This beautiful collector's set combines full-color plates of 555 Chinese medicinals with detailed scientific descriptions of the medicinal's source plant, mineral or animal.

The paintings are truly stunning, and accompanied by clear and thorough descriptions of zhong yao, or commonly used Chinese medicinals, translated by expert faculty from the Pharmacology section of the Beijing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

The medicinals are categorized according to the part of the plant primarily used medically. A description of each medicinal covers the source for the medicinal, its area of cultivation or wildcrafting, preparation, chemical constituents, pharmacological actions, Chinese medicinal properties, actions and indication as well as suggested dosages. This valuable information is accompanied by color plates illustrating the main and alternate species used for each medicinal.