Title : Equine Medicine in Traditional Thai Medical Texts: A Compendium of Herbal Therapeutics

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ABSTRACT

Horses have long been of significant importance to Thailand's economy, sports, and medical sectors. However, contemporary equine healthcare relies predominantly on modern veterinary medicine, which tends to focus on symptom-based treatment rather than holistic health management. In addition, specialized veterinary drugs are costly and largely dependent on importation from foreign sources, resulting in a considerable financial burden for horse owners. This study aims to collect and systematically compile traditional Thai equine medicinal texts and to develop them into an academic database.

This research employs a documentary research approach by collecting ancient manuscripts related to equine treatment. Herbal names recorded in these texts were examined and compared with contemporary Thai herbal databases in order to identify their scientific names, classify them according to botanical taxonomy, and document the plant parts used and their medicinal properties. The therapeutic potential of equine remedies was analyzed through comparative assessment of recorded herbal properties against established herbal databases and traditional Thai pharmaceutical literature.

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The results indicate that the collected formulations primarily target diseases of the respiratory system, gastrointestinal system, and musculoskeletal system, which are among the most commonly encountered health problems in horses. A total of 19 formulations were analyzed and evaluated as having potential therapeutic applicability, involving 61 medicinal plant species. The analysis suggests possible anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and restorative effects. Furthermore, linguistic evidence reflecting the influence of Lanna medical knowledge on traditional equine medicine was identified. This study provides an important foundation for further research in traditional Thai veterinary medicine, contributes to the historical study of veterinary practices, and supports the development of holistic alternatives for equine healthcare in the future.

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