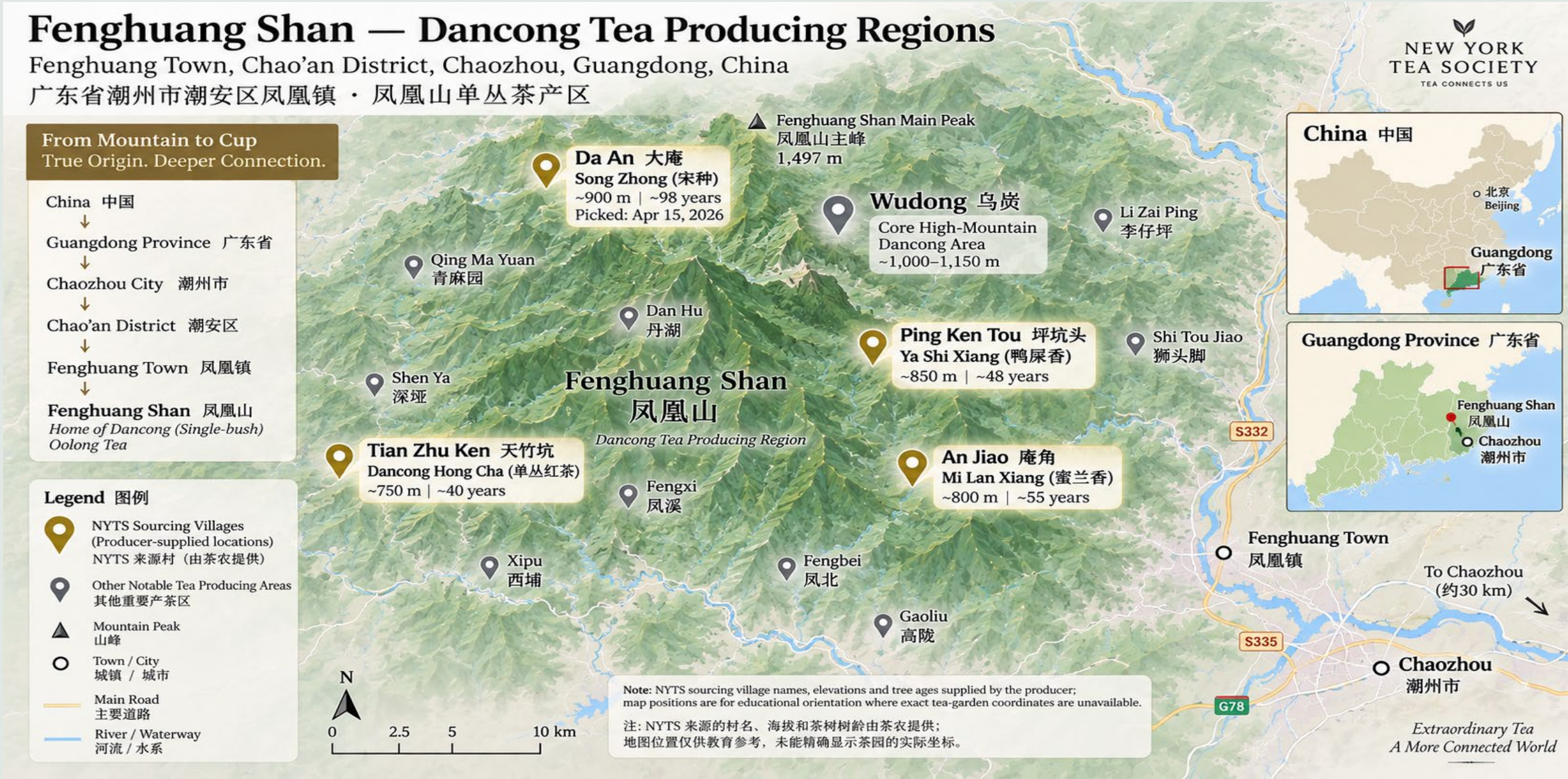
Fenghuang Dancong Oolong

Origin, Craft, Aromas And Tasting

Presented by
New York Tea Society



This Month's NYTS Tea Selection



Dancong And Wuyi Yancha: Origins And Dates

Dancong: Fenghuang, Guangdong

- Local growers selected exceptional trees from Fenghuang Shuixian, a seed-grown tea population.
- They propagated these selections as named Dancong lineages.

Dancong milestones

- 1547: the Chaozhou gazetteer records tribute tea from Raoping.
- 1875–1908: growers harvest, process and sell selected trees separately as Dancong.
- 1975: a major survey catalogs old trees and exceptional lineages.

Yancha: Wuyi Mountains, Fujian

- Wuyi rock tea uses several cultivars.
- Its Shuixian is Fujian Shuixian, which originated in Jianyang.
- It is distinct from Fenghuang Shuixian.

