

# **Putchock of India and Radix China: Herbal Exchange around Maritime Asia via the VOC during the 17th and 18th Centuries**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Putchock (*Saussurea costus*) has long been grown in the vicinity of Kashmir. It is known by the Chinese as a cure for diarrhea-related symptoms. Radix China (*Smilax china*) is a herb grown in the hinterland of China which cures symptoms of skin ulceration. The radix China was carried from China to India, while the putchock was carried the other way around. They were carried by official traders belonging to Vietnam, Siam, Ryukyu, Java and so forth. Along with the expansion of European intervention in trans-oceanic trade from the 16th century onward, European chartered companies gradually replaced the Southeast Asian tributary traders and became the main carriers of these trades. In this article, the author collects incomplete quantitative data surviving in the archives of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) on those two herbs in China and India, in order to illustrate the concrete situation of this trans-Asian herbal exchange.

Key Words: putchock, radix China, Dutch East India Company, country trade, herb exchange

# 印度木香與土伏苓： 17 至 18 世紀荷蘭東印度公司的 亞洲海域香藥貿易

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## 摘 要

木香產於喀什米爾高原一帶，長年被中國人作為治療腹瀉的藥物使用。土伏苓則是中國內陸生產的藥草，對於皮膚潰爛症狀具有療效。土伏苓從中國出口到印度，而木香則是由印度出口到中國。這些香藥也由越南、暹羅、琉球、爪哇等地經營海上貿易的商人來輸運。十六世紀起，當歐洲人進入東亞海域，各特許公司開始取代這些仰賴中華帝國朝貢制度的區域貿易交換活動，甚至成為主要的載運者。本文藉由荷蘭東印度公司檔案中所遺留的貿易數量記載，檢視在中國與印度之間兩種香藥的交換歷史，以呈現泛亞香藥貿易的實態。

關鍵字：木香、土伏苓、荷蘭東印度公司、港腳貿易、香藥貿易