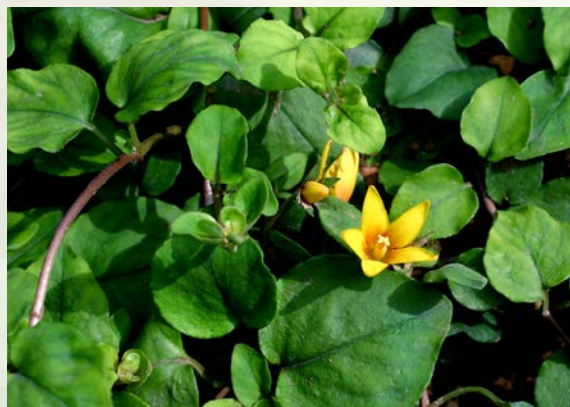


## The August 2020 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



### Monthly Chinese Materia Medica Highlights

Christina loosestrife (*Lysimachia christinae*, Primulaceae, 金钱草/过路黄, left) and snowbell-leaved tick clover (*Desmodium styracifolium*, Fabaceae, 广金钱草, right)



The dried whole plant of *Lysimachia christinae* (lysimachiae herba, *jinqiancao*) and the dried aerial part of *Desmodium styracifolium* (desmodii styracifolii herba, *guangjinqiancao*) are common Chinese medicinals. The former is primarily produced in southwest region from wild resource. The latter is mainly produced in Lingnan region from wild and/or cultivated resource. Having similar functions, *jinqiancao* and/or *guangjinqiancao* drain dampness, reduce jaundice, promote urination, free strangury, and expel gallstones and/or urinary tract stones.

The botanical origin of Chinese medicinal *jinqiancao* has long been confusing. At least 7 plants from different families are medicinally used in the name of *jinqiancao* in different regions of China. A solution provided by the current Chinese Pharmacopeia to such multiple botanical origins is that *jinqiancao* (lysimachiae herba) and *guangjinqiancao* (desmodii styracifolii herba) have been officially listed as separate entries.

#### 金钱草/过路黄

报春花里性为凉  
茎弱平铺半米长  
涧水穿岩行遇阻  
岂能袖手立河旁

#### 广金钱草

豆科植物岭南生  
灌木身坚立草坪  
若是穿岩逢野外  
水流敢向远山行

The above colour photographs, English texts and Chinese poems are contributed by Prof **Hubiao Chen** (Hong Kong), Dr **Ping Guo** (Hong Kong) and Prof **Jiqing Liu** (Shenzhen), respectively. This column is advised by Prof **Zhongzhen Zhao** (Hong Kong).