CLAIMS

1. A process for preparing a mixture of herbal extracts, wherein the process comprises heating the herbs:
    (i) Radix Astragali (root of Membranous Milkvetch or Huang Qi);
    (ii) Rhizome of Ligusticum Chuanxiong (Chuan Xiong);
    (iii) Radix Angelicae sinensis (root of Chinese Angelica or Dang Gui); and
    (iv) Radix Polygalae (root of thinleaf milkwort, Polygala tenuifolia Willd., Polygala sibirica L. or Yuanzhi)

    in a hydro-alcoholic solvent, to produce a solution containing the herbal extract mixture.

2. A process according to claim 1, also including the extraction of one or more additional herbs selected from:
    a) Radix et Rhizoma Salviae Miltiorrhizae (Red Sage root or Dan Shen);
    b) Radix Paeoniae rubra (Red Peony root):
    c) Flower of Carthamus Tinctorius (Safflower or HongHua);
    d) Semen Persicae (Prunus Persica seeds or Taoren); and
    e) Rhizoma Acori tatarinowii (rhizome of grassleaf sweetflag or Shichangpu)

3. A process according to claim 1, wherein only the four herbs (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) are used in the extraction process.

4. A process according to claim 2, wherein the four herbs (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) together with five herbs a), b), c), d) and e) are used in the extraction process.

5. A process according to claim 4, followed by mixing the product of the extraction process with TCMs of animal origin: Buthus martensii, Eupolyphaga Seu Setelephaga, Calculus Bovis Artifactus, Cornu Saigae Tataricae and Hirudo.

6. A process according to claim 1 wherein the alcohol in the hydro-alcoholic solvent is ethanol.

7. A process according to claim 1 or claim 6, wherein the alcohol concentration of the extraction mixture is in the range of about 69% v/v to about 75% v/v.

8. A process according to claim 1 or claim 6, wherein the alcohol concentration of the extraction mixture is about 72% v/v.

9. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein one or more herbs are added to an extractor as dried herbs.

10. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein one or more herbs are pre-treated to remove a volatile oil, and added to an extractor as a herbal residue and decoct.

11. A process according to any one of claims 2 and 4 to 10, wherein Rhizoma Acori tatarinowii is added to the extractor in the form of a residue and decoct of the herb whilst the remaining herbs are added to the extractor as dried herbs.

12. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the extraction mixture is heated and maintained at a temperature in the range of about 50°C to about 90°C.

13. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the extraction mixture is heated and the elevated temperature maintained for about 60 minutes to about 240 minutes

14. A process according to any one of claims 2 and 4 to 13, wherein Rhizoma acori Tatarinowii is added to the extractor after processing to reduce the level of beta asarone in the Rhizoma acori Tatarinowii.

15. A process according to claim 14, wherein the level of beta asarone is reduced by hydro-distillation or steam distillation.

16. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising one or more subsequent steps including a step of separating particulate matter from the extraction solution.

17. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising one or more subsequent steps including a step of concentrating the extract to yield concentrated extract.

18. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising one or more subsequent steps including a step of drying the extract to yield dried extract.

19. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising the following subsequent steps in order: (i) separating the particulate matter from the extraction solution

by filtration; (ii) concentrating the filtrate to yield concentrated extract; (3) drying the concentrated extract.

20. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the herbs have, prior to extraction, been subjected to one or more of the following pre-treatment steps: (1) cleaning; (2) drying; (3) increasing the surface area by powdering and/or fragmenting into smaller pieces

21. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the extraction product is formulated into a unit dosage form.

22. A process according to claim 21, wherein the unit dosage form is a capsule or tablet.