

## Comparison of the Crude Drugs Listed in the Shen Nong Ben Cao Jing of Ancient China and the Materia Medica of Ancient Greece

Mamoru Noguchi

Formerly of National Institute of Health Sciences (Osaka Branch)

5-3-25-204, Tsukamoto, Yodogawa-ku, Osaka 532-0026, Japan

### Summary

- 1) More than 900 and 365 crude drugs, respectively, are listed in the Materia Medica of Greece (A) and the Shen Nong Ben Cao Jing of China (B), including examples from medical plants, insects, animals, fishes and shellfishes.
- 2) Pharmacological activities of several plant drug, like Glycyrrhiza, Paeonia, Cinnamon and Rheum, were found to be almost the same or to demonstrate clear resemblance between both A and B.
- 3) Among the crude drugs originating from animals, extracts of the hooves of animals were used for control of epilepsy and cast-off skins of snakes for ophthalmic diseases in both A and B.
- 4) Cockroaches were used to improve stagnation of the circulation or coagulation of blood in China (B), but such activity was not documented in (A).
- 5) Earthworms were believed to have positive activities for fever and as diuretics, both in (A) and (B).