Wuyi milestones

- 806–820: written records of Wuyi tea production.
- 1734: Lu Tingcan's Xu Cha Jing preserves an earlier account of Wuyi sun-withering, agitation, pan-firing and baking.

The connection Dancong and Yancha is oolong craftsmanship.
Wuyi has the earlier written processing record.
Dancong developed from Guangdong's local tea population, rather than from Wuyi's Shuixian cultivar.

Tea Maker’s Pics















The Song Emperor And The Tea Of Phoenix Mountain

A Local Legend From The Fall Of The Southern Song

Local tradition tells of the young Song emperor Zhao Bing fleeing south as Mongol forces advanced. During his journey, he reached the Phoenix Mountains near Chaozhou. Exhausted and desperately thirsty, he sought relief among the mountain villagers.

The villagers offered him an infusion of local Hongyin tea. He drank and found that it refreshed him and eased his thirst. In gratitude, he bestowed the name “Song Tea.” Later generations called it Songzhong, meaning “Song lineage,” and associated the tea with the emperor’s visit.

In a magical version of the story, a phoenix bird hears of the emperor’s thirst and carries a tea branch to him. The tea’s pointed leaves resemble a bird’s beak, giving rise to another local name, “bird-beak tea.” The story lives on in Songzhong names and the tea culture of Phoenix Mountain.

Songzhong names preserve this association and refer to several tea lineages today.



Traditional portrait of Zhao Bing

Song Zhong Dancong Lineage

- There are several Songzhong lineages
- These are distinct trees and lineages.
- Both locations and the death of Songzhong No. 1 are documented by the Chinese Tea Science Society.

Tree	Location
Wudong Song Cha aka Songzhong No. 1 Dong Fang Hong	Li Zai Ping village, Wudong Mountain, at approximately 1,150 m. This mother tree died in August 2016 Its preserved specimen is displayed at the Chaozhou Fenghuang Dancong Tea Museum.
Da An Songzhong aka Da Cong Cha	In the tea garden behind Taiping Temple, Da An village, Fengxi, at approximately 950 m.



Dancong Processing Steps

Picking

Pick developed leaves when the shoot has stopped extending. Handle gently.

Sun-withering

(shai qing)

Spread the leaves in sunlight to soften them and reduce moisture.

Indoor resting

(liang qing)

Move the leaves into shade to cool and redistribute moisture.

Agitation and rest (zuo qing)

Alternate tossing with resting.

This develops aroma and partial oxidation.

Fixing

(sha qing)

Heat the leaves to stop most enzymatic oxidation.

Rolling

(rou nian)

Roll into long strips, then loosen the clumps.

Drying

Apply heat to remove moisture and make the tea stable.

Sorting and final roasting

Remove stems and unwanted leaf.

Re-bake as needed to finish the tea's flavor.

Major Producing Regions And Villages

Region / village	Site elevation	Examples / local context
Wudong: Li Zai Ping / Shi Tou Jiao	1,150 / 1,100 m [R]	Song Tea / Huangzhi selections
Fengxi: Da An / Zhong Ping	950 / about 900 m [R]	Songzhong / Zhilan selections
Fengbei: Guan Tou She	about 1,000 m [R]	Many named old tea trees
Fengxi: Ping Ken Tou / An Jiao	850 / 800 m [N]	NYTS Ya Shi Xiang / Mi Lan Xiang
Er Ya: Tian Zhu Ken (Keng)	750 m [N]	NYTS Dancong Hong Cha lot
Shi Gu Ping	750 / 1,000 m [R]	Huangzhi lineages / She tea tradition
Raoping, Fubin: Ling Tou / Shang She	326 / 713 m [S]	Dancong production outside Fenghuang
Wenci: Shang Xian Gu	118 m [S]	Lower-elevation production reference

[R] Historical tree sites. [N] NYTS producer details. [S] Research survey sites.
Elevations refer to particular gardens or trees. Wudong is one part of the wider Dancong growing area.

Naming And Classification

NAMING / GROUPING	EXAMPLES / GROUPS	MEANING
NAME DESCRIPTORS		
Aroma or taste	Huangzhi Xiang / Youhua Xiang	Gardenia / pomelo blossom
Leaf shape	Zhuye / Ju Duo Zai	Bamboo-like leaves / serrated edges
Leaf color	Da Wu Ye / Da Bai Ye	Dark green leaf / big white leaf
Tree form	Da Cong Cha / Yu San Cha	Large bush / umbrella-shaped canopy
Place	Da An Songzhong / Wudong	Village / producing area
Legend	Songzhong / Baxian	Song lineage / the Eight Immortals
Person + aroma	Jiachang Huangzhi Xiang	Grower's name + gardenia aroma
OTHER DESCRIPTORS		
Leaf size	Dà yè / zhōng yè / xiǎo yè	Large / medium / small
Spring growth	Tè zǎo / zǎo / zhōng / wǎn	Extra-early / early / mid / late
Harvest season	Chūn chá / xià chá / qiū chá / dōng chá	Spring / summer / autumn / winter
Roast level	Qīng bèi huǒ / zhōng bèi huǒ / zhòng bèi huǒ	Light / medium / heavy
Quality grade	Tè jí / yī jí / èr jí / sān jí	Special / Grades 1, 2 and 3
Lot type	Dān zhū	Single tree

