

## CLAIMS

1. A method for harvesting and processing *Apocynum venetum* tea, comprising the steps of:  
harvesting whole *Apocynum venetum* plants in a tender shoot/young leaf stage, and spreading the plants out in a shaded area away from direct sunlight for 12-72 h until reaching a  
5 moisture loss of 8-12%;  
rolling the plants to 1-2 times to flatten stems of *Apocynum venetum* plants to cause mild damage to leaves of *Apocynum venetum* plants, and continuing to spread the plants out in the shaded area away from direct sunlight for 12-48 h until achieving an additional moisture loss of over 8%;  
10 performing secondary heavy rolling to cause moderate damage to the plant leaves, and continuing to spread the plants out in the shaded area away from direct sunlight for 2-5 d until air-dried or sun-dried;  
subjecting air-dried *Apocynum venetum* plants to intense solar exposure until achieving full desiccation or reducing stem-and-leaf moisture content below 10%, and performing defoliation:  
15 applying gentle shaking or agitation to fully sun-dried plants, facilitating the detachment of *Apocynum venetum* leaves from the stems; and  
packaging the obtained dried *Apocynum venetum* leaves.
2. The method for harvesting and processing *Apocynum venetum* tea according to claim 1, wherein:  
20 *Apocynum venetum* tea leaves are stored in a warehouse with a temperature of 18-28°C and relative humidity of 75-85% for 6-12 months of maturation aging; and  
maturation-aged *Apocynum venetum* leaves are transferred to steamer trays, with steam-treating at 100-103°C under normal pressure for 1-5 min with full steam penetration, and the steamed leaves are baked at 80-100°C for 1-2 h to enhance aroma.
- 25 3. The method for harvesting and processing *Apocynum venetum* tea according to claim 2, wherein *Apocynum venetum* leaves are spread on the steamer trays with a thickness of 20-30 cm, and steamed through steam penetration at 100-103°C for 1-5 min.
4. The method for harvesting and processing *Apocynum venetum* tea according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the maturation aging process lasts for more than one year.
- 30 5. The method for harvesting and processing *Apocynum venetum* tea according to claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the rolling process is conducted using an upper roller mill.

6. The method for harvesting and processing *Apocynum venetum* tea according to claim 4, wherein the rolling process is conducted using an upper roller mill.