

Cordyceps History and Cultivation

Cordyceps has been used for a long time in China and Tibet. For at least a thousand years according to the written record. It has always been very highly regarded, but it has also been the most expensive herbal raw material in the world. This is because it only grows at high elevation in the Himalayas around Tibet and Nepal and in small border sections of India and China. The high altitude makes its collection difficult, and this rarity of Cordyceps has limited its use by the general public. The great demand and the limited supply act to drive the price up, sometimes to as much as \$35,000 a pound! The scarcity and high price lead many people to try to cultivate Cordyceps like a normal farm product. But unlike the common button mushroom that we find on pizzas worldwide, Cordyceps proved to be extremely difficult to grow.

It was not until 1972 that the first successful Cordyceps cultivation was achieved. The first Cordyceps cultures were isolated by the Chinese Academy of Sciences in that year. These strains were not isolated from Tibet, where most of the top quality Cordyceps comes from, but rather they were isolated from specimens found in Qinghai province in Central China. Originally three different strains of Cordyceps were isolated. The first three strains, named CS-1, CS-2 and CS-3, did not have the fast growth characteristics that make commercial cultivation practical. It was the fourth culture that had been isolated by this institute, named CS-4, that was hardy and fast growing. So this CS-4 strain was chosen for commercial production. Different strains in mushrooms are like different breeds in dogs. Chihuahuas and Golden Retrievers and Great Danes are all dogs, but they are all quite different in terms of size and personality. They are not alike at all. Or consider apples, different strains like the Red Delicious, or the green Granny Smith apples, or the Yellow Delicious apples are all apples, but they taste quite different, and they have different sugar content and even different textures and uses. Or as a scientist would say, they all have a different “Analytical Profile”. Not all Cordyceps are the same, just like not all apples or all dogs are the same.

But back to Cultivated Cordyceps: This CS-4 culture proved itself a good candidate for commercial growth, so it was evaluated as a substitute for wild Cordyceps. It was tested for its medical potential, and by 1988 it had been approved in China as a medicine under the name Jin Shui Bao. As part of the approval process to bring this to market, many clinical and safety trials were conducted showing its efficacy and safety. That is the reason there are so many scientific articles available on this particular strain called CS-4. After more than 20 years of clinical observation, some of the results have been quite astounding. There are some conditions for which Cordyceps has proven to be the best possible choice.

But that happened a long time ago in terms of science. Think of the advances that have been made in all the sciences over the last 38 years. That is how long ago CS-4 was isolated. CS-4 is a good dietary supplement, but just because CS-4 was the first Cordyceps cultivated and studied certainly does not mean it is still the best choice today. Every aspect of science and technology has advanced over that period of time.

(Think about computers 40 years ago...) Virtually no other medicine of that earlier time is still considered to be a first line defense against today's health threats, yet many people today are taken in by the marketers that still use that early information on CS-4, telling their customers that CS-4 is the best Cordyceps for their use. This is just simply incorrect. We have learned a lot in those 40 years, and now we know there are many more options for Cordyceps today, and many other strains of Cordyceps have been developed that are more potent than CS-4.



Wild Cordyceps sinensis at 16,000 feet elevation – Tibet

Back in 1972 when CS-4 was isolated there was no such thing as DNA analysis. So at that time it was not realized that CS-4 contained only a part of the Cordyceps genome. CS-4 is closely related to Cordyceps sinensis, but it is not “true Cordyceps sinensis”. CS-4 is a related species called an Anamorph. The correct Latin name for CS-4 is Paecilomyces hepialis chen, not Cordyceps sinensis. This variation from Cordyceps sinensis is due to a unique feature of Cordyceps called “Part Spore Reproduction” This is a pretty complex subject, but anyone wishing a more detailed explanation of this phenomenon is encouraged to email our research department and we will be glad to give you the entire report detailing how Cordyceps reproduces and why it is so difficult to cultivate True Cordyceps. The email address to receive that report is research@alohamedicinals.com.

