



Editorial

ESCOP on-line: New monographs available!

For more than 20 years, ESCOP has been a world leader in the publication of scientific monographs on herbal medicinal products or phytomedicines. Over 80 ESCOP monographs on widely-used herbal medicines in Europe have been published in two hard bound volumes (Second Edition 2003 and Supplement 2009) and are renowned for their comprehensive yet concise summaries of the rapidly expanding knowledge base in the field of phytotherapy.

The dedicated work of the ESCOP Scientific Committee producing these monographs is two-fold. Not only do they produce the original texts but, uniquely among other monographs series, there is also a regular updating of previously published monographs. A key priority for the Scientific Committee and ESCOP Board is to give the reader the most important and up to date information.

In 2011, ESCOP decided to publish new monographs and new revisions as single stand-alone documents, available for purchase on-line from the ESCOP website. Ten of these single monographs on the following plant drugs are now available for purchase at www.escop.com/monographs.

• <i>Alchemillae herba</i>	Alchemilla/Lady's Mantle
• <i>Cimicifugae rhizoma</i>	Black Cohosh
• <i>Hamamelidis cortex</i>	Hamamelis bark
• <i>Hamamelidis folium</i>	Hamamelis leaf
• <i>Hamamelidis aqua</i>	Hamamelis water
• <i>Hydrastis rhizoma</i>	Goldenseal rhizome
• <i>Marrubii herba</i>	White Horehound
• <i>Uvae ursi folium</i>	Bearberry leaf
• <i>Symphyti radix</i>	Comfrey root
• <i>Tormentillae rhizoma</i>	Tormentil

This new publication format marks an important step towards ensuring the most recent information is incorporated. Using this method of publishing, the time between editorial completion of a draft and publication can be drastically reduced, and the new online monographs can be downloaded quickly and conveniently as pdf documents.

The texts themselves continue to follow the well-established format which ESCOP has used for the last 20 years. These include summaries of constituents, therapeutic indications, posology and method of administration, contra-indications, special warnings/precautions for use, interactions etc. an extensive compilation of all relevant pharmacological, toxicological and clinical studies including an extensive list of references.

The rigorous editorial process for these single monographs also remains unchanged. After a draft is agreed and finalised by the Scientific Committee, each monograph is reviewed prior to publication by an international board of supervising editors made up of globally renowned experts in phytomedicines.

Another key advantage of publication in single monograph format is that researchers can purchase monographs which are of specific relevance to their field of interest. We hope this new delivery method represents a major improvement for health professionals, regulators, manufacturers and anyone who needs the most up to date compilations on the efficacy and safety of herbal drugs as a basis for their work.

The price of an individual monograph varies, depending on its size (typically 20–30 Euros) which is comparable to prices charged by international publishers for the on-line delivery of single papers from scientific journals.

A number of completely new ESCOP monographs are in the final stages of review and publication. Please visit the ESCOP website in the coming months for further information.

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