

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



## Monthly Chinese Materia Medica Highlights

Wild cockscomb (*Celosia argentea*, Amaranthaceae, 青葙, left) and crested cockscomb (*Celosia cristata*, Amaranthaceae, 鸡冠花, right)



The **dried ripe seed** of *Celosia argentea* (*celosiae semen*) and the **dried spike** of *Celosia cristata* (*celosiae cristatae flos*) are common medicinals official in current Chinese Pharmacopeia. First recorded in the text of *Divine Husbandman's Classic of Materia Medica (Shen Nong Ben Cao Jin)* of the Eastern Han Dynasty (25~220), *celosiae semen* clears liver fire, benefits the eyes, and removes superficial visual obstruction. First appeared in the text of *Materia Medica of South Yunnan (Dian Nan Ben Cao)* of the Ming Dynasty (1368~1644), *celosiae cristatae flos* astringes to stop bleeding, checks vaginal discharge, and relieves dysentery.

These two plants from the same genus can be clearly identified by their morphological and molecular biological characteristics. However, *Celosia argentea* var. *cristata* is adopted as the scientific name of crested cockscomb in some botanical literature, because it is usually regarded as a tetraploid cultivar of wild cockscomb.

### 青葙

身高三尺说青葙  
花白先红淡似妆  
总有浮云遮望眼  
心中一粒伴时光

### 鸡冠花

身高半米火红花  
昂立非禽似晚霞  
莫待五更来报晓  
心随永爱去天涯

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).