

## **The Production History of Chinese Medicinal “Calculus Bovis (Niuhuang)” and the Knowledge Structure Involving Its Herbology**

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### **Abstract**

The classical record of the history of Niuhuang is a subject worthy of study, because, in the past, while the tales of Niuhuang were spread by the compendium of herbology, empirical knowledge about it had also been handed down by chroniclers in the medieval period of Chinese history. However, in the professional texts of natural history, the traditional “divine” still could not be completely replaced by “reality.” In other words, although the empirical example of the predecessor for “killing the cattle to take Niuhuang” had been widely spread, its illustration in the pharmaceutical book was still a drawing of “shouting at the cattle to get Niuhuang.” This was based upon a long-standing natural recognition that one could make a sick cattle spit out Niuhuang by yelling at and whipping the poor animal.

Of course, pharmacy is not all about medicinal material images, but these kind of drawings made by natural portraiture still constitute a part of Chinese herbal science, and the logical basis of this article is to explore the knowledge structure of ancient pharmaceuticals case by case.

**Keywords:** Niuhuang, Chinese medicine, herbology, medical history, cultural history