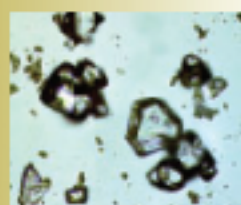


# Arsenicum

Arsenic Trioxide

Pishuang

砒霜



Arsenous Oxide  
Magnified



0.5 cm

Crude drug

**Source** ▶ Arsenic trioxide obtained through sublimation of *arsenolite*.

**Distribution** ▶ Mainly in Chinese provinces such as Hunan, Jiangxi and Guizhou.

**Harvest & Processing** ▶ Crush arsenolite into pieces; put in a tin, cover the opening with the bottom of an iron bowl; seal the joint with saline soil; fill the iron bowl with water; heat up the tin with a gentle fire for 2-3 hours to produce sublimate on the bowl bottom; let cool; collect the sublimate and remove the remnants in the tin; put sublimate back into the tin and repeat the heating process 2-3 times to produce extremely pure arsenic trioxide.

**Description** ▶ Placoid (plate-like) or pulverulent (powdery). White or pale yellowish-white. Heavy. Odourless and tasteless. Extremely toxic; must not be tasted in the mouth.

**Indications** ▶ 1. Dyspnoeic cough with whitish sputum, asthma 2. Malaria 3. Scrofula, tuberculosis 4. External use for haemorrhoid, fistula, chronic ulcers, chronic tinea infection.

**Chemical Composition** ▶ Mainly contains arsenic (III) oxide ( $As_2O_3$ ).

**Note** ▶ Listed in Hong Kong as Category I (Toxic/Potent) Chinese Materia Medica.