the development of the local traditional medicine industry. Hence, a National Committee on Medicinal Plants was established by the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) in January 1995 to co-ordinate the task. An integrated and multi-disciplinary approach via smart partnership involving the industry, universities, research institutions and government agencies, has certainly proven to be fruitful in setting up the Monograph. Documentation of local research findings pertaining to identity, purity and safety aspects of 20 selected individual plant species, is a great breakthrough towards establishing our future Malaysian Pharmacopoeia.

With an abundance of untapped natural resources rich in medicinal plants, the work on the Monograph is never exhaustive. Identifying new plant species, exploring therapeutic potential, validating new methodologies and establishing new standards for many other untouched plant species will pose a challenging task. With perseverance I am confident that the Monograph will continue to progress well, embarking on reviews and updates, and introducing new species in their next editions. I have no doubt that this reference document will be of benefit to all those involved in the quality assurance of herbal medicines and who are keen to market traditional products of consistent quality.

May I congratulate the researchers and other members of the Malaysian Herbal Monograph Committee for their efforts and commitment in making this Monograph a remarkable success. I would also like to thank the world Health Organisation for their guidance and contribution towards this project.



(DATO' CHUA JUI MENG)

December 1998

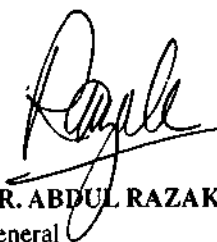
PREFACE

In the wake of the implementation of the registration of traditional medicines by the Ministry of Health, quality standards have become an important element in the Malaysian Traditional Medicine Industry. In this context, the publication of the Malaysian Herbal Monograph is timely as there are presently a lack of available local reference documents and standards.

Comprising 20 different medicinal plant species, each monograph includes important information pertaining to several aspects such as definition, synonym, plant morphology, description of plant material, geographical distribution, thin layer chromatography and general identity tests, purity test, chemical constituents, dosage forms, reports on medicinal uses, contraindications, warning, precaution, adverse reactions, posology and references.

Several other reference documents such as Standard of ASEAN Medicines, Materia Medika Indonesia, Thai Herbal Pharmacopoeia, British Herbal Pharmacopoeia, Chinese Materia Medica, Indian Materia Medica and WHO Monograph for Medicinal Plants have long been established. With approximately 1,200 floral species that have been recorded as plants used in traditional medicines in Malaysia, we should take similar initiative to explore our own local plant species. It has also been reported that in the tropics, a total of 6,000 floral species possess medicinal values.

In our efforts to assist the local traditional medicine industry towards upgrading manufacturing practices, I hope that this document will offer useful guidance to all those involved in ensuring quality and safety of herbal products in the interests of public health. As the Director General of FRIM, I feel proud that FRIM has been involved in the production of such an important document and thank the Ministry of Health for their confidence in us.



(DATO' DR. ABDUL RAZAK MOHD. ALI)
Director General
Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)

The publication of the Malaysian Herbal Monograph marks our first attempt to establish a document containing herbal standards and specifications. It contains compilation of scientific information and illustrative profiles of selected medicinal plant species, which serves as a useful reference. As standardisation is an important approach of ensuring quality, safety and efficacy of herbal medicines, the Monograph has a pertinent role to play.

The Malaysian Herbal Monograph Committee, which was formed sometime end of 1995, comprises of representatives from local research and academic institutions, regulatory FRIM, Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau (NPCB), Institute for Medical Research (IMR) and the industry, were officially appointed to undertake the task through collaborative efforts. Despite taking several years, the outcome achieved from such painstaking research efforts is indeed worthwhile. The committee is currently carrying out more research to monograph other local plant species of interest.

I would like to sincerely thank the researchers, especially USM, for their invaluable contributions and FRIM for their committed role. May I also express my gratitude to all other members for their kind co-operation, and the editorial team for devoting their time and technical efforts. I am indeed very grateful to the World Health Organisation (WHO) for their financial support, without which this project will certainly not bear fruit of success. To the Honourable Minister of Health, I wish to thank him for his guidance and encouragement.



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