10 Classic Dancong Aroma Types

Name	Aroma reference
Huangzhi Xiang	Gardenia
Zhilan Xiang	Orchid
Yulan Xiang	Magnolia
Milan Xiang	Honey-orchid
Xingren Xiang	Almond
Jianghua Xiang	Ginger
Rougui Xiang	Cinnamon
Guihua Xiang	Osmanthus
Yelaixiang	Night-flower
Moli Xiang	Jasmine



Huangzhi Xiang: Gardenia Selections

Aroma Group	Cultivar / Named Selection	Alias Or Name Clue
Huangzhi	Wudong Song Cha	Dong Fang Hong / Tuan Shu Ye
	Da An Songzhong	Da Cong Cha, the Da An selection
	Shitoujiao Huangzhi Xiang	Jiachang Huangzhi Xiang
	Cu Xiang Huangzhi	Strong fragrance
	Li Zai Ping Da Bai Ye	Large, pale young leaves
	Zong Suo Jia	Name recalls a palm-fiber rain cape story
	Min Ping Da Bai Ye	Grower name and pale leaves
	Wu Ye Zai Huangzhi	Dark-leaf name
	Hu Cuo Huangzhi	Hu Cuo locality
	Da Wu Ye Huangzhi	Large, dark young leaves
	Xian Dou Ye	Leaves resemble peanut leaves
	Yu San Cha	Umbrella-shaped canopy

Source: T/CZTTBZ 001—2021, Appendix A, Table A2. Grouping follows this catalogue.

Zhilan Xiang: Orchid Selections

Aroma Group	Cultivar / Named Selection	Alias Or Name Clue
Zhilan	Baxian	Baxian Guohai / Jie Zhong
	Songzhong Zhilan Xiang	Hua Xiang Zhilan
	Shitou Zhilan Xiang	Shitoujiao locality
	Wei Guang Zhilan Xiang	Grower Wei Weiguang
	Xiong Di Cha	“Brothers tea,” originally made from two trees
	Wu Ye Zhilan Xiang	Dark young leaves
	Nai Qing	Named for a tea merchant
	Ji Long Kan	Canopy resembles a chicken enclosure
	Gan Ye	Ju Zai Ye, citrus-like leaves
	Chuan Zhou Zhilan Xiang	Zhu Ye, bamboo-like leaves
	Guo An Zhilan Xiang	Also called Zhu Ye
	Lei Kou Chai	Pi Ding Xiang, lightning-struck mother tree

Source: T/CZTTBZ 001—2021, Appendix A, Table A2. Grouping follows this catalogue.

Yulan And Milan: Magnolia And Honey-Orchid

Aroma Group	Cultivar / Named Selection	Alias Or Name Clue
Yulan	Guan Mu Shi Yulan Xiang	Li Min Zhong
	Jin Yulan	“Golden magnolia”
	Zi Mao Yulan	Zi Mao locality
	Niang Zai San	Low, spreading umbrella-like canopy
	Xiang Fan Shu	Sweet aroma resembling cooked sweet potato
Milan	Milan Xiang	Catalogue selection at Ke Xi
	Da An Mi Xiang	Da An locality
	Shitou Mi Xiang	Shitoujiao locality
	Bai Ye Milan	Bai Ye Dancong / linked to Lingtou selection

Source: T/CZTTBZ 001—2021, Appendix A, Table A2. Grouping follows this catalogue.

Xingren And Jianghua: Kernel And Ginger-Flower

Aroma Group	Cultivar / Named Selection	Alias Or Name Clue
Xingren	Ju Duo Zai	Small, deep, saw-like leaf serrations
	Xingren Xiang	Catalogue selection at Wudongjiao
	Jin Peng Xingren Xiang	Grower Li Jinpeng
	Da Wu Ye	The Da Lu Ding selection in this catalogue
	Da An Xingren Xiang	Da An locality
	Tao Ren Xiang	Peach-kernel-like aroma
Jianghua	Jianghua Xiang	Jiang Mu Xiang / Tong Tian Xiang, Zhong Ping
	Jiang Mu Xiang	Separate Guan Tou She selection
	Tong Tian Xiang	Separate Da An selection
	Li Zai Ping Jianghua Xiang	Li Zai Ping locality
	Keng Qian Jianghua Xiang	Keng Qian locality

Source: T/CZTTBZ 001—2021, Appendix A, Table A2. Grouping follows this catalogue.

