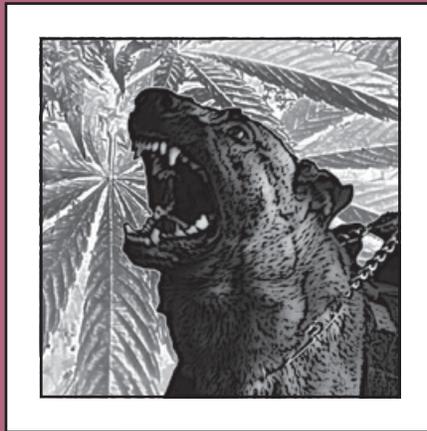
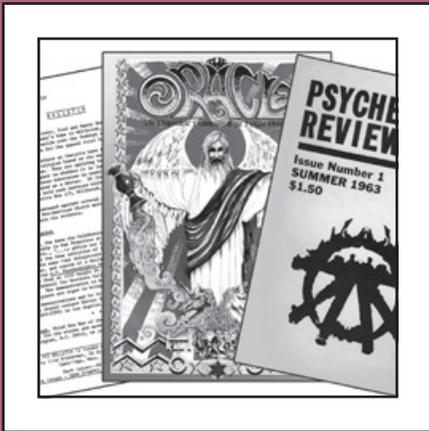


Erowid Extracts

DOCUMENTING THE COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS AND PSYCHOACTIVES

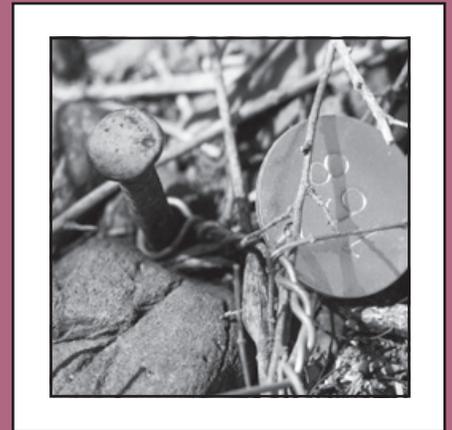
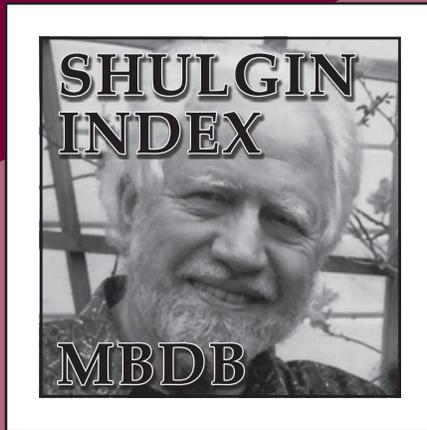
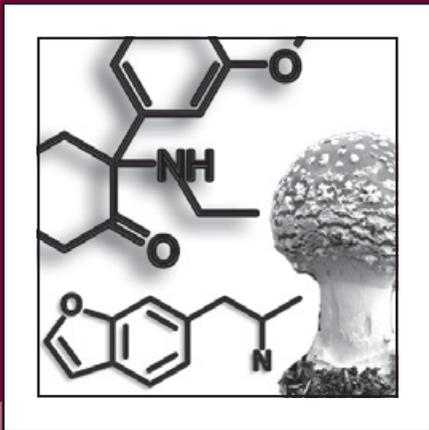
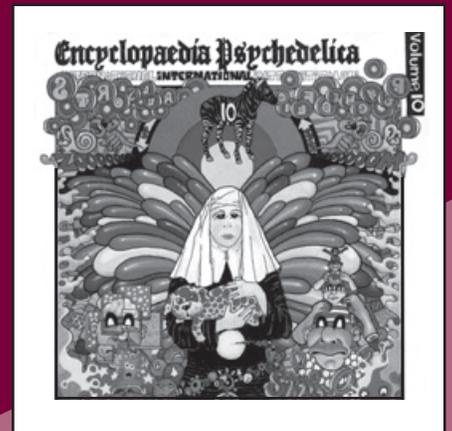
June 2011

Number 20



"In history there are no real beginnings."

— Warren Sylvester Smith



A Lineage of Psychoactive Periodicals • Drug Dog Accuracy
Peyote Regrowth Study • *The Shulgin Index*: MBDB • Recreational Roulette

"Do you know that my son has been in the adolescent psych ward for nearly 3 months after experimenting with many of the ordinary household items that you advise teens to take at toxic levels for spiritual experiences? Do you know that in a home where I am trying to raise 4 boys, including a 5-year-old and a 7-year-old, I have had to lock up everything from Dramamine to Benadryl, skin cleanser to wart remover. When we ran out of that my 15-year-old decided to try drinking antiseptic and suck computer cleaner and air freshener. Teens are getting information about how to burn their brains and trigger psychotic episodes with the information you give them. You were one of my son's main sources of information, I know now, too late.

I went to UC Berkeley and Yale—against the odds because I was from a working class background, ordinary Irish American family. I hoped my son would have some of the chances I had, but he will be in the psych ward on SSI Disability long-term because of a combination of psychosis and liver damage from huge quantities of Benadryl. Ever think about how irresponsible you are and how much pain you cause families? I have had to quit my job as a NYC public school math teacher to be on suicide watch with a kid who, a year ago, was a talented, smart young man with a future, a personality, a sense of humor, the ability to smile. All that gone now."

— PY
Letter to Erowid

"Thanks for everything you do for the culture, it's really nice to have a reliable place to refer to when the moment calls. Keep up the good work! Love and appreciation."

— TRF
Erowid Member

"I get to help out an amazing website that does something really important for drug users everywhere, and I get two awesome books. Couldn't be happier."

— CK
Erowid Member

"You are doing great work that I appreciate! But I live in a death penalty country so please don't contact me or acknowledge [me] in any way."

— ANONYMOUS
Letter to Erowid

"Your website has been a valuable tool for me many times and I believe in the cause of disseminating accurate information about drugs/entheogens."

— SP
Erowid Member

I very much appreciated your article on ketamine and urinary tract dysfunction in the November 2010 *Erowid Extracts*. I've had some interest and concerns recently over excessive use patterns with ketamine, but haven't seen much that's been published in the medical literature. So, I was happy to see your very well written and informative piece.

Another topic I would like to see discussed in print would be the issue of psychological dependence on ketamine, and the cognitive and affective sequelae of heavy-use patterns. I've recently observed more problematic use than in the past and have been concerned over the psychological and physiological impact of sustained use. And then there's the problem of how to get people to stop their habitual use patterns, an issue I don't recall reading anything on. Particularly with the positive press coming from the publications of articles on using ketamine to rapidly induce an anti-depressant effect, there will probably be more people inclined to experiment, which will inevitably translate to more people getting into trouble.

— CHARLES S. GROB, MD
Letter to Erowid

"Thanks for your work fighting the waste of a trillion dollars a year on victimless crime, and informing those who are determined to do drugs, laws be damned, to do them as safely as possible."

— JH
Erowid Member

"I have never used illegal drugs, but I am completely against the drug war and support every effort made to increase awareness of how drugs work. I was shocked to discover that both MDMA and ibogaine, which have tremendous therapeutic potential, were classified as Schedule I drugs. I was even more dismayed to uncover the history of marijuana and how many of the restrictions were originally based on the fear of immigrants who used it. [...]"

Opium addicts could be off the streets with ibogaine. Or at the very least, if drugs were legalized, they would not get tainted opium products, would live longer, and be less likely to steal. We need your help!

— NW (CA, USA)
Letter to Erowid

"Thanks for looking after so many people and helping enrich their lives. We really appreciate the work you do."

— CC

Send correspondence to:
extracts@erowid.org

Please include your name, title, and city/state/country of origin to be published with your letter. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

ERRATA

"What's New in EcstasyData" (page 23 of *Erowid Extracts* issue 19), contained a mischaracterization of Energy Control's testing methodology. Energy Control uses Ultraviolet Spectrophotometry—not TLC—to determine quantitative data about putative MDMA samples; the limitation on quantitative data gathering is thus a result of the limits of this method, not of the TLC method. (They can also quantify MDA, amphetamine, methamphetamine, cocaine, ketamine, 2C-B, 2C-I and DMT with this technique.)

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It is also Erowid Center's goal to support medical, legal, scientific, academic, and independent experts in developing and publishing related resources.

