

Medicine from the Hills!

— Defeating sickness with plants

Written by : Kojiro Takanashi
Manga production : Kyoto Seika University Graduate School of Manga
Illustrated by : Sen Shika

Ahh... My stomach is hurting...

Got diarrhea? Use me!

What is this!!

It's me, Berberine!

Berberine?

CN1C=NC2=C1C(=C(C=C2)N)C3=CC=CC=C3C4=CC=CC=C4

I can heal your stomach! I look like this in chemical structure, but I'm not an artificial compound.

I come from a plant!

A plant?

Yep, for example there's a tree called Obaku or Kihada (amur cork tree) growing in front of Kyoto University's Uji campus. If you cut off a branch...

Snap!

It's totally yellow on the inside!!

Apart from Obaku, I'm in goldthread too!

Oh, goldthread too huh...?

It's bright yellow because there's a lot of me in there!

~this is a manga event. Please do not break or cut off our branches~

One of the main goals for the researchers in the laboratory of Plant Gene Expression is to figure out how I accumulate in plant cells.

I see...

squish...

vacuole

I accumulate in vacuoles, but at the moment I cannot get out of the cell on my own. The cell must be squashed for me to be released!

The professors tell me that if I can go out on my own, then one can collect me up easier without breaking plant cells, and that it will be helpful for mass production as the medicine!

I see... Quite an interesting story...

They study other plants that you often see in your daily life too, such as lemon, tobacco, soybean, hops, parsley, etc.

For efficient production of useful substances and for the betterment of people's lives, we are studying plants' cells and genes, meticulously!

Your stomach must be hurting... now eat this!

BITTER!!

Well, it's good for you...! Later...!