Let's jump ahead nearly 40 years and look at where Cordyceps cultivation is today:

Aloha Medicinals set out to cultivate the most potent Cordyceps back in 1999. We started with the purchase of CS-4 cultures from private manufacturers in China. This was the first strain of Cordyceps we produced when the company was formed on Maui in 2000. In 2001 we purchased another ten Cordyceps strains from the Government of China. But our research using DNA analysis and the most up-to-date analytical methods such as GC/MS and HPLC/MS showed that none of these “Cordyceps” strains were identical to wild Cordyceps. They were all related anamorphs, but they were not “True Cordyceps”. Since 2001 we have isolated over 400 different Cordyceps cultures from specimens purchased in herb stores and collected from the wild in Tibet and Nepal. We tried every possible combination of culture techniques and growth medium, but we realized that by using these part-spore cultures there was no way to gain the full potential which is known to occur in wild Cordyceps. To achieve the wild Cordyceps quality requires a much more complex approach, involving the replication of the wild Cordyceps growth conditions and triggering fusion between several part-spore cultures to achieve the full Cordyceps DNA sequence. This approach was so unique it was issued the only patent ever granted for the hybridization of mushrooms! This is the only cultivated Cordyceps available today that is genetically and analytically Bio-Identical to the wild Cordyceps occurring in Nature. This is not to be confused with Genetic Modification. Aloha Medicinals absolutely guarantees there are NO genetically modified organisms (GMO) in any Aloha Medicinals product. We are opposed to the GMO approach, as well as this being forbidden under USDA and EU Certified Organic standards. Quality has no substitute. Aloha Medicinals makes the VERY BEST medicinal mushroom products in the world today. And we back that statement up with a 100% Money Back guarantee.

Even after we had developed these bio-identical cultures though, which were 100% Cordyceps sinensis in every way, there was still a problem: The Cordyceps being grown in cultivation was still not as potent as the wild collected Cordyceps. To try and resolve this problem, Aloha Medicinals scientists undertook an expedition into the heartland of wild Cordyceps habitat, central Tibet. In May and June of 2006 Aloha Medicinals conducted one of the most comprehensive scientific research expeditions ever undertaken in the mountains of Tibet to study the natural growth parameters of wild Cordyceps. Working with the local nomad people, we identified several hundred Cordyceps specimens growing directly from the ground. We carefully measured all the growth conditions there, such as pH, soil and air temperature and composition, moisture content in the air and soil, the other micro-organisms found in the area, air pressure and virtually everything else that could be measured, we did.

We brought this information back to the lab, and developed entirely new methods of cultivation, which have resulted in Cordyceps that is not only bio-identical genetically, but also bio-identical in its analytical signature. Bringing the latest of 21st century American biotechnology to this field has resulted in a quantum leap in Cordyceps cultivation, reducing the cost and increasing the quality of cultivated Cordyceps. These cultivation methods involved building special growing chambers where the oxygen is held at 50% of the normal atmospheric oxygen, and the temperature is held at just above freezing. This exactly replicates the conditions found during the growing season

in Nepal and Tibet at 18,000 feet (5400 meters) elevation. This Low Temperature, Low Oxygen growth is also patented. Aloha Medicinals is the only company in the world that grows Cordyceps using these techniques.

In the course of developing these new strains of Cordyceps, we have made some fantastic discoveries: Aloha Medicinals has more than 700 other species of Cordyceps in our research department from all corners of the globe. Most of these have not yet been identified by science, and we are making new discoveries regarding their medicinal potential daily. We believe this pioneering work in the field of Cordyceps is changing the way modern health supplements will be researched and developed in the future.

Aloha Medicinals Cordyceps is 100% produced in America, in Health Department licensed and FDA Certified manufacturing facilities, and is made with organic cordyceps. It is simply the best Cordyceps available today. Why risk your health or your company's reputation by using inferior Cordyceps substitutes when Aloha Medicinals Tru-Cordyceps™ is available? Order some today!