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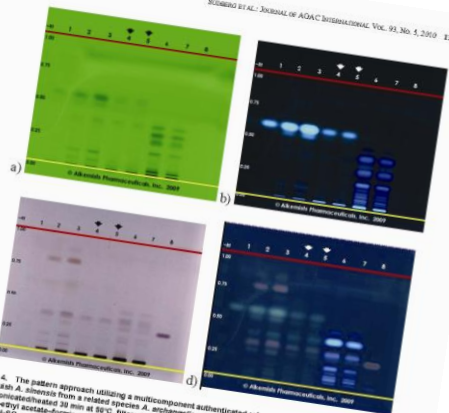


Figure 4. The pattern approach utilizing a multicomponent authenticated reference material to identify and distinguish A. shirsii from a related species A. anophagegale. Sample preparation: 0.3 g sample + 3 mL 90% grain sorghum-ethyl acetate-tetrahydrofuran acid (3 + 1 + 2 v/v), filtered through cotton, and applied to the plate. Mobile phase: vanillin/20% and viewed under visible light, and (d) under UV 254 nm light. (b) UV 254 nm light, (c) developed with

products/bands that many manufacturers of dietary supplements routinely produce. Since manufacturers are likely to be the presence of each botanical in a blend or frequently be effectively applied as a commercially valid method to confirm the presence of the various herbs in a polyherbal blend. The chromatograms in Figure 5 were generated using the following six different herbs in a blend consisting of: *Coptis chinensis*, *Glycyrrhiza uralensis*, *Phellodendron chinensis*, *Rhizoma officinale*, *Schizandra chinensis*, and *Zingiber officinale*. In this example, it was possible to indicate the presence of each of the other herbs in

the blend by their unique fingerprints using the pattern approach as well. In Figure 5, lane 1 is *Isodonis*, lane 2 is *polyherbal*, and lanes 3 and 5 are two different lots of the same polyherbal blend (a finished product). In lanes 4 and 5 in Figure 5 are the authenticated reference botanicals for *C. chinensis*. In each of the chromatograms shown, the patterns reflected in the fingerprints of the reference materials in lanes 4 and 5 are unique and distinct enough to indicate the presence of *Coptis* within this finished product, thus providing a potential solution to indicate the presence of *Coptis* within the finished product. Thus, polyherbal blends are not easily identified as this one, but this is one good example of the power of the pattern approach and