

Colorful, exotic *Platycodon grandiflorum*, more commonly known as Balloon flower due to its puffed up air bag appearing flower bud, might visually remind you of the lungs, and for good reason according to the theory of the doctrine of similarities with botanicals. The root taken from the plant has medicinal effects on the lungs such as reducing cough and expectorant effects for expelling phlegm, making this a premier **lung support** herb. It is a commonly grown plant throughout gardens in America and in Jilin, China. The root is eaten as a vegetable, making this a safe herb for consumption since it has food uses in some regions of the world.

Platycodon has many respiratory-related health benefits according to its uses in traditional Chinese medicine. These include anti-inflammatory properties to protect against lung injury and to provide immune boosting, anti-allergic, expectorant effects to thin mucin secretion as well as inhibition of animal respiratory viruses, and anti-asthmatic benefits.

Scientific research proves the validity of some of Platycodon's bioactive effects. One of the actives, a saponin known as Platycodin D increased mucin release from tracheal surface epithelial cell culture with an effect stronger than that of ATP, a potent mucin secretagogue and also of ambroxole, a mucolytic drug, demonstrating strong expectorant effects (Ryu, 2002). A saponin in platycodon known as CKS or PA suppressed the development of respiratory inflammation by reducing allergic responses (Choi, 2015).

Platycodon extract had **immune-enhancing** effects when tested on suppressed immune spleen cells known as splenocytes, and the result was enhanced cell viability. Other tests showed an increase in

several immune factors, including natural killer cell and cytotoxic T lymphocyte, important immune stimulating cytokines, and immunoglobulins in splenocytes. In addition, it helped improve the recovery of white blood cell, neutrophil, and lymphocyte counts, and a restorative it protected important immune organs, the spleen and thymus gland, from damage (Noh, 2019). In the immune study, the immune stimulating cytokines it increased were TNF- α , IFN- γ , IL-2, and IL-12, and immunoglobulins (IgG and IgA) in splenocytes. The markers of inflammation it reduced were myeloperoxidase, cytokine levels, including interleukin (IL)-6, tumor neurosis factor (TNF)- α , and nuclear factor κ B (NF- κ B).

When used in testing acute lung injury prevention in animal experiments, this herb was shown to reduce excess white blood cells (total leukocyte number) and neutrophils percentage in the lung fluids, and markers of inflammation, while improving antioxidant enzyme levels of superoxide dismutase (SOD) activity in lung fluid (Tao, 2015). Therefore, Platycodon has dual **anti-inflammatory and immunostimulatory** effects for balanced lung support.

Other scientific experiments showed other effects including anti-tumor, anti-oxidant, anti-diabetic, anti-obesity, hepatoprotective and cardiovascular (Zhang, 2015). The phytochemicals include steroidal saponins, flavonoids, polyacetylenes, sterols, phenolics, and other bioactive compounds. It also is used in TCM to lower blood pressure and blood sugar, and has digestive discomfort relieving effects.

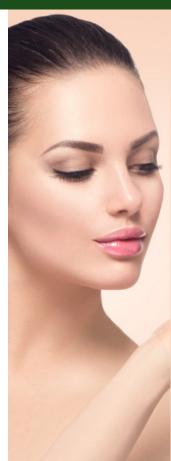
Draco's Platycodon Extract will provide a boost to your overall immunity while helping provide protection for your lungs from viruses and infections during this pandemic.

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- CUSTOM BEVERAGES
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Cosmetic Corner

Draco's Platycodon Extract Protects Your Skin From UV and Helps With Reactive Skin.

UV rays from the sun can have deleterious effects on the skin at different levels, causing many changes such as hyperpigmentation, age spots, wrinkles, a dull tone and sagging. Platycodon extract has skin **anti-photoaging** effects by protecting human keratinocytes skin cells from UV-A damage. The extract also improves cell viability and inhibits reactive oxygen species after UVA exposure. Another benefit is the ability to lower the impact of damaging collagenase and inflammatory cytokines IL-1β and IL-6 to protect collagen (Hwang, 2011). To control **blemishes and hyperpigmentation** from UV exposure, Platycodon root extract inhibited melanin synthesis caused by UV-B (Kasamatsu, 2014).

The aqueous extract helps with **reactive skin** conditions such as atopic dermatitis skin lesions. It can reduce skin lesion intensity, abnormal skin thickening and inflammation (Choi, 2012).

Draco's Platycodon extract can help provide your skin with UV protection and take care of your reactive skin conditions!

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