

Abstract

Khing Hang is a crude drug used as an important component in Thai medicinal compounding. The name Khing Hang literally means “Dried Ginger” but the crude drug named Khing Hang is derived from ginger or not is not ascertained. This study aimed to demonstrate the chemical identity of the crude drug Khing Hang and compare to those obtained from *Zingiber officinale* Roscoe, *Zingiber kerrii* Craib and *Zingiber simaoense* Y. Y. Qian using chromatography technique. Ethanolic extracts of dried Khing Hang obtained from 8 reliable sources, dried rhizomes of *Zingiber officinale* Roscoe, *Zingiber kerrii* Craib, *Zingiber simaoense* Y. Y. Qian and fresh rhizomes of *Zingiber officinale* Roscoe were prepared. The lyophilized extracts were analyzed by means of gas chromatography/mass spectrometry. The fingerprints of the 8 Khing Hang extracts and the dried rhizomes of *Zingiber officinale* were much alike with 7 identified compounds; alpha-Curcumene, Zingiberene, beta-Bisabolene, beta-Sesquiphellandrene, Paradol, Dihydrostilbene, Gingerol and one unknown compound occurring at the coincident sequences and retention times. Comparison of the chemical components in these Khing Hang extracts with those found in the extracts of the fresh rhizomes of *Zingiber officinale* Roscoe, *Zingiber kerrii* Craib and *Zingiber simaoense* Y. Y. Qian showed no common compounds in terms of retention time. The findings indicate that the crude drug Khing Hang used at present time is procured from the dried rhizomes of *Zingiber officinale* Roscoe and not the fresh rhizomes of *Zingiber officinale* Roscoe, *Zingiber kerrii* Craib and *Zingiber simaoense* Y. Y. Qian. Further studies, particularly those involved archeology and anthropology are needed to ascertain that Khing Hang mentioned in the traditional texts is also *Zingiber officinale* Roscoe.