

Original Paper

Study on the Classification and Publication of *Yamato Materia Medica*—Focusing on the Comparison with Compendium of *Materia Medica*

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Abstract

The development of modern Japanese materia medica began with the passing of the Book Compendium of Materia Medica to Japan. With the spread and popularity of compendium of Materia Medica and the influence of Confucian thoughts such as “learning from things to know”, Ekiken Kaibara, a Confucianist, herbalist and naturalist, has become Japan’s first original materia medica natural history work - Yamato Materia Medica. Among them, there are 772 kinds collected from compendium of Materia Medica, except for the parts not owned by Japan, 203 kinds collected from other bibliographies, 358 kinds produced in Japan and 29 kinds imported from the Netherlands. A total of 1362 varieties were collected. This paper intends to analyze the origin relationship between compendium of Materia Medica and Yamato Materia Medica. The investigation of Yamato Materia Medica has important reference value for exploring the influence of compendium of Materia Medica on its eastward transmission to Japan and re examining the significance of the translation, introduction and dissemination of traditional Chinese medicine culture with traditional Chinese Medicine Classics as the carrier abroad.

Keywords

Compendium of Materia Medica, Yamato Materia Medica, Ekiken Kaibara, materia medica

1. Introduction

Traditional Chinese medicine culture is a spiritual culture based on the core concept of Chinese traditional philosophy and expressing the basic concepts and thinking mode of the Chinese nation in understanding health and preventing diseases. It is an important part of Chinese civilization. In 1593,

the Jinling edition of compendium of Materia Medica written by Li Shizhen, a scientist of the Ming Dynasty, was spread to Asia, Europe and the United States as soon as it was published, which had a great impact on the development of medicine in the world. Compendium of Materia Medica is a systematic summary of Materia Medica before the Ming Dynasty, including medicine, mineralogy, chemistry and biology, which is of great academic value. In 1596 after Li Shizhen's death, compendium of Materia Medica was first published in Nanjing and spread to Japan more than 1604.

2. Differences in Classification Methods between Compendium of Materia Medica and Yamato Materia Medica

The epoch-making significance of the compendium of Materia Medica in describing the content is that it has abandoned the classification of upper, middle and lower grades since Shennong's Compendium of Materia Medica, but followed each part, followed by categories, and the items follow the outline. Compendium of Materia Medica has rigorous structure and clear hierarchy, detailed content and prominent focus. It classifies similar drugs into various groups, absorbs the advantages of "Zheng Lei Materia Medica" and develops them. The drugs in the compendium of Materia Medica are divided into 16 parts and 60 categories. The classification part is based on the principle of "from micro to giant, from cheap to expensive" and "from outline to outline". This classification method is more in line with modern times, from simple to complex, The evolution law from low level to high level makes the compilation level of 1892 drugs clear, broad but not complicated, detailed and important.

While excluding the elements of health preservation of immortals and Taoism, Ekiken Kaibara's Yamato Materia Medica deleted the prescription part introducing the method of drug administration, followed Li Shizhen's classification method of "analyzing ethnic groups, vibrating classes and sub items", and integrated the idea of naturalistic classification introduced from the west, and divided the whole book into 37 categories, such as water, fire, gold, jade, earth and stone, poultry and human beings, It is attached with the top, middle and bottom of various product drawings and Volume II of appendix, which introduces the name, source, shape and usage of drugs with pictures and texts. Based on the common practical classification of the two books, this paper discusses the similarities and differences between the classification methods and the thoughts of Materia Medica embodied in the two books.

First look at the classification of compendium of Materia Medica. "Outline" refers to the outline and "item" refers to the detailed items under the outline. The numbers in brackets refer to the number of drugs included.

Table 1. Classification Comparison between Compendium of Materia Medica and Yamato Materia Medica