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Erowid Extracts

Number 20, June 2011

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**Know Your Body
Know Your Mind
Know Your Substance
Know Your Source**

U.S. Research Chemical Deaths

Despite the troubling recent waves of professionally packaged psychoactives being stealthily sold as “bath salts” and “plant food”, it is the bulk sale of explicitly labelled research chemicals that has been tied to recently reported deaths in the United States.

2C-E entered the spotlight in March, and again in May, connected with three deaths in the Midwest. The first occurred in Minnesota on March 17, 2011, when 19-year-old Trevor Robinson-Davis joined friends in insufflating a line of the substance at a private party. Ten others who used 2C-E at the party were admitted to the hospital, two reportedly in critical condition. The police toxicology lab confirmed the identity of the drug and results were shared with poison control centers. One man was arrested with 8.9 grams of 2C-E in his pocket and charged with third-degree murder, after purchasing the substance over the Internet and providing it to the partygoers. Minnesota lawmakers have called for 2C-E to be added to both state and federal lists of Schedule I controlled substances.

The second death occurred in Oklahoma on May 7, 2011. The decedent, 22-year-old Anastasia Jewell, ingested an unspecified amount of what she believed to be 2C-E, mixed in water, that she brought to a private party. Seven others were hospitalized with two reportedly admitted in “very critical” condition. Andrew Akerman, who was hospitalized for a week after taking the substance at the same party, died on May 13. Authorities report that they believe the substance was actually bromo-dragonfly, an extremely potent drug active at around 1 mg. Bromo-dragonfly has been the cause of previous drug-mix-up deaths.

Details are still emerging about this curious intersection of a death from confirmed 2C-E and two from bromo-dragonfly misidentified as 2C-E. ●

Bitcoins

In March 2011, a visitor suggested we consider accepting donations via Bitcoin, an ultra-geeky, anonymous payment system begun in 2009. Bitcoin is based on a completely digital “currency” communally created through computationally complex calculations that result in a controlled worldwide generation of new Bitcoins (“BTC”) over time. An integral part of Bitcoin is its distributed, peer-to-peer network of cryptographically-signed transaction records that keep track of who has received which uniquely identified Bitcoins.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this system is that we receive no record of who sent us a Bitcoin and messages cannot accompany donations. This means that donations are very anonymous, but also that it’s impossible to thank or credit anyone unless the contributor emails us with the precise time and amount of their donation.

In May, *Forbes* ran a story about Bitcoin titled “Crypto Currency: Want to buy socks or psilocybin without being traced? Bitcoins are for you.” The piece explained: “[...] Bitcoins [are] spent on Web-hosting, electronics, dog sweaters and alpaca socks. Also drugs. Particularly illegal ones. Since Bitcoins can be spent on the Internet without the use of a bank account, they offer a convenient system for anonymous purchases [and] accounts can’t be frozen by law enforcement or PayPal administrators.”

As of May 17, Erowid has received 470 BTC in donations; the value of each BTC has increased from \$0.50 to \$8.30 since January 2011. This has been our most successful foray into a micropayment system since receiving our first PayPal donation in May 2000. If you would like to help support both Erowid and Bitcoin, try out the application, grab a trickle from the free “Bitcoin Faucet”, and send us one! ●

Easier U.K. Emergency Scheduling?

A new bill is making its way through the British system that would allow the Secretary of State to temporarily control a substance for up to one year. During that time, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) would review the drug and offer recommendations about whether it should be permanently controlled.

This new system, introduced in the “Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill 2010-11”, is clearly a reaction to the wide range of new psychoactive chemicals that have become available over the past few years. It would make it illegal to import, export, sell, or possess with intent to sell, any substance or product that is temporarily scheduled. The current version of this bill would not make simple possession illegal.

The bill has gone through several drafts. Initially, the proposed requirements for temporary control were different from the requirements for permanent control in at least one important way. The ACMD has previously been tasked with reviewing drugs that are being misused or appear likely to be misused AND which appear capable of having harmful effects sufficient to constitute a social problem. This bill would eliminate the requirement that a drug “constitute a social problem” in order to be controlled and create a broader definition requiring only that a substance or product be “capable of having harmful effects”, a definition that is meaningless as it includes every known chemical, including water.

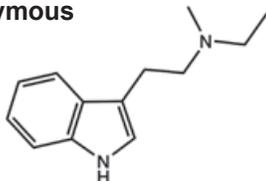
The bill does stipulate some limited consultation with the ACMD (or its chair). Unfortunately, it also removes the requirement that the ACMD include at least six scientists representing medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, the pharmaceutical industry, and chemistry. This change is likely a response to the resignation of six ACMD members over a disagreement about drug policy with the government. ●

Recreational Roulette

Novel Research Chemical Experience Report Excerpts

That's Ok, You're Good

by Joey Anonymous



MET — 15 mg vaporized

N-methyl,*N*-ethyltryptamine is a short-acting psychedelic tryptamine.

I smoke/vaporize powder MET from an oil-burning pipe, successfully getting two big hits off it.

0:00–0:05—The come-up was two to three times as slow as the come up on DMT. It is strangely reminiscent of the come-down from DMT. The “I’m not in the crazy fractalizing weirdness any more but I still feel pretty damn odd” feeling came first, but was almost immediately accompanied by a deeply satisfying feeling of body warmth and comfort. This combined effect was like, “Yes, you’re coming up on a psychedelic but you know what? That’s ok. You’re good and it’s going to be swell.” That was the flavor of the whole experience. MET at this fairly low dose is downright comforting.

0:05–0:10—I had been worrying about a number of things and MET was extremely therapeutic material allowing me to look at my problems and basically tell myself that they are not really a big deal, and this is why. I feel like serious insights are just there for the taking, and I take a few. There is a huge sense of self-love and self-acceptance with a speedy psychedelic edge going on. This is almost all closed-eye and involves very little visualization, but tactile sense is unbelievable. I can feel little pulses of energy going through my body, each bringing pleasure.

0:10–0:20—I need cannabis by this point. The slight acidic sense of mania is a bit much, and I also wonder if cannabis will potentiate the MET and induce CEVs. It doesn’t, but it feels great.

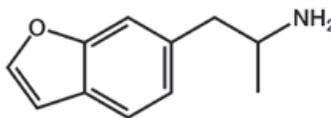
0:20–0:30—Coming down, but still with a great feeling of quiet energy and a body full of bliss.

0:55—Still feeling mild effects. I think at low dosages this could be a hugely therapeutic medicine. It has an intensity that brings up emotions with a sense of acceptance and calm at the same time. The duration is short enough that one can have a meaningful experience and hopefully reintegrate some of it, but not so short that it’s like being launched into outer space.

0:60—Urge to redose. Not sure what sort of tolerance there is. ●

It's Hard to Say

by Barton



6-APB — 75 mg oral

Material sold as 6-(2-aminopropyl) benzofuran has been described as euphoric and stimulating, though it is unclear how much of the available material has been positively identified.

0:45—The effects build quickly. Mild euphoric waves and feeling very



Analytical reference standards.
Photo by Erowid

talkative. All the while I am getting an upset stomach and a dazed feeling like I should probably sit down and wait to get through it. [...]

1:00— Getting into conversation, very smooth and flowing, finding more of an interest in people and their lives than I usually do. Feeling really good, comfortable in my skin, like I am walking on air. [...]

Everything seems in its place, like a time-released MDMA. Music is going right through me and visual effects are starting. Continuous fractal patterning on everything.

2:30—I think it was around now that we got the grass. [...]

3:00—I can look at trees and watch them turn into a wonderful piece of art with completely different colours and textures, gradually morphing and leaving me in awe. I was expecting more of an entactogenic experience and should have considered what weed would do.

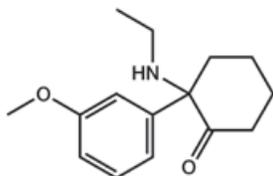
5:00—If the set & setting for this trip were better, it could be really

enjoyable. I was really getting into it until the cold settled in. I have a strong déjà vu. The sense of emotion is very strong, like the empathy of ecstasy turned inwards [...].

I was definitely in strong psychedelic thought. If I hadn't smoked weed and perhaps had had a little drink, the effects might be more euphoric, playful, social, and I would still be dancing away. But it's hard to say; I could see 6-APB playing different roles, from full-on psychedelic trip to social tool for parties and gigs. ●

A Scary Chemical

by Goliath



Methoxetamine — 61 mg oral

Methoxetamine is a ketamine analog with strong dissociative effects.

