PHARMACOGNOSTIC IDENTIFICATION OF THE LEAVES OF TA KHRAI AND TA KHRAI HOM

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Ta Khrai is known as a common spices and widely used as an ingredient in traditional Thai food. Since it contains volatile oil, it is claimed to be antiflatulence. It is also used as tonic and urine disorder. Ta Khrai Hom, another kind of plant with intense characteristic odor, is used for insect repellent and an ingredient in cosmetics but not for food preparation. Since these two kinds of plant are used differently but the morphology of the leaves are similar especially when dried. Pharmacognostic investigation in order to establish the specification for the identification of the leaves of Ta Khrai (Cymbopogon citratus (DC.) Stapf) and Ta Khrai Hom (Cymbopogon nardus (L.) Rendle) have been carried out.