Compendium of Materia Medica		General catalogue of Yamato Materia Medica	
Outline (Department)	Item (class)	Item (class)	explain
Grass (612)	Famous unused (153) Xi grass (126) vine grass (92) mountain grass (71) fragrant grass (56) poisonous grass (47) aquatic grass (23) stone grass (19) moss (16) weed (9)	Weeds (137)	
Wood (180)	Arbor (52) shrub (51) fragrant wood (35) appendix (19) containing wood (12) miscellaneous wood (7) bract wood (4)	Terrestrial insect (94)	Insect department. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
Jinshi (161)	Stone (72) gold (28) appendix stones (27) halite (20) jade (14)	Miscellaneous wood (92)	528 species of grass and 22 species of bamboo
Fruit (126)	Shanguo (34) Yiguo (31) appendix fruits (22) flavor (13) Wuguo (9) Wuguo (11) fruit (6)	Marine fish (83)	The scale part is the fish part. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
Insect (106)	Oviparous (45) metaplasia (31) hygrophly (23) appendix insects (7)	Drugs (79)	It is composed of grass and vegetable. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
Dishes (105)	Soft (41) meat (32) cheese (15) pickled vegetables (11) aquatic vegetables (6)	Flowers and plants (73)	It is composed of grass and vegetable. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
Scale (94)	Fish (31) scaleless fish (28) snake (17) dragon (9) appendix (9)	Gold jade earth rock (67)	It is composed of soil, gold and stone.
Beast (86)	Beast (38), animal (28), rat (12), Yu ·monster (8)	Vegetables (67)	It is synthesized from grass and vegetable.
Server (79)	Utensils (54) clothing and silk (25)	Ostracoda (54)	
Poultry (77)	Waterfowl (23) original bird (23) forest bird (17) mountain bird (13) appendix birds are poisonous (1)	Beast (46)	
Valley (73)	Brewing (29) millet (18) Shudou (14) hemp wheat rice (12)	Fruit trees (44)	It is composed of fruit and wood. There is no such in compendium of

		Materia Medica.
Soil (61)	Flowers and trees (40)	It is composed of fruit and wood. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
Medium (46)	Clam (29) turtle (17)	River fish (39) The scale part is the fish part. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
Water (43)	Dishui (30) Tianshui (13)	Creeper (37) Poultry, fish and Ostracoda
Person (37)	Person (35) attached (2)	Garden wood (36) It is composed of fruit and wood. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
Fire (11)	Water and grass (36)	
	Bird (36)	Poultry department. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
	Medicinal wood (32)	It is composed of fruit and wood. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
	Brewing (29)	Extract the brewing from the valley.
	Seaweed (28)	There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
	Cereals (26)	Place the grain in front of the grass.
	Fungi (25)	There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
	Waterfowl (25)	Poultry department.
	Bamboo (22)	There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
	Water insect (20)	Insect department. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
	Garden grass (18)	
	Fragrant grass (16)	It belongs to fruit Department in compendium of Materia Medica.
	Mountain bird (13)	Poultry department.
	Water (12)	

Fire (10)	
Human (10)	
Exotic birds (10)	Poultry department. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
Miscellaneous birds (10)	Birds. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
Class (9)	
Four types of wood (7)	It is composed of fruit and wood. There is no such book in the compendium.
Civil grass (7)	It is composed of grass and vegetable. There is no such in compendium of Materia Medica.
Poultry (4)	

3. Analysis on the Classification Method of Yamato Materia Medica in Compendium of Materia Medica

Yamato Materia Medica basically follows the classification method of compendium of Materia Medica. In the order of recording, from inorganic to organic, from low to high; However, in terms of content, Yamato Materia Medica makes a reasonable choice and addition to the former, such as completely discarding the “service part”, adding “brewing” and “bamboo” containing processed products such as 味噌 (yellow sauce) and かまぼこ (fish cake), and adding three volumes of product drawings to depict 331 species of animal and plant materia medica that are easy to be confused.

In Yamato Materia Medica, Ekiken Kaibara deleted more than 1800 kinds of products in the compendium of Materia Medica, of which there are no or ambiguous products in Japan, leaving 772 kinds, 203 from other bibliographies, 358 from Japan and 29 imported products from the Netherlands, Portugal and other places. A total of 1362 varieties were collected.

From the above table, it can be seen that in the compendium (Division) of compendium of Materia Medica, “Yamato Materia Medica” completely omits the service. Because Ekiken Kaibara limited the drugs to the natural substances taken orally, he omitted the class of service devices. Different from the compendium of Materia Medica, as shown in Table 1, he established 22 categories, including brewing, medicine, civil grass, flowers and plants, garden grass, Yu, seaweed, fungi, bamboo, four trees, fruit trees, medicinal trees, garden trees, flowers and trees, river fish, sea fish, water insects, land insects, small birds, poultry, miscellaneous birds and exotic birds.