I bought 500 mg of methoxetamine from a vendor that was, in my experience, reliable. In general I don't like research chemicals. I think it is Russian roulette to take them, so I prefer to use substances with a long history of use and low risk. But just this once I wanted to try a dissociative similar to

ketamine. I thought, "One or two times can't be so bad...".

0:00—Allergy test 1 mg oral.

1:00—Test 10 mg oral.

2:00—Take 50 mg oral.

3:00—Starting to feel light and strange.

3:30—I feel a little stoned but no euphoria at all. I was expecting something better. I feel retarded. I try to use the computer but it is hard to push the right buttons.

4:xx—Time seems to warp. Only watching the clock can I understand how much time passes. I feel bad, toxic. Paranoid thinking starts to permeate my brain, I think, "Why do I put my mind and body in the hands of Chinese people who are poisoning me?" I got angry with myself, I thought I was going to be hospitalized and my wife would find out about this drug and leave me, police would raid my home or in the worst case I would have permanent damage... Reality was now warped like in a horror movie and I felt really dissociated. I tried to throw up...too difficult. I forced myself to drink and tried to sleep.

8:xx—I get up in panic. My legs are shaking, heart beating fast and strongly. Less distortion but a scary semi-paralysis of the left side of the body. I think, "I am lost. I must go to ER and there will be bad consequences." I try to make my brain work, concentrate, think rationally. I remember my heart and blood pressure monitor, I use it: 110/60 with 120 BPM. Not terrible. I try to find some benzos, I know that they can be helpful but first I wanted to check for dangerous interactions. Using the PC was not easy...no, no danger. I popped 1 mg phenazepam and tried to relax, started to pray God to save me. Luckily the benzos worked and I felt calmer.

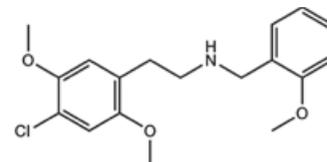
9:xx—Able to sleep.

13:00—I wake up and I feel much better, I am so happy that there is apparently no brain damage. I go throw away the scary chemical.

I repeat to myself NEVER NEVER AGAIN. Mushrooms are 1000 times better and safer. ●

Hedonistic Sensory Bomb

by Jack M.



2C-C-NBOMe — 600 µg sublingual

The NBOMe series are analogs related to the 2C-x family of phenethylamines and which are active at sub-milligram doses.

This report is the story of one remarkable failure in my quest for an ego-crushing psychedelic. [...] I had an associate test the material by Mass Spectrometry. This does not say anything about purity, just that the experience described is really due to 2C-C-NBOMe (also called 25C-NBOMe).

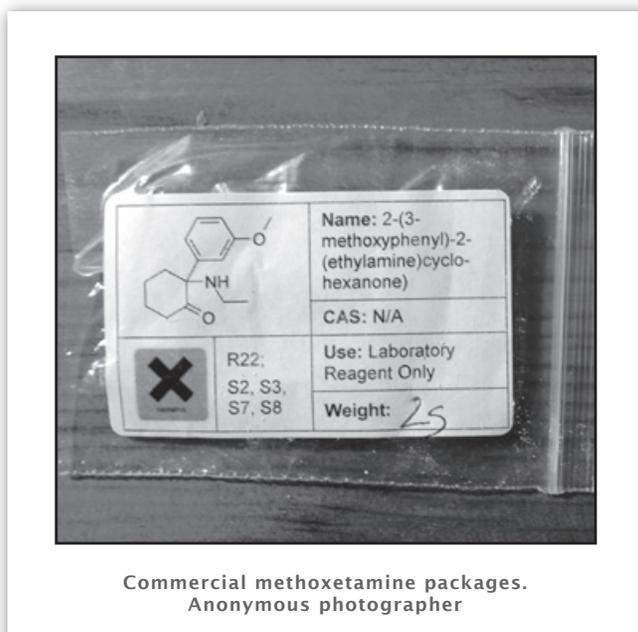
0:00—Tuck one 600 µg-containing blot of material in between gum and cheek and allow it to absorb for ~20 minutes before chewing and discarding it. Also vaporized ~5 mg mixed JWH RCs to bring on a cannabis effect during the come-up.

0:15—Notice a slight ebullient euphoria creeping in.

0:30—I feel as though a perma-grin has launched itself onto my face, and I go to the mirror to confirm my suspicions. Yep, it has. Damn perma-grin! The thought makes me laugh out loud.

0:45—Deep breaths are taken, and a strong rushing energy is starting to course through my body. It's wonderfully stimulating, but not in a manner I associate with my rare use of stims as a youth. This is different... a feeling of euphoria, a strong inclination to move and express the numerous joint articulations available to me.

1:00—A walk is definitely in order. I have never felt like I wanted to go outside and explore on a psychedelic



Commercial methoxetamine packages. Anonymous photographer

before. I bundle up and walk around the block on a cold, snowy night. The light is so crisp and sparkly it makes my eyes tear up. I feel an amazing wash of confidence, another thing that has never happened to me on a psychedelic before. It feels so good that I want to walk around the block again, but the reassuringly clean headspace chimes in like a guardian trip-sitter and notes that it might be getting too cold.

2:00—Inside is warm and comforting after the cold. I stand naked in front of the heater, shivering with sheer deliciousness at the feeling of going from cold to warm. I had never felt so awe-inspiringly, just plain old GOOD that I wanted it to keep going and going. Usually I was twisting and groping my way through a tortuous pathway to enlightenment. I hit upon the idea that a shower would be wonderfully sensual...

2:30—I drag in a strip of LED lights and turn off the bathroom light before running a hot shower. Inside I feel the return of the giddy, shivering, tingly euphoria that had gotten to me in front of the heater. I am amazed, the OEVs mild, but present.

2:45—Still in the shower, I am growing too rushed and euphoric to just stand there, but paradoxically, I feel very relaxed. So I lay down in the tub and let the shower rain over me in the flicker of LEDs. It is intensely spiritual and euphoric, with strong CEV of the neon blue, magenta and yellow variety. Body sensations are strong and absolutely positive.

4:30—Getting hungry, but it's somewhat of a distant sensation. Normally, on any psychedelic that I am familiar with, I will go ~12 hours without eating. So I am surprised that the concept of food isn't repulsive. I trust the guardian headspace and make up a buttered corn muffin and some grape juice. [...]

6:30—Everything is still bright and shiny, the visuals so beautiful that my heart aches. There are no tremors, jaw-clenching, stomach ills from the food, or any negative come-down aspects. Bizarre. I always felt seriously paranoid and crappy when coming down off any psychedelic that I had

tried before. With 2C-C-NBOMe I felt light, slightly tired but pleasant, and that "everything was gonna be ok".

7:30—Restful sleep comes, lasting ~7 hours. No sluggishness or trails evident the next day.

2C-C-NBOMe is exploratory, ebullient, clear-headed, rational, euphoric, calming, allows eating and has a mild come-down. I made a very

stimulated. However, I had this inkling that perhaps a bit of euphoria was coming my way, so I had another line.

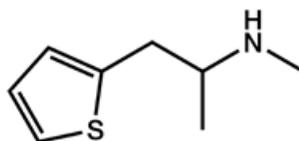
The second line gave me a good kick so I had another... Pretty soon I was measuring out another batch of lines, 30 mg this time.

Was it fun? Well, yeah. I was zooming around doing this and that. I thought I was being productive but after a while,

I made a very important personal discovery with [2C-C-NBOMe]; psychedelics do not have to lead to fearful religious experiences. They can be effervescent fairies that take your breath away with glistening beauty.

important personal discovery with it; psychedelics do not have to lead to fearful religious experiences. They can be effervescent fairies that take your breath away with glistening beauty. ●

Another Addictive Zinger by Sprout



Methiopropamine — repeated
N-methyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)propan-2-amine is a stimulant that is structurally similar to methamphetamine.

I recently seemed to develop an incurable interest in British research chemicals. I used to be a methamphetamine addict so when they came out with a new one called "Methiopropamine" I was immediately interested and I ordered a ridiculous amount: 10 grams!

What I received was a white powder with a slight chemical odor. Thinking I had found myself a nice new "zinger" (that's what I call my collection of legal stimulants), I measured out several lines of 20 mg each. I snorted one and sat down to wait. The drip was not unpleasant and I soon felt very

all I really wanted to do was space out and listen to rock music.

As the night approached, I realized I would not be needing to sleep. I stayed up all night, and after a one-hour nap at 6 AM I started a new day of snorting.

This went on to the third day. The third night, I began experiencing chest pains and headache. However, the thrill of it all was so compelling that I continued to use it despite my growing fear that I was going to have a heart attack. I started hallucinating, too. I was seeing things move in the shadows and hearing all sorts of sounds: people screaming, people copulating, weird watery alien sounds, etc.

The next morning, I finally admitted to myself that this was getting out of control. Realizing I could not control my use of this stuff, I gave it to my wife to flush down the toilet.

I crashed and slept all day and night. The next day, as expected, I had some really mean cravings, which continued for about a week. This stuff is not quite as euphoric and speedy as actual methamphetamine; however, it is way stronger and more effective than any of the cathinone derivatives that I've tried. This really has all the negatives of crystal meth, 4-MMC, and MDPV. I think this is bad stuff: it makes me careless and is most certainly addictive! ●

False Alerts

Growing Evidence that Drug-Sniffing Dogs Reflect Police Bias

by Earth Erowid

Dogs trained to detect drugs, explosives, and human scents have become standard in police departments around the world. Courts in the United States generally accept law enforcement claims that a detection dog “alert” provides legal justification for bypassing 4th Amendment privacy protections against unreasonable search and seizure, and many other countries have similar rules. A dog alert is considered sufficient evidence to allow police to conduct a search without a warrant, permission, or additional probable cause. In that regard, a dog alert is the equivalent of an officer seeing a dead body or smelling cannabis. Given how much power the reaction of a drug dog and its handler’s interpretations can have, it is striking how little research and data has been collected about their abilities and accuracy.

False Positives

A provocative research paper published in January 2011 showed that, rather than being neutral, police detection dogs alert where their handlers think they should. This research is one of only a handful of scientific attempts to test the validity of law enforcement claims of reliable detection.

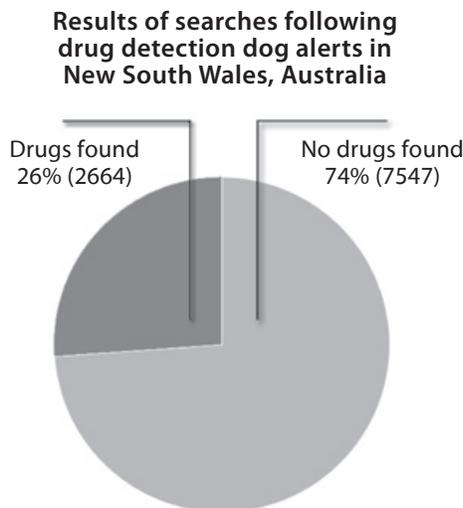
The study by Lit, Schweitzer, and Oberbauer caused a stir because, in their experiments to test detection dogs and their handlers, the researchers *did not use any explosive or drug scents*. Instead, they created a course inside a building and placed red paper markers on various objects to fool handlers into believing that marked locations contained scents and “Slim Jim” meat sticks as decoys to fool the dogs. Even with no legitimate targets present in the experiment, 85% of searches resulted in at least one alert by the handler-led detection dog. Only 21 out of the 144 police dog walk-throughs correctly reported no alerts by the dog, while 123 searches resulted in a combined total of 225 false alerts.

The red targets designed to trick human handlers resulted in the vast majority of false alerts and were twice as likely to cause false alerts as unwrapped Slim Jims not marked with red paper. The researchers concluded that “handler beliefs affect working dog outcomes, and human indication of scent location affects [...] alerts more than dog interest in a particular location.”¹

Lit et al. compared the results of their experiment to the “Clever Hans” effect. Clever Hans was a horse in the early 20th century who was said to know how to count, but was later confirmed to be reacting to subtle cues from his handler and the audience. Lit et al. write, “The ‘Clever Hans’ effect has become a widely accepted example not only of the involuntary nature of cues provided by onlookers [...], but of the ability of animals to recognize and respond to subtle cues provided by those around them. However, an additional important consideration was the willingness of onlookers to assign a biased interpretation of what they saw according to their expectations.”¹ Issues of influence, expectation, and human interpretation of animal behavior become extremely problematic when Clever Hans is providing legal evidence used by law enforcement. To complicate matters, an *actual* alert isn’t even required as an unethical handler can simply report an alert that didn’t happen.

Probable Cause with Four Legs

Also in January 2011, the *Chicago Tribune* examined data about law enforcement searches collected to study racial profiling issues. They found that only 44% of alerts during K9 inspections of automobiles resulted in the discovery of illegal drugs or paraphernalia, with hit rates much lower for Hispanic drivers. An Illinois State Representative and former prosecutor, Jim Durkin, calls police dogs “probable cause with four legs” and has tried and failed to pass legislation that would create a set of standards for training detection dogs. It’s astonishing that there isn’t one already.²



Source: NSW Ombudsman 2006 Report

Extensive Australian Review

In 2001, a judge in Sydney, Australia ruled in *Police v. Darby* that

the use of drug-sniffing dogs, without other probable cause to suspect an individual, was illegal. In response, the New South Wales (NSW) legislature passed a law allowing the general use of drug detection dogs and created an oversight role for an organization to track and review the use of the dogs. In 2006, the NSW Ombudsman issued an extensive report based on two years of data representing over 10,000 drug dog alerts.³ The review found that illegal drugs were found in only 26% of all searches that were initiated after a handler indicated that a dog alerted on the subject. The report softens the dismal performance by suggesting the false positives could be the result of “residual scents”: after being searched and found not to possess any contraband, 60% of dog-alerted suspects “admitted to having had some contact with cannabis or to being at a place where cannabis was smoked.”³ This unsubstantiated excuse for their deplorable success rate is offered by police despite their claim that dogs are “not trained to detect the odour of cannabis smoke”. Improbably, some of the “residual scent” admissions collected by police were “related to drug use that was weeks, months and sometimes more than a year prior to the indication by the drug detection dog.”³ Obviously this sort of remote past contact should not lead a detection dog to alert and establish probable cause for a search for current evidence.

Disappointingly, the Ombudsman found that handlers rewarded dogs regardless of whether or not their alert was accurate, violating both common sense and the stated policy of NSW law enforcement dog handlers.³

Improbable Cause to Search

The fact that a drug dog alert constitutes probable cause to initiate a full search of a person or car should logically require that it is reasonable to assume a dog alert indicates that evidence of a crime is present. If the majority of alerts are for “residual” scents that are days, weeks, or months old, any presumption of reasonableness vanishes. Despite evidence to the contrary, the NSW Police Association states that dog alerts provide reasonable cause to search because they exclusively indicate the “carriage or recent use of drugs”.³ Similarly, the primary U.S. Supreme Court cases upholding drug dog searches state that the canine sniff “discloses only the presence or absence of narcotics, a contraband item”.⁴ But, as Justice Souter stated in his dissent of the defining case *Illinois v. Caballes* (2005), “[t]he infallible dog, however, is a creature of legal fiction [...] their supposed infallibility is belied by judicial opinions describing well-trained animals sniffing and alerting with less than perfect accuracy, whether owing to errors by their handlers, the limitations of the dogs themselves, or even the pervasive contamination of currency by cocaine.”⁵

It is important to distinguish between two distinct types of detection practices: in some cases dogs are set to roam free in an area and alert when they detect a target scent, but in most cases dogs accompany their handler and are assigned to sniff a specific person or vehicle. It is in this latter case that the Clever Hans effect is much more likely to appear. It remains unknown and untested whether police dogs themselves might carry biases, even when not attended by a handler, which could result in

inappropriately high false positives on patchouli-scented hippies, jersey-sporting inner city youth, or glowstick-carrying ravers. After all, if a dog receives subtle cues over the years from its handler that certain characteristics are “suspicious”, it is all too easy to assume that the dog could internalize those biases.

Change Afoot?

There are small indications that the winds of change might be blowing in U.S. courts. In September 2010, an appellate court in Texas overturned the murder conviction of a man who had been found guilty based on a curious “scent lineup” technique. Three years after the murder, police had three dogs sniff clothing worn by the victim when he was killed. The police investigator then took “scent swabs” from six individuals and placed them in separate coffee cans. The investigator stated under oath that the dogs alerted when they sniffed the coffee can containing a swab taken from the defendant. The appeals court found that “scent discrimination lineups, when used alone

EVEN WITH NO LEGITIMATE TARGETS PRESENT IN THE EXPERIMENT, 85% OF SEARCHES RESULTED IN AT LEAST ONE ALERT BY THE HANDLER-LED DETECTION DOG.

or as primary evidence, are legally insufficient to support a conviction.”⁶ Unfortunately, the appeals court did not throw out this unverified technique entirely and only found it could not be the *sole* evidence against a defendant. It seems that, at present, any technique involving a dog and a police officer is presumed accurate, and interpretation is left exclusively to the discretion of handlers.

The research by Lit and colleagues revealing that dogs alert where their handlers think they should, the extensive review of drug detection dogs in New South Wales, and the lack of counter evidence have begun to persuasively demonstrate that detection dogs and their handlers are *not* able to neutrally detect evidence of illegal activity. Instead, these detection teams are influenced by the problematic biases that make necessary the 4th Amendment in the United States and privacy protections in other countries. If the alert of a detection dog is going to be used as evidence allowing searches, double-blind type field techniques must be developed that are proven to remove handler bias. ●

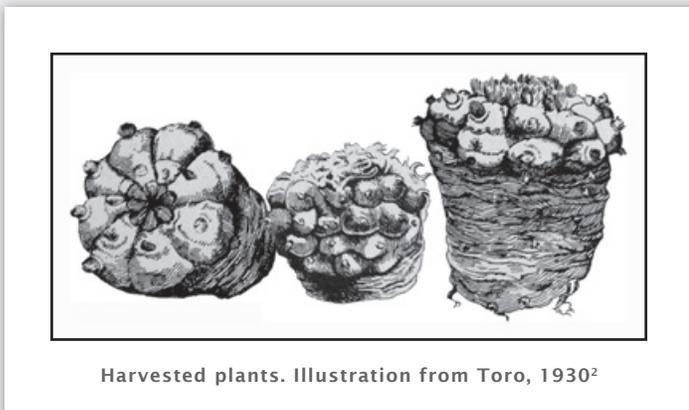
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Peyote Regrowth Following Proper Harvesting Practices

by Keeper Trout and Burnt Norton

Harvesting whole peyote cacti (*Lophophora williamsii*) using methods that collect part or all of the root is controversial, as it results in the death of this slow-growing plant. Although harvesting techniques that maximize plant survival chances have been known for years and were established in the literature in 2006 by Terry and Mauseth,¹ many peyote harvesters use less careful techniques (such as cutting off the crown or “button” with a shovel). Some factions of the Native American Church (NAC) continue to use the root for making tea, killing the plant in the process. In contrast, harvesting the crown without significant damage to subterranean parts of the cactus can allow for the growth of new crowns in the future.



Harvested plants. Illustration from Toro, 1930²

Despite declining peyote populations, no prior study has evaluated the impact of proper harvesting techniques on survival: how peyote responds to harvesting, how well it recovers, and the short- and long-term effects of harvesting on wild populations. In 2007, we at the Cactus Conservation Institute (CCI) undertook the first such study, focusing on plants growing in their natural habitat in a narrow zone in South Texas, home to peyote harvested legally for the NAC.

Methods

The research site was a private patch of land where peyote harvesting is not normally allowed; a rough, sloping area densely vegetated with thorny shrubs chosen for its existing wild peyote population. After obtaining the appropriate regulatory permits, the site was demarcated with zigzagging 17-gauge electric fence wire, secured to the ground with stakes, in a sampling method known as a “belt line transect”. The CCI team labeled all peyote plants located within one meter of the wire with individually numbered tags. Two separate demarcation lines were run so that both groups included 50 peyote plants, matched as closely as possible for size and condition given the natural setting.

One group was left unharvested. The other was harvested with the technique described by Terry and Mauseth (2006): using a sharp, flat blade the crown (head) of the cactus was removed by making a horizontal cut along the surface of the ground, perpendicular to the stem/root, in order to produce a flat-cut surface nearly flush with the soil level.

Half of the plants from which buttons had been harvested were covered with soil—by the NAC representative performing the harvests—in a traditional technique of the Coahuiltecan people. The Terry and Mauseth technique does not include covering the cut plant with soil and the NAC representative was asked to stop this practice after the research team noticed it being performed. The remaining half of the harvested plants was left to air-dry without cover.

On subsequent trips, the tagged plants were studied to monitor mortality, growth, and regrowth in unharvested versus harvested plants. Initially, the study was designed to last for four years—from first harvest to final measurement. After two years of regrowth, the researchers determined the four-year window would not be sufficient and the study protocol was revised to allow continued assessment until regrown buttons reached sexual maturity and a size compatible with sustainable harvesting.



Proper harvesting technique—Before.



Proper harvesting technique—After.



Aluminum tag secured with nine-inch nail.



Rebar stakes used for marking plants.



Transect line.



Regrowth on a live test subject.



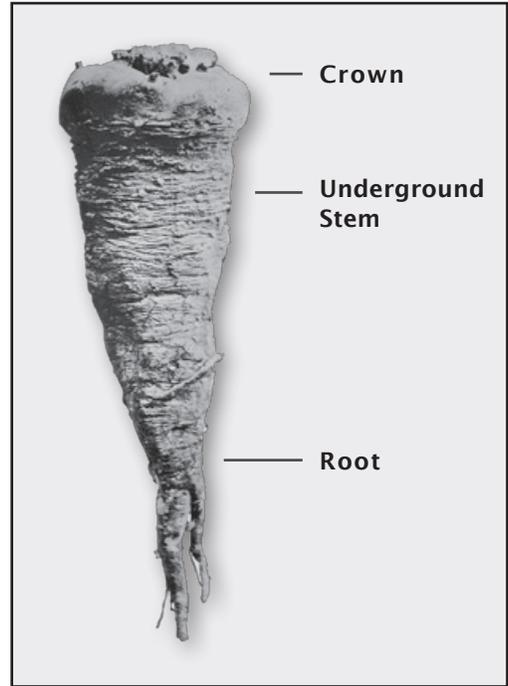
Dead post-harvest plant.



Living control plant.



Regrowth on a previously harvested plant.
Photo by Martin Terry, 2004



Parts of the peyote plant.
The root itself can be quite long.
Photo by USDA botanist William Safford, 1916³

The size and number of heads on each plant as well as the weights of the harvested crowns were recorded at the beginning of the study. On subsequent monitoring visits, the CCI team recorded the number and size of heads and information about missing, damaged, or dead plants. Details, including field measurements and color photographs of the tagged plants, can be found on the CCI website.⁴

What is the Root?

Colloquially, the entire underground portion of the plant—an ice-cream-cone-shaped structure that supports the small green crown on the top of the plant—is often referred to as its “root”. But there is a third, important morphological division to the peyote plant, located between the crown and actual root, called the underground or subterranean stem. On older specimens, this corrugated brown section is usually the largest part of the plant. The best place to cut off the crown is near the top of this subterranean stem, in order to allow the remaining root and stem to grow new crowns.

The underground stem is where basal branching (branching from the base) most often originates, making it important for creating new crowns.¹ The root itself is incapable of producing new crowns, so any plant that is cut below the stem tissue will die as soon as its food stores are depleted.

New heads are generated from the subterranean stem and extend up toward the sunlight until they surface next to the

originating plant. Over time a new head can remain attached to the original stem or can go on to form its own taproot.

Feral Hog Disturbance

Feral hogs were a source of ground disturbance and peyote death in both the harvested and control groups. The hogs did not eat the peyote, but rather appeared to be foraging around the roots of the shrubbery that served as peyote nurse plants. A “nurse plant” is a plant of another species that, by virtue of the shade it creates, provides a moister, cooler, slightly less-exposed microhabitat that promotes the germination of cactus seed and the survival of the vulnerable seedlings during their critical first year of growth. The hogs’ digging variously broke, dug up, or simply buried some peyote plants.

The investigators decided to score their two experimental groups in terms of “hog-related death” and “non-hog-related death”. That arrangement proved an elegant solution, as feral hog activity had conveniently removed exactly two plants from the harvested group and two plants from the control group, leaving 48 plants in each. Harvested plants showed five non-hog-related deaths (10.4%) compared to one non-hog-related death in the control group (2.1%). This difference of four deaths in non-hog-related mortality between harvested and control groups was not statistically significant, meaning that the difference could be a result of random chance.



The underground stem occupies almost half the length of the plant.
Photo by Bravo, 1937⁵



Branching from the underground stem.
Photo by KeeperTrout



New heads emerging.
Photo by KeeperTrout

Post-Harvest Soil Treatment

There were two groups of harvested plants: soil-covered and non-soil-covered. Hogs had killed one plant in each of these groups, leaving 24 per group. In the soil-treated group there were four deaths (out of 24 plants) compared to one death (out of 24) in the plants not covered with soil following harvest. Because this difference was not large enough to be statistically significant, further study with larger test groups is necessary to determine the effect of Coahuiltecan-style post-harvest soil covering on plant mortality.

Size and Number of Crowns

After mortality, the next most important consideration was the number and size of crowns on the peyote rootstocks in the harvested and non-harvested groups. As expected, the unharvested control group had much larger heads on average, but with fewer crowns at two years. The unharvested group had 80 total crowns on surviving plants (an average of 1.7 crowns per surviving plant), while the harvested group had 111 crowns (2.6 crowns per surviving plant).

Preliminary Findings

This is an early report on the progress of ongoing research, and all findings are preliminary. At the two-year point, 2 out of 50 plants were killed by hogs in both harvested and unharvested groups. In the harvested group, 5 non-hog-related deaths occurred compared to 1 in the unharvested group. The harvested group had 111 live crowns, with only 80 in the unharvested group. Crowns on harvested plants were smaller than on unharvested plants. The increase in the number of peyote crowns available for future harvests, despite an increase in plant mortality, suggests that proper harvesting practices might offer a sustainable way to harvest usable peyote buttons as long as time sufficient for growth is allowed between harvests. ●

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Those That Went Before

A lineage of psychedelic print periodicals

by Fire Erowid

Prior to 1949, the body of literature about psychedelics was quite small, consisting of a handful of medical case reports from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a few descriptions of the use of peyote and mescaline, and a small selection of journal articles. Then, around 1949, research into LSD and (to a lesser extent) other psychedelic drugs increased dramatically, with more than 1,000 scientific articles published by 1959 and a few books about peyote, mescaline, and LSD emerging in the late 1950s. In the 1960s, publication skyrocketed around the world, and the genre of psychedelic-focused print periodicals targeted at psychedelic *users* was created.

Over the past 50 years, a shared belief behind many of these magazines, journals, and zines was that psychedelic users needed more helpful information and that, due to legal controls on these substances, this information needed to come from within the underground or counterculture itself. Such publishing is a nerve-racking enterprise that takes a particular type of determined editor and publisher. It was not unusual for a new underground title to last only one or two issues, with funding and resources difficult to come by, and subscribers nervous about signing up.

A few common topical threads run through many of these periodicals: an interest in balancing what is seen as skewed information provided by mainstream or government sources,

bringing together multidisciplinary experts, documenting the benefits of psychedelics while reducing harms, helping people integrate their experiences, and encouraging the development of the psychedelic subculture.

Prior to the *Psychedelic Review*, a couple of notable articles and journal issues broke psychedelic ground, such as the influential May 1957 *Life* magazine article, “Seeking the Magic Mushroom”, describing R. Gordon Wasson’s experiences with psilocybin-containing mushrooms in Mexico, as well as a 1963 topical issue of the *Harvard Review*, “Drugs and the Mind”, devoted entirely to psychedelic drugs and containing contributions from Timothy Leary, Richard Alpert, Richard Evans Schultes, and Wasson. Many more small psychedelic newsletters and newspapers have been produced than there is space to include in the timeline, though each has played a part in the evolution of underground psychedelic information.

We appreciate the assistance we received from other archivists in putting together this article. Research was also facilitated by Erowid’s ongoing Elders Archiving Project. Early copies of some of these publications could only be found in the Stolaroff Collection, which is currently being indexed by Erowid Center. The difficulty of searching for rare hardcopies is another reminder of the importance of collecting, indexing, and digitizing these early works.

1963–1971

Psychedelic Review

MA, USA



One of the earliest and best-known publications devoted to psychedelics and the first to use the term “psychedelic” in its name, the *Psychedelic Review* had a stated purpose of serving as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas about the alteration and expansion of consciousness. Originally published by the International Federation for Internal Freedom (IFIF), which was founded by Timothy Leary and Richard Alpert (Ram Dass), the *Psychedelic Review* included editorial rants, scientific articles, and poetry. It boasted many of the most influential people of the 1960s psychedelic movement as editors: Ralph Metzner, Lisa Bieberman, Willis Harman, Frank Barron, Humphrey Osmond, Huston Smith, and Alan Watts, as well as Leary and Alpert.

1965–1971

Psychedelic Information Center Bulletin

MA, USA



This bi-monthly publication of the Psychedelic Information Center tracked the status of various counter-culture groups and projects and sought to provide “practical information regarding how to obtain and use LSD and other psychedelics”. It was produced out of her apartment by Lisa Bieberman, a lover and follower of Timothy Leary who had previously helped run IFIF. Bieberman was arrested and tried in 1966 for selling LSD-impregnated sugar cubes to an undercover FDA inspector at a time when LSD was not yet federally illegal in the U.S. She was convicted for violating FDA regulations about shipping drugs but received a suspended sentence.

1966–1968

The San Francisco Oracle

CA, USA



This underground counterculture newspaper was co-founded and edited by poet Allen Cohen and artist Michael Bowen. In 1966, Cohen reportedly had a dream of a rainbow-colored newspaper circulating worldwide. When he described this dream to the founders of the Psychedelic Shop, one of the first head shops on Haight Street, they offered funding...and *The Oracle* was born. Known for its bright psychedelic art designs, its support of counterculture ideology, and its connection to the 1967 Human Be-in, its distribution peaked at more than 125,000 copies. For a while, *The Oracle* kept its offices open 24 hours a day, with the night crew feeding hungry hippies and guiding lost trippers. A lush book reproducing every issue of *The Oracle* was published in 1991.

1966–1967

Inner Space

NY, USA



This early zine, billing itself as “The Magazine of the Psychedelic Community”, was founded in reaction to the ongoing control of psychedelic substances. *Inner Space* aspired to serve as a “clearing-house” for information about the potential benefits of psychedelics; its initial issue included a manifesto lamenting the lack of “positive useful data” available to the millions of users. Early issues included articles by Timothy Leary, Peter Stafford, Art Kleps, and Lisa Bieberman, as well as book reviews, research abstracts, discussion of media mentions of psychedelics, and related event announcements.

1967–1973

Oz

ENGLAND



Founded as an Australian anti-establishment magazine in 1963, *Oz* moved to London in 1967 and became a psychedelic counterculture magazine. A member of the Underground Press, *Oz* was part of a 1964 obscenity trial in Australia and another in the UK in 1971 when its co-editors were accused of conspiring to corrupt the morals of children with sexual and drug content. This became the longest obscenity trial in British history, resulting in a conviction that was overturned on appeal. The youngest editor, Felix Dennis, went on to become a wealthy entrepreneur, author, and publisher of magazines such as *Maxim*, *Fortean Times*, and *The Week*.

1967–1981
1981–Present

**The Journal of Psychedelic Drugs
The Journal of Psychoactive Drugs**

CA/WI, USA



Founded in 1967 with a mission to “compile and disseminate objective information related to the various types of drugs used in the Haight-Ashbury subculture”, the *Journal of Psychedelic Drugs* began as the publication of the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic in San Francisco. Originally a counterculture publication focusing on psychedelic drugs and cannabis, it fairly quickly shifted its attention to include more problematic substances such as heroin and stimulants. In 1981, it changed its name to the *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs* and is now one of the leading journals focusing on psychoactive drug use, abuse, and treatment.

1971–1973

Der Grüne Zweig

GERMANY

Produced by Werner Pieper, this German publication was started—with money earned from dealing drugs—out of a sense of responsibility to his customers who were facing a lack of German-language information about psychedelics. Among other drug-related content, it published some of the first translations of articles by Leary, Lilly, and McKenna. Today Der Grüne Zweig is a publisher’s imprint.

1971–Present

Journal of Drug Issues

FL, USA



Begun as a non-profit in 1971, *JDI* came under the control of Florida State University in 1996. *JDI* provides a professional forum for mainstream discussion of problems associated with illicit drugs. Articles focus on “harder” drugs, substance abuse treatment, adolescent drug use, and problems such as disease and homelessness associated with the use of psychoactives.

1973–1980
1981–2001

**Journal of Altered States of Consciousness
Imagination, Cognition, and Personality**

NY, USA

This journal, renamed in 1981, addressed cannabis and psychedelics, but from a focus on consciousness and self-awareness rather than on psychoactive substances or drug-using cultures. Early issues also covered ritual trance, meditation, religious thought, dream states, astral travel, creativity, and psychosis.

1974–Present



High Times

NY, USA

Founded by Tom Forcade, an underground publisher, writer, cannabis smuggler, and Yippie activist. Forcade is credited with, among other things, being one of the first to throw a pie at a person in political protest after “pieing” the chairman of the President’s Commission on Obscenity and Pornography in 1970. Many stories about the early *High Times* describe surprising interactions with large-scale cannabis smugglers. Though the magazine has a strong focus on cannabis, it also includes articles about psychedelics and other drugs. *High Times*, which was modeled after *Playboy*, is now the largest cannabis-related print publication in the world with a circulation of more than 200,000.

1977–1979

The Australasian Weed/Seed/Need/Greed/Plead/?eed

AUSTRALIA

This pro-drug publication aspired to be the voice of cannabis smokers in Australia. This task was complicated when *The Australasian Weed* was banned or restricted in most Australian states. To sidestep the bans the name was changed to *The Australasian Seed*. Keeping one step ahead of the law, they continued to change their name, using six variations over two years, ending with a title featuring a large (capital) cannabis leaf followed by three smaller (lower case) leaves.

1982–1985
1985–1993

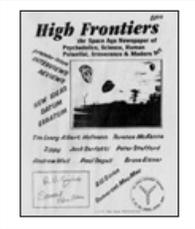


**Psychozoic Press
Psychedelic Monographs and Essays**

OR, USA

The *Psychozoic Press* was a quarterly publication (edited by Elvin Smith and Thomas Lyttle) targeting the moderately sophisticated enthusiast. It provided updates on the psychedelic community, articles about the history and chemistry of various drugs, book reviews, etc. Its distribution was fairly small, but it was one of the few underground publications specifically about psychedelics during the early 1980s. In 1985, the editors continued producing under the name *Psychedelic Monographs and Essays*, using a thicker pamphlet-sized format and producing six issues over the next eight years. Erowid began publishing newly typeset digital versions of the *Psychozoic Press* in 2010.

1984–1988
1988–1989
1989–1998



**High Frontiers
Reality Hackers
Mondo 2000**

CA, USA

Three incarnations of a magazine co-founded, funded and published by Queen Mu with the better-known editor-in-chief R.U. Sirius. It presented a mixture of cutting-edge technology and psychedelic drugs, suggesting that, just as psychedelics had the potential to change both individual consciousness and world culture, so too did technology. Articles covered topics such as psychedelic software, smart drugs, cyberculture, and, of course, the use of both well-known and novel psychedelics, of which the editors and crew reportedly did mondo quantities.

1986–1991



Encyclopaedia Psychedelica international

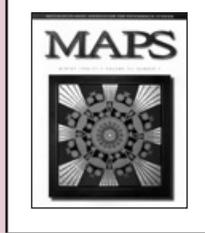
AUSTRALIA

Originally intended to have 100 issues ending in the year 2000, only 15 were produced, with contributors such as Timothy Leary, Ken Kesey, and Charles Bukowski. Founded by Fraser Clark, a Sixties counterculturalist and an early rave promoter in London who also founded the “Zippie” (post-raver, techno-hippie, anti-yuppie) movement, *Encyclopaedia Psychedelica international (EPI)* had thematic issues on topics such as hippies, paganism, rock festivals, sanity, poetry, psychedelic heroines, Gaia, etc.

1988–Present

MAPS Bulletin

FL/NC/MA/CA, USA



The newsletter of the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies began as a one-page letter and has expanded to a tri-annual, roughly 40-page publication. It was renamed the *MAPS Bulletin* in 1995. The *Bulletin* provides updates about MAPS sponsored research and projects, and articles on medicinal and scientific issues related to psychedelics. Since 2000, special issues have delved into topics such as “Psychedelics, Death and Dying”, “Psychedelics and Ecology”, and “Kids and Psychedelics”.

1991–1995

Integration

GERMANY



This “Journal for Mind-moving Plants and Culture” had the goal of providing context for the healthy integration of psychoactive substances. It promoted the idea that early cultures did not experience the type of problems the modern world faces with “drugs” because use was embedded and balanced within the cultural, social, and religious lives of the people. Articles ranged from analysis of primitive and traditional use of psychoactive plants to interdisciplinary evidence from artists, botanists, and pharmacologists of their positive value. Five issues were published over four years.

1991–1995/6

Psychedelic Illuminations

CA/WA, USA



With a goal of “promoting the ideals of expanded consciousness, human evolution, global harmony, and the concept of ‘plants as teachers’”, *Psychedelic Illuminations (PI)* aimed at creating a mainstream print resource for current information about psychedelics. Known for its colorful artistic covers and interviews with psychedelic luminaries, *PI* was sold selectively at newsstands and bookstores around the country, which was somewhat unusual for such a publication. James Kent, managing editor for issues 5–10, went on to publish *TRP: The Resonance Project*.

1992–2008

The Entheogen Review

CA, USA

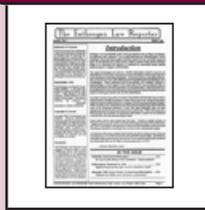


The Entheogen Review (ER), the “Journal of Unauthorized Research on Visionary Plants and Drugs”, went through two incarnations, the first (1992–1997) edited by Jim DeKorne, and an improved version (1998–2008) led by editor David Aardvark. A true underground publication, *ER* addressed topics avoided by many others: synthesis and extraction techniques, cultivation of psychoactive-containing plants, exploration of novel compounds, rectal administration techniques, and a “Sources” column that identified companies that sold (not-strictly-illegal) psychoactive products. Jon Hanna, a frequent contributor to *ER*, has been an editor of *Erowid Extracts* since 2008.

1993–1999
1999–2003

The Entheogen Law Reporter
The Journal of Cognitive Liberties

CA, USA

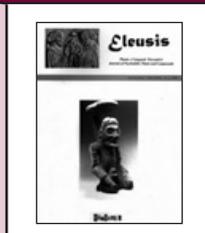


Produced by lawyer Richard Glen Boire, *TELRL* focused narrowly on legal issues related to psychoactives, covering cases, defenses, and enforcement. Approximately 22 issues were published, as well as two compilations. After Boire and his partner Wrye Sententia founded the Center for Cognitive Liberty and Ethics, *TELRL* morphed into the *Journal of Cognitive Liberties* and expanded to cover more media and cultural critique, with a higher dose of rabble-rousing subversiveness.

1995–2005

Eleusis

ITALY



Originally co-edited by Jonathan Ott and Giorgio Samorini for eight issues now described as the “old series” (1995–1997), *Eleusis* was then taken over by the Museo Civico di Rovereto for nine issues (1998–2005). *Eleusis*, billing itself as the “Journal of Psychoactive Plants and Compounds”, collected research on the relationship between humankind and psychoactives. Articles ranged from evidence of historical uses of entheogens in spiritual practices around the world, to the history of the ritual use of alcohol, to the symbolism of psychoactives and the cultivation of mushrooms.

1992–1997**Island Views****CA, USA**

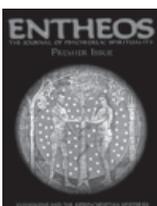
Produced by Bruce Eisner (author of *Ecstasy: The MDMA Story*) as the newsletter of the Island Foundation, a non-profit organization active for only a few years, this publication took its name from Aldous Huxley's 1952 *Island* utopia. *Island Views* promoted values such as intentional community, individual freedom, cooperation rather than competition, and methods of consciousness change including the use of psychedelics. Three glossy color issues were titled *Psychedelic Island Views*.

**1997–2000
2001–2003****The Resonance Project
Trip****WA, USA**

This irreverent subculture magazine produced by James Kent continued where *Psychedelic Illuminations* left off. *TRP/Trip: The Journal of Psychedelic Culture*, was a well-produced publication that featured artwork, interviews, and articles related to visionary and psychedelic drug culture. *Trip* also produced a sketch comedy DVD *Tales from the Trip Side*, a cynical, goofy collection of timely shorts about recreational drug use. The editorial group went on to create the blog *DoseNation.com*. Managing editor Scott O. Moore is a member of the Erowid Center board of directors.

