

nant liquid and floating materials. Wash the residue with 10 mL of diethyl ether, and remove the diethyl ether by suction. To the residue add 2 mL of pyridine and 0.2 mL of sodium hydrogen carbonate TS, and boil: a light blue to blue color is produced (sulfur).

(3) To 1 g of Sulfur, Salicylic Acid and Thianthol Ointment add 15 mL of ethanol (95), stir well while warming on a water bath, cool, and filter. Use the filtrate as the sample solution. Dissolve 0.01 g each of salicylic acid and thianthol in 5 mL of ethanol (95), and use these solutions as the standard solution (1) and standard solution (2). Perform the test with these solutions as directed under Thin-layer Chromatography. Spot 5 μ L each of the sample solution and the standard solutions on a plate of silica gel with fluorescent indicator for thin-layer chromatography. Develop the plate with a mixture of chloroform, acetone and acetic acid (100) (45:5:1) to a distance of about 10 cm, and air-dry the plate. Examine under ultraviolet light (main wavelength: 254 nm): the spots of each component obtained from the sample solution and the standard solutions (1) and (2) show the same *R_f* value. Spray iron (III) chloride TS upon the plate evenly: the spot from the standard solution (1) and that from the corresponding sample solution reveal a purple color.

Containers and storage Containers—Tight containers.

Sweet Hydrangea Leaf

Hydrangeae Dulcis Folium

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Sweet Hydrangea Leaf is the leaf and twig of *Hydrangea macrophylla* Seringe var. *thunbergii* Makino (*Saxifragaceae*).

Description Usually wrinkled and contracted leaf, dark green to dark yellow-green in color. When soaked in water and smoothed out, it is lanceolate to acuminate ovate, about 12 cm in length, about 5 cm in width; margin serrated, base slightly wedged; coarse hair on both surfaces, especially on the veins; lateral veins not reaching the margin but curving upwards and connecting with each other; petiole short and less than one-fifth of the length of lamina. Odor, slight; taste, characteristically sweet.

Identification Mix 0.5 g of pulverized Sweet Hydrangea Leaf with 8 mL of a mixture of diethyl ether and petroleum ether (1:1), shake well, filter, and evaporate the filtrate to dryness. Dissolve the residue in 1 mL of dilute ethanol, and add 1 drop of dilute iron (III) chloride TS: a red-purple color develops, which disappears on the addition of 2 to 3 drops of dilute sulfuric acid.

Purity (1) Stem—The amount of stems contained in Sweet Hydrangea Leaf does not exceed 3.0%.

(2) Foreign matter—The amount of foreign matter other than stems contained in Sweet Hydrangea Leaf does not exceed 1.0%.

Loss on drying Not more than 13.0% (6 hours).

Total ash Not more than 12.0%.

Acid-insoluble ash Not more than 2.5%.

Powdered Sweet Hydrangea Leaf

Hydrangeae Dulcis Folium Pulveratum

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Powdered Sweet Hydrangea Leaf is the powder of Sweet Hydrangea Leaf.

Description Powdered Sweet Hydrangea Leaf occurs as a dark yellow-green powder, and has a faint odor and a characteristic, sweet taste.

Under a microscope, Powdered Sweet Hydrangea Leaf reveals fragments of epidermis with wavy lateral membrane; stomata with two subsidiary cells; unicellular and thin-walled hair with numerous protrusions of the surface, 150–300 μ m in length; fragments of palisade tissue and spongy tissue; fragments of vascular bundle and mucilage cells containing raphides of calcium oxalate 50–70 μ m in length.

Identification Mix 0.5 g of Powdered Sweet Hydrangea Leaf with 8 mL of a mixture of diethyl ether and petroleum ether (1:1), shake well, filter, and evaporate the filtrate to dryness. Dissolve the residue in 1 mL of dilute ethanol, and add 1 drop of dilute iron (III) chloride TS: a red-purple color develops, which disappears on the addition of 2 to 3 drops of dilute sulfuric acid.

Purity Foreign matter—Under a microscope, Powdered Sweet Hydrangea Leaf does not show stone cells, a large quantity of fibers or starch grains.

Loss on drying Not more than 12.0% (6 hours).

Total ash Not more than 12.0%.

Acid-insoluble ash Not more than 2.5%.

Swertia Herb

Swertiae Herba

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Swertia Herb is the whole herb of *Swertia japonica* Makino (*Gentianaceae*) collected during the blooming season.

It contains not less than 2.0% of swertiamarin (C₁₆H₂₂O₁₀: 374.34), calculated on the basis of dried material.

Description Herb, 20 cm in length, having flowers, opposite leaves, stems, and, usually, with short, lignified roots; stems square, about 0.2 cm in diameter, often with branches; the leaves and stems dark green to dark purple or yellow-brown in color; the flowers white to whitish, and the roots yellow-brown. When smoothed by immersing in water, leaves, linear or narrow lanceolate, 1–4 cm in length, 0.1–0.5 cm in width, entire, and sessile; corolla split deeply as five lobes; the lobes narrow, elongated ellipse shape, and under a magnifying glass, with two elliptical nectaries juxtaposed at the base of the inner surface; the margin of lobe resembles eyelashes; the five stamens grow on the tube of the corolla