Starting from the comparison results, the author intends to investigate the reasons why Ekiken Kaibara adopts this classification method, which is mainly divided into the following four points:

3.1 The Text Content and Classification are Purpose Oriented and have Strong Practicability

For example, in terms of drugs, Ekiken Kaibara has set up “drugs” and “drug orders”, which rarely describe the medicinal properties and pharmacology of herbal drugs (plants), and the preparation methods and prescriptions of drugs are even more rare. The main contents are the name, origin, shape and identification of herbaceous plants. He abandoned the adjustment and processing method (invention) and prescription of herbal drugs and drugs in the compendium of *Materia Medica*, as well as the textual research on the pharmacodynamics and pharmacology of four Qi, five flavors, toxicity and non toxicity. He introduced the commonly used herbs in Japan in a straightforward way. It can be seen from this that Ekiken Kaibara regarded almost all items classified outside medicine as things people eat every day. This can be understood not only from the fact that Ekiken Kaibara omits all the service devices, but also from the aspects of fungi, *Ganoderma lucidum* and humans. He believes that *Ganoderma lucidum* is not food and should not be eaten by humans. Because of his strong purpose orientation, there is a reasonable reason for Ekiken Kaibara to choose the classification method of compendium of *Materia Medica* in Yamato *Materia Medica*.

3.2 Advocating the Research Method of Seeing is Believing, Paying Attention to Hands-on Experiment and Field Investigation.

In compendium of *Materia Medica*, birds are divided into waterfowl, native birds, forest birds and mountain birds according to their living areas. In this regard, apart from waterfowls (cranes, geese, herons, etc.) and mountain birds (Eagles, vultures, pheasants, etc.), Yamato *Materia Medica* also includes birds (birds, swallows, skylarks, etc.), poultry (chickens, ducks), miscellaneous birds (cranes, doves, etc.), exotic birds (Yellow Warblers, parrots, peacocks, etc.). Yamato *Materia Medica* by Ekiken Kaibara, If it is an inherent Japanese product, it will be marked with “(harmony product); if it is a foreign product, it will be marked with” foreign “, which is the same throughout the whole article. Birds among foreign birds refer to birds from China, North Korea or the Netherlands in ancient times. According to the legend of” peacock is poisonous “, Ekiken Kaibara made a” non-toxic “conclusion based on the description of compendium of *Materia Medica*. (408 pages)

3.3 According to Local Conditions, New Classifications are Added in Combination with Japanese Local Conditions and Customs, and Great Works of Materia Medica with Local Characteristics are Inherited and Created

For example, in Yamato *Materia Medica*, Ekiken Kaibara is very concerned about the difference between fresh water (aquatic grass) and sea water (seaweed). Seaweed includes seaweed such as laver and kelp. These are classified as aquatic plants in compendium of *Materia Medica*. Ekiken Kaibara criticizes the compendium of *Materia Medica* in “on *Materia Medica*” in Volume 1 of “Yamato *Materia Medica*” that “aquatic plants contain seaweed, sea sediment, laver, kelp, stone sail, Pinus, etc., which are mixed with fresh water grass, and there is no difference between light and salty Sichuan and sea” (page 18 of the complete collection). The same is true of his classification of river fish and sea fish. In Yamato *Materia Medica*, he introduced in detail the method of distinguishing freshwater fish from

seawater fish. In the “sea fish” category, it even takes a little pen and ink to describe the characteristics of “meat cake” (hepin). According to the book, it is “not found in Chinese books, nor in our country in ancient times. It was made in recent times” (page 351 of the complete collection), indicating that meat cake is a processed fish recently produced in Japan. Ekiken Kaibara once highly appreciated the fish cake that contemporary people still eat today, saying that “roast food is also good, cooking is soft, and the old and the weak are salty.” (350 pages). These two classification methods all reveal that Ekiken Kaibara absorbed the local customs and customs of Japan in Yamato Materia Medica, inherited and absorbed Chinese traditional Materia Medica according to local conditions, and developed and compiled a masterpiece of Materia Medica with local characteristics.

3.4 Close to the Common People's Life, Extract and Re classify the Accumulation of Goods Closely Related to Daily Life

For example, in the compendium of Materia Medica, brewing is divided into the valley. And Ekiken Kaibara extracted it from cereals. We can think that he attaches great importance to this brewed and processed food in Japan. In particular, he has special hometown feelings for miso, a unique Japanese food and (and product). He said with great praise, “from childhood to old age, regardless of illness or disease, food can be adjusted to misuse.” (page 101 of the complete collection), which emphasizes the function of miso eaten by ordinary people. At the same time, as for another kind of “(Heping)” fine bran miso, he said that “those who are willing to help the people should prepare it before famine. They should also feed horses, which is beneficial to civil use” (page 102 of the complete collection), and proposed to save the people from famine and contribute to the people's livelihood. It can be speculated that because of focusing on these, Ekiken Kaibara established another classification of brewing. From this comparison, we can also find that while Ekiken Kaibara changed the category of his works from medical works to natural history works, he also weakened the professionalism of Materia Medica as medicine, making it popular, popular science, enlightenment and other characteristics of Japanese materia medica.

