

Summary

Traditional Chinese medicine finds in Czech Republic many fans and this trend is still developing. More and more people are seeking help in Chinese medicine specialists. A large amount of people also uses the TCM preparations as a part of self-medication, as a wide offer of TCM can be found on internet.

However, it must be kept in mind that the natural sources are narrow. Some plant and animal species are endangered of dying out mainly because of rising international trade which concerns them. Therefore there is an urgent need to regulate this large international trade and not let to exterminate some plant and animal species. This is the main task of the international organization CITES, which very thoroughly and effectively controls the trade with endangered species, which are registered according to the degree of threat in attachments I, II and III of the CITES agreement. Obviously also the import to EU and the Czech Republic is regulated and under control.

From all the companies, which offer the TCM preparations on the Czech web sites, which are mentioned in this assignment, only the Tcmbohemia company (www.tcmbohemia.cz) offers two products which contain plant-ingredients protected by CITES. These are 039 – called “větreň zbořený altán”, which contains rhizome of a plant *Gastrodia elata* and preparation 064 – called “utišení větrné bouře”, which contains a wood of a plant *Aquilaria sinensis*. Both these plants are mentioned in the II attachment, what means that for the international trade the license is necessary, called permit CITES. The company Tcmbohemia owns this license, so sale of all these preparation is allowed and legal.

On the list of the web site of the company Sanbao (www.sanbao.cz) there are listed among the other plants also three species of plants protected by the CITES agreement. These are *Dendrobium* sp. (top), *Gastrodia elata* (rhizome) and *Panax quinquefolium* (root). However these plants are mentioned there only because of their grand meaning for TCM and their unique healing effects, but in the reality there are not used for preparation of the mixtures because of the CITES protection. These herbs are replaced in the mixtures by the herbs with similar effects, which are not protected.

The CITES agreement performs an important function in nature protection and prevention of endangered animal and plant species loss. However the CITES legislature differs from the EU legislature, which is more adapted to the European requirements.

Therefore it is essential not only to compare the ingredients of the TCM preparation with the list of protected species of CITES, but also with the attachments of Court ES regulations number 338/97.