

A Comparative Study of *The Toad Classic of the Yellow Emperor Versions (Huangdi hamajing)* with a Focus on Monthly Changing Human Figures

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Abstract

The Toad Classic of the Yellow Emperor (Huangdi hamajing) is a medical book recording contraindications in terms of time. This book states that certain days should be avoided during the practice of acupuncture and medication. If not followed properly, disease or even death may result. In reviewing past studies, most researchers have compared the texts of *Ishinpō* and *The Toad Classic of the Yellow Emperor*, or have examined the origins of contraindications in chronomedical acupuncture. Concerning the versions of the book, only the context of the *Weisheng huibian* version was discussed previously, and the manuscript version was rarely mentioned. Fortunately, the availability of the manuscript version has made the comparative study of different book versions possible. As for the *Weisheng huibian* version, its book history provides distinct experiences due to transformations in time and space. Thus, the purpose of this study is to analyze the differences in contraindications of chronomedical acupuncture in different versions of *The Toad Classic of the Yellow Emperor*, focusing on monthly changing human figures. By comparing the contexts of different book versions, the spread and transformation of medical knowledge are also revealed. The changes in carriers and everlasting spirit of thought are the meaning behind the search for *The Toad Classic of the Yellow Emperor*.

Keywords: human spirit, acupuncture, version, human figure, *Weisheng huibian*