4. Traditional Chinese Materia Medica and Modern Japanese Materia Medica: From Compendium of Materia Medica to Yamato Materia Medica

It can be said that Japanese materia medica in Edo period was inherited and developed with the Book Compendium of Materia Medica as the core. Looking at the development process of Japanese materia medica in Edo period, from the beginning of the spread of the compendium of Materia Medica to the later comparison between the compendium of Materia Medica and local drugs, they produced many original works of Materia Medica or cleverly used them to create many practical books of Materia Medica, and then to the last large-scale field investigation, Completely divorced from China's traditional materia medica, and developed in the direction of Materia Medica and natural history. This unique development track finally created the unique characteristics of Japanese materia medica compared with Chinese materia medica.

Both books are aimed at providing easy to understand drug knowledge. The readers of compendium of *Materia Medica* mainly focus on those who are specialized in drug business such as drug collection and drug sales. On the other hand, the readers of *Yamato Materia Medica* are broad, mostly the common people and the leaders of officials responsible for relieving these common people during the famine period. Whether to target people specializing in drug work is the biggest difference between the two books. The compendium of *Materia Medica* is described according to the items such as interpretation, collection and interpretation, correctness and error, repair and treatment, smell, indications, inventions and accessories. People can extract the necessary information in *Materia Medica* according to the items. “*Yamato Materia Medica*” gives tips on the nature, efficacy, precautions for ingestion and other information necessary for ordinary people in Japan, so as to be plain and easy to understand. This book is written by Ekiken Kaibara, a Confucian who advocates that people love with the heart of natural things and practice the principle of things. Inspired by Li Shizhen, the author of compendium of *Materia Medica*, Ekiken Kaibara carefully observed the natural objects around him, thought about their utilization methods, and then conveyed them to people in a simple and understandable way. In the process of acceptance of modern materia medica promoted by compendium of *Materia Medica* in Japan, due to various factors, it broke away from the category of *Materia Medica* in the traditional sense and has the characteristics of disciplines such as nominalis, natural history and natural products.

5. Conclusion

After its spread in Japan, compendium of *Materia Medica* has opened up a new horizon for its medical and natural history circles. In the wave of rapid development of *Materia Medica* in Edo period, Japanese modern materia medica gradually deviated from the track of the development of Chinese traditional materia medica, and gave birth to the characteristics of natural history, materia medica and so on. In addition to a series of reasons such as the social atmosphere and political background in the Edo period, the practical characteristics of demonstration, practice and pragmatism of Edo herbalists are also one of the reasons that can not be ignored. Compendium of *Materia Medica* has had a significant impact on the classification of Japanese *Materia Medica*, among which *Yamato Materia Medica* extends the content of compendium of *Materia Medica*. With reference to the contents of compendium of *Materia Medica*, Ekiken Kaibara compiled materia medica works and organically combined Chinese materia medica knowledge with domestic resources in Japan. Ekiken Kaibara dialectically and objectively intercepted and used the ideas of “learning from things” and “poor reason” in Zhu Zixue for himself. In *Yamato Materia Medica*, he began to focus on practicability and practical investigation of local drugs, And the works of materia medica are mutually used, constantly enriching the number of *Materia Medica*, and opening up a broader field for the research of modern Japanese materia medica. In terms of the use of compendium of *Materia Medica*, there is no longer only a written textual research on it, but there are enlightenment materia medica books such as practical materia medica or illustrated materia medica which is convenient for popularizing the public’s

knowledge of Materia Medica.

The President of PR Of China, Jinping Xi said “Compendium of Materia Medica, as a masterpiece of ancient Chinese Materia Medica, not only reflects the long-term medical practice and medical experience of Chinese doctors, but also deeply influenced and nourished by Chinese traditional culture, reflecting the irreplaceable ‘Chinese wisdom’”. Based on the above considerations, in our future research on the content analysis and influence of the translation and introduction of compendium of Materia Medica transmitted to Japan, how to reproduce the historical facts of Japanese translation, processing, integration and expansion of Chinese traditional medical knowledge, so as to successfully prepare for the development of modern materia medica and natural history; How to provide literature basis for the study of the history of Chinese medicine communication and development; How to provide case reference for facing up to and positioning the charm of Chinese traditional culture and clarifying the foreign-related influence and mutually beneficial exchange of Chinese medical classics. These problems still deserve further attention and discussion in the academic circles.

Note

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