Rougui And Guihua: Cinnamon And Osmanthus

Aroma Group	Cultivar / Named Selection	Alias Or Name Clue
Rougui	Rougui Xiang	Catalogue selection at Keng Qian
	Shan Qie Ye Rougui Xiang	Leaf shape supplies part of the name
	Qi Xing Rougui Xiang	Guo Jiang Long, “dragon crossing the river”
	Er Ya Rougui Xiang	Er Ya locality
Guihua	Qun Ti Dancong	Guihua Xiang, propagated group
	Wudong Guihua	Wudong locality
	Guan Tou She Guihua Xiang	Guan Tou She locality
	Qi Pan Guihua Xiang	Qi Pan locality
	Tuan Shu Ye Guihua Xiang	Leaf-shape name
	Jin Guihua	Selection from a Bai Ye Milan variant
	Guihua Xiang	Catalogue selection at Yan Zai
	Bai Guihua	Yellow-green leaves in the catalogue
	Zai Cheng Guihua Xiang	Grower Huang Zaicheng

Source: T/CZTTBZ 001–2021, Appendix A, Table A2. Grouping follows this catalogue.

Yelai And Moli: Night-Flower And Jasmine

Aroma Group	Cultivar / Named Selection	Alias Or Name Clue
Yelai	Yelai Xiang	Catalogue selection at Shitoujiao
	Bei Tou Yelai Xiang	Bei Tou Zhong
	Li Zai Ping Yelai Xiang	Catalogue entry grown at Gui Zhu Hu
	Ye He	Name refers to night-blooming flowers
Moli	Moli Xiang	Catalogue selection at Zi Mao
	Zhu Liu Moli Xiang	Zhu Liu locality

Source: T/CZTTBZ 001–2021, Appendix A, Table A2. Grouping follows this catalogue.

Other Aroma Groups: Pomelo, Orange And Bayberry

Aroma Group	Cultivar / Named Selection	Alias Or Name Clue
Youhua	Keng Qian Youhua Xiang	Pomelo blossom, Keng Qian selection
	Guan Tou She Youhua Xiang	Pomelo blossom, Guan Tou She selection
	You Cha Ye	Leaf shape resembles oil-tea camellia leaves
	You Ye	Leaves resemble pomelo leaves
Chenghua	Chenghua Xiang	Orange-blossom aroma
Yangmei	Yangmei Xiang	Bayberry aroma / flavor
	Yangmei Ye	Leaves resemble bayberry leaves

Source: T/CZTTBZ 001—2021, Appendix A, Table A2. Grouping follows this catalogue.

Other Groups: Fuzi, Huangcha And Bitter Types

Aroma Group	Cultivar / Named Selection	Alias Or Name Clue
Fuzi	Da An Jian Ye	Long, pointed leaves
	Wei Guang Fuzi Xiang	Grower Wei Weiguang
	Guo Ping Fuzi Xiang	Grower Wen Guoping
	Jin Shan Fuzi Xiang	Grower Wen Jinshan
Huangcha	Lao Cong Huangcha Xiang	Old-bush selection
	Da Ping Huangcha Xiang	Da Ping locality
	Guo Xiong Huangcha Xiang	Grower Wen Guoxiong
	Hu Cuo Huangcha Xiang	Hu Cuo locality
Kuzhong	Ku Zhong Dancong	Catalogue selection at Gui Zhu Hu
	Wu Ye Ku Zhong	Dark-leaf bitter type
	Ku Zhong	Catalogue selection at Shui Lu Zai
	Ku Zhong Cha	Catalogue selection at Zhong Xin Ren

Source: T/CZTTBZ 001—2021, Appendix A, Table A2. Grouping follows this catalogue.

Other Fresh-Fragrance Selections

Aroma Group	Cultivar / Named Selection	Alias Or Name Clue
Other	Ge Gu Lao	Frog-skin-like leaf surface
	Ge Gu	Another frog-skin leaf selection
	Zhang Lang Chi	Leaves likened to cockroach wings
	Li Zai Ping Hong Di	Red-purple leaf stalk / leaf base
	Gao Zhi Xiang	Catalogue selection at Li Zai Ping
	Man Tang Xiang	Fragrance fills the room
	Shan Qie Ye Nai Xiang	Leaf-shape name and milk-like aroma
	Xiao Wu Ye	Small, dark young leaves
	Ya Hou Tuan Shu Ye	Fei Lai Yan, “flying swallow”
	Qi Lan Xiang	Aroma compared with Qilan tea
	Da Ju Xiang	Flavor compared with citrus peel
	Feng La Xiang Dancong	Flavor compared with beeswax

Source: T/CZTTBZ 001—2021, Appendix A, Table A2. Grouping follows this catalogue.