2001–Present**Erowid Extracts****CA, USA**

Erowid's newsletter has been published consistently twice a year since mid-2001. It has a distribution of approximately 1,500 with most issues at 28 pages in length. *Erowid Extracts*, part newsletter and part magazine in style, focuses on psychedelics and newer drugs. Content includes descriptions and updates of current projects, research reviews, statistics about Erowid.org, and original articles on topics that tickle the fancy of the Erowid crew. With the exception of experience reports and recurring columns such as Teafærie and Escottology, the tone tends towards the academic.

2001–2002**Entheos****CA, USA**

Entheos: The Journal of Psychedelic Spirituality, was a magazine-quality journal (color photos, ~90 pages) dedicated to discussing the use of entheogens for spiritual purposes. It had a small print-on-demand distribution, producing only 400 copies of Issue 1 in its first three printings. *Entheos* carried both original and reprinted articles by some of the better-known scholars in this field, such as Clark Heinrich, Mark Hoffman, Thomas Lyttle, Jonathan Ott, Carl Ruck, Blaise Staples, K. Trout, and Gordon Wasson.

More That Went Before

The psychedelic print publications above are some of the most important of the last 50 years, but there are many other notables not included here because they were short-lived or not narrowly psychedelic oriented: *Berkeley Barb* (1965–1980, USA); *The Paper/Illustrated Paper* (1966–1967, USA); *Go-Set/Revolution/High Times* (1966–1972, Australia); *LA Oracle/Southern California Oracle* (1967–1968, USA); *Open City* (1967–1969, USA); *Microgram* (1967–2007, USA); *Rolling Stone* (1967–Present, USA); *Psychedelic Hippie* (1968, USA); *LOVE* (1970s, Germany); *The Digger* (1972–1975, Australia); *Rush* (1976, USA); *Head* (1976–1978, USA); *Cane Toad Times* (1977–1990, Australia); *Blotter* (1978–1979, USA); *HiLife* (1978–1980, USA); *Revision* (1978–Present, USA); *The Sporeprint* (1979–1996, Canada); *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* (1979–Present, Switzerland); *Magical Blend* (1980–2007, USA); *The Sacred Record* (1981–1997, USA); *Soft Secrets* (1985–Present, Netherlands); *Shaman's Drum* (1985–2009, USA); *Albert Hofmann Foundation Newsletter* (1989–1992, USA); *PlantWise* (1989–1994, USA); *Pills-a-Go-Go* (1991–1994, USA); *Yearbook for Ethnomedicine and the Study of Consciousness* (1992–1998, Germany); *Lysergic World* (1993, USA); *Crash Collusion* (1993–1996, USA); *Altrove* (1993–2007, Italy); *Hemp Publications/Magazine* (1994–1996, USA); *The Psychedelic Resource List* (1994–1997, USA); オルタード・ディメンション [*Altered Dimension*] (1995–2001, Japan); *The Marijuana & Hemp Newsletter/Cannabis Canada/Cannabis Culture Magazine* (1995–2009, Canada); *Peyote Awareness Journal/Peyote: The Medicine Journal* (1996–1998, USA); *Zavtone* (1996–2000, Japan); *The Heffter Review of Psychedelic Research* (1998, 2001, USA); *Heads* (2000–2007, Canada); *Salvia Divinorum* (2002–2004, USA); *Entheogene Blätter* (2002–2007, Germany); *Black Poppy* (2002–2007, UK); *Teonanacatl/TEO* (2002–Present, USA); *Skunk* (2005–Present, Canada); *Shroom Talk* (2006–2007, USA); *The Invisible College* (2007–Present, USA). ●

THE SHULGIN INDEX

Psychedelic Phenethylamines and Related Compounds

An excerpt from the new book by
Alexander T. Shulgin, Tania Manning, and Paul F. Daley

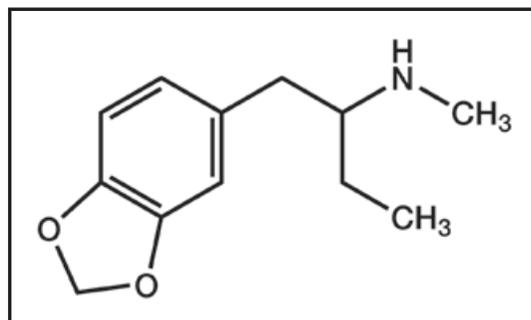
We were delighted when we heard that *The Shulgin Index* had finally reached the printer. Nearly a decade has passed since Team Shulgin's last book, and as Sasha's eyesight deteriorated, it became difficult and then impossible for him to pull together this tome alone. The *Index* distills into usable form notebooks and filing cabinets full of Sasha's work, including the most important chemical, pharmacological, and historical data for each drug as well as a mass spectrum scanned from Sasha's notes. There are also extensive cross-reference tables for analogs of each substance. This highly technical manual required a great deal of chemistry expertise to complete, so the project slowed and then stalled until funding was found to bring in fellow chemist Paul Daley to help co-author Tania Manning complete it.

Erowid provided assistance, coordinating edits from senior chemists and having Jon Hanna help with proofing. Because of the Shulgins' commitment to making factual information freely available, we will be publishing entries from *The Shulgin Index* online over time.

Although we know most of our readers are not chemists, we hope you'll enjoy this peek into the densely acronymed world of "dirty pictures" that Sasha has spent his life investigating. We chose MBDB, a lesser known, but well-liked cousin of MDMA (ecstasy) that led David Nichols to coin the term "entactogen" in 1986. Evidence shows it is less neurotoxic and causes less cardiovascular stimulation than MDMA with less-pushy entactogenic, empathic, and euphoric effects.

#76. MBDB

1-(Benzo[*d*][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-*N*-methylbutan-2-amine
(±)-*N*-Methyl-1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-butanamine
2-Methylamino-1-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)butane
α-Ethyl-*N*-methyl-1,3-benzodioxole-5-ethanamine
N-Methyl-1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-aminobutane
N-Methyl-1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-butylamine
N-Methyl-1-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-2-butanamine
EDEN
MB
MDBD
Methyl-J



Registry Numbers

	CAS#		CAS#
HCl salt	[128767-12-4]		
Freebase	[135795-90-3]		
<i>R</i> -(-)-Isomer HCl salt	[103882-49-1]	<i>R</i> -(-)-Isomer freebase	[103882-53-7]
<i>S</i> -(+)-Isomer HCl salt	[103882-50-4]	<i>S</i> -(+)-Isomer freebase	[103882-54-8]

Synthesis and Chemistry

From piperonal (with Mg turnings, 1-bromopropane, diethyl ether) to 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)butan-1-ol; (with KHSO₄, distillation) to 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)butene; (with H₂O₂, HCO₂H) to 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)butan-2-one; (with Al foil, HgCl₂,

CH₃NH₂Cl) to (±)-*N*-methyl-1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-butanamine (Nichols et al., 1986a).

C₁₂H₁₇NO₂ Exact Mass: 207.1259
Molecular Weight: 207.27
m/z: 207.1259 (100.0%), 208.1293 (13.0%)
Elemental Analysis: C, 69.54; H, 8.27; N, 6.76; O, 15.44

HCl salt m.p. 156 °C (Nichols et al., 1986b) (IPA)
R-(-)-Isomer HCl salt m.p. 192–193 °C [α]_D²⁰ -26.04° (Nichols et al., 1986b) (EtOH/Et₂O)
S-(+)-Isomer HCl salt m.p. 192–193 °C [α]_D²⁰ +25.89° (Nichols et al., 1986b) (EtOH/Et₂O)

Several α-ethyl phenethylamines were synthesized and analytically compared with their amphetamine counterparts (Clark et al., 1995). MS analysis of the three isomeric compounds MBDB, MDE, and MDDMA, was reported (Clark et al., 1996). *N*-Methyl-[¹¹C]-labeled MBDB was synthesized and used to determine the blood-to-brain uptake in rats (Solbach et al., 1997b). Eight structurally related methylenedioxy compounds were distinguished by reversed-phase liquid chromatography and MS of the pentafluoropropionamide derivatives (DeRuiter et al., 1998b). Automated online dialysis and liquid chromatography reported MBDB in plasma and serum samples with detection limits of 10 ng/ml (Sadeghipour and Veuthey, 1998). MBDB also could be identified by FTIR spectral analysis (Praisler et al., 2000), and analyzed without derivatization by HPLC/MS (Bogusz et al., 2000). 2,3- and 3,4-isomers were synthesized and distinguished by GC-MS-MS (Borth et al., 2000). Chromatographic and spectroscopic identifications were described (Aalberg et al., 2003). MBDB was among some fifty-