

## CHAPTER I



### INTRODUCTION

In Thai traditional medicine, herbal drugs are used both as a single drug and as a group of drugs. Groups of drugs which consisted of drugs with the same title names, the same quantities used, and the same therapeutic uses are called "Pi-gud" or "Pi-gud-ya".<sup>(1)</sup> Several Pi-gud were listed in Thai traditional recipes, for example, Pi-gud-gay-sorn, Pi-gud-gote, Pi-gud-thian, etc.

Pi-gud-thian is a collective name of a group of crude drugs of vegetable origin (Thian), which are frequently used in Thai traditional recipes.<sup>(1)</sup> Pi-gud-thian is divided into 3 groups, according to the number of components contained, as followed

1. Pi-gud-thian which consisted of 5 certain kinds of Thian are called Thian-tung-haa. They are

1. Thian Dam
2. Thian Dang
3. Thian Khaao
4. Thian Khaoplueak
5. Thian Taatakkataen

2. Pi-gud-thian which consisted of 7 certain kinds of Thian, which added two more kinds of Thian to Thian-tung-haa, are called Thian-tung-jed. They are

1. Thian Dam
2. Thian Dang
3. Thian Khaao
4. Thian Khaoplueak
5. Thian Taatakataen
6. Thian Yaowapanee
7. Thian Sattabut

3. Pi-gud-thian which consisted of 9 certain kinds of Thian, which added two more kinds of Thian to Thian-tung-jed, are called Thian-tung-khao. They are

1. Thian Dam
2. Thian Dang
3. Thian Khaao
4. Thian Khaoplueak
5. Thian Taatakataen
6. Thian Yaowapanee
7. Thian Sattabut
8. Thian Taakob
9. Thian Klethoi

All kinds of Thian in Thian-tung-khao were obtained from fruits except Thian Dam, Thian Dang and Thian Klethoi which were obtained from seeds.

Thian-tung-khao consists of crude drugs which are produced from plants native to countries other than Thailand. Because of its frequent uses, a large amount of each kind of Thian has been imported. Various Thai names had been used for each kind of Thian which resulted in a very confusing situation in identifying the plants and the confirmation of their botanical origins was not possible. Several reports showed such confusions in matching Thai names of Thian-tung-khao with their botanical origins. From the random purchasing of the drugs (Thian) from local traditional drugstores, it was found that some drugstores had probably used Thian Sattabut in place of Thian Khaoplueak. In addition, some dealers had probably replaced Thian Taatakataen for Thian Taakob when the latter cannot be obtained in the market. These problems can lead to the use of incorrect drugs either in traditional recipes for therapeutic uses, which may be ineffective, or in research studies of these drugs in other fields involved, i.e. determination of their active principles and pharmacological activities etc., a misleading results would be obtained and time consuming and expensive research efforts would be useless.

In order to clarify such confusions concerning these foreign herbal drugs, several studies were conducted to clarify the identities of Thian and the results have been reported.(2-5)

However, very little is known about the identifications of Thian-tung-khao. This study has been conducted to prove the identities of Thian-tung-khao. A complete study on identifications and pharmacognostic specifications of Thian-tung-khao have been carried out.



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