



Extrax Fax

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OVER 400 EXTRACTS AND FORMULATIONS

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Product Focus Cordyceps

Cordyceps sinensis is a very strange organism. It is a mushroom that grows out of the end of the Lepidoptera caterpillar, and is found in Central China only at elevations above 9,000 ft. The Chinese call the parasite "summer plant-winter worm" as it is thought of as a vegetable in the summer and an animal in the winter. Because of the rigors of hiking high into the mountains to find the caterpillars and gather the fungus, Cordyceps is a very expensive catch, fetching close to \$2,000 per kilo. And because of its remarkable tonic effects on many of the body's metabolic systems, numerous are those that feel it is entirely worth the price.

Not to worry, though. Excellent techniques have been developed to cultivate the very same organism (called the CS-4 strain) on a medium that simulates their preferred insect host habitat. No longer is it necessary to go trekking in search of *Hepialus armoricanus*, the bat moth Lepidoptera caterpillar, that has given its larval life to supporting a fungal growth. And the price has come down dramatically without sacrificing even the slightest amount of potency.

So what can this interesting and unusual organism do for us? After finding out its wide range of effects, you may wonder why you aren't adding this little prize to your daily regime. In Traditional Chinese Medicine, Cordyceps has a long history of use as an invigorating tonic for longevity, endurance and rejuvenation. Emperors would use it to treat kidney, heart and respiratory diseases, weakness, and as a sexual tonic, due to its actions on the kidney and lung meridians. People recovering from long debilitating illnesses have used it to recover from their exhaustion. More recently, Chinese athletes have used Cordyceps to enhance their performance during track events, in some cases breaking speed and endurance records.

Studies show a wide range of clinical and pharmacological effects. It has been shown that

Cordyceps has effects in improving sex drive, sexual potency, physical stamina, and energy. In pharmacological studies it was found to increase the production of body's energy storehouse as much as 50%. In clinical studies, experimental groups of both men and women given Cordyceps were found to have significant increases in libido, and in men, reductions in impotence.

The herb also has a positive effect on immune function. For cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy it has value both by its direct tumor inhibition effects and its natural killer cell enhancing properties. It increases white blood cell phagocytosis and the production of both interferon and T helper cells.

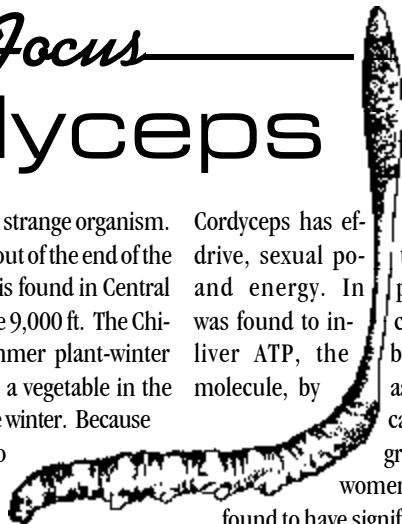
One area that also holds promise for Cordyceps is in the treatment of upper respiratory conditions. It was shown to improve the lung's capacity for air and to have a strong suppressive effect on coughs. It was also shown to have excellent expectorant and bronchodilating effects.

Cordyceps has a plethora of positive cardiovascular effects, increasing cardiac output and decreasing platelet aggregation. It helps to lower cholesterol and triglyceride levels. It also improves renal function, reduces blood sugar, and helps protect the liver in cases of Hepatitis B.

Although Cordyceps is very energizing and endurance enhancing, it is actually a calming herb, relaxing muscles, reducing stress, and promoting sleep. It is easy to see how this virtual powerhouse of a tonic is quickly gaining popularity. We predict that the affordable and potent CS-4 strain of Cordyceps will be one of the next top selling herbs in the industry.

For a complete write-up on the many effects and applications of Cordyceps, please don't hesitate to call us. Draco's Cordyceps extract contains a Full Spectrum of constituents and is standardized to 6% cordycepic acid. ❖

Athletic
Performance
Enhancer



News

Draco's Echinacea Passes Biofit® Testing

Draco's Full Spectrum Standardized Herbal Extract™ of *Echinacea purpurea*, standardized to 4% phenolic compounds is among a minority of *Echinacea* products that have successfully passed Paracelsian's BioFIT® biofunctional assay testing. In fact, every production lot tested of several lots exceeded threshold levels of activity. As of the testing date, Draco's Echinacea extracts were the only raw material sample to pass the BioFIT® test. Paracelsian developed an in vitro methodology for measuring biological activity in the herb incorporating a mechanism of efficacy related to the product's benefit claim (in this case, immune system enhancement). It takes place in the context of a bioavailability model simulating the gastric environment. The mechanism measured was Macrophage Activation Assay - TNF-alpha (Tumor Necrosis Factor), which has been shown in clinical studies to be active in Echinacea in improving upper respiratory tract conditions by killing infected cells. The history of results of clinical work on Echinacea is spotty primarily due to the inability of researchers to consistently obtain potent sample materials. Draco has again demonstrated consistency in the supply of high quality reference grade raw materials. ❖

Another Successful Expo West

If you made the trek to Anaheim this year for the Natural Products Expo West, you may have noticed Draco's Recreational Vehicle parked in the corner of the parking lot next to the Hilton hotel. We have made this meeting spot an annual event to express our appreciation to our valuable friends and customers in the industry. Many thanks to those of you that joined us to enjoy the sun, refreshments, camaraderie, and maybe a little business. Be sure to watch for us again next year!

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