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Trace Metal and Mineral Contents in Medicinal Herbs

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This study was conducted to investigate contents of trace metal and mineral in commercial Korean medicinal herbs. A total of 26 samples (*Ostericum Koreanum* M., *Angelicae Dahuricae* R., *Cnidium officinale* M. and *Angelica gigas* N. etc.) were purchased from Gyeongnam branch office of medicinal herbs wholesale association. Mercury was analyzed by automatic mercury analyzer, others by inductively coupled plasma spectrometer(ICP). Sample preparation for ICP analysis was examined by dry-ashed method. As a result of trace metal analysis, the content of Hg was 0.063~0.220mg/kg, and detected in order of high contents *Aralia continentalis* K., *Gardenia jasminoides* E. and *Paeonia albiflora* P., Pb 0.015~1.317mg/kg, *Schizandra chinensis* B., *Platycodi Radix*. and *Atractlodes japonica* K., Cd 0.032~0.431mg/kg, *Cyperus rotundus* L., *Ostericum Koreanum* M. and *Atractlodes japonica* K., As 0.08~0.90mg/kg, *Anemarrhena asphodeloides* B., *Adenophora triphylla* and *Paeonia albiflora* P., Cu 2.65~9.48mg/kg, *Artemisia capillaris* T., *Atractlodes japonica* K. and *Perilla frutescens* B., Zn 14.70~106.51mg/kg, *Lycium chinense* M., *Corydalis ternata* N. and *Atractlodes japonica* K., Mn 11.52~125.45mg/kg, *Perilla frutescens* B., *Eucommia ulmoides* O. and *Artemisia capillaris* T. respectively. In contents of mineral, Ca was 106.15~3948.56, Na 36.69~214.78, Mg 74.51~462.79, K 467.83~2757.53, P 118.98~634.65, Fe 4.89~33.56mg/100g respectively. *Perilla frutescens* B. was generally higher than other medicinal herbs in most mineral contents.