Drug Status Report

Drug: Schizandrae chinensis

Drug Name Status: Schizandrae chinensis is the common name.

Schizandrae chinensis is a plant that has been used in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) to treat a variety of medical conditions including sleep disturbance and insomnia, chronic cough, diarrhea, irritability, night sweats and palpitations\(^1\).

A number of bioactive lignans have been isolated from Schizandrae chinensis and are believed to provide the observed pharmacological effects of the plant. For example, a family of dibenzo[a,c]cyclooctene derivatives, known as the Schizandrins, were identified in the fruit of Schizandra chinensis and shown to induce hepatic microsomal cytochrome P-450 thereby increasing liver anabolic metabolism, as well as exhibited cancer and anti-mutagenic potential\(^2\). More recently, Schizandrin A and γ-schizandrin were found to induce apoptosis\(^3\) and this was postulated as the mechanism by which these lignans suppresses the proliferation of cancer cells.

Canadian Status: Schizandrae chinensis does not contain any substances similar to those listed on the schedules to the CDSA.

Recommendation: Schizandrae chinensis is not included in any of the Schedules to the CDSA and is not a controlled substance.

January 13\(^{th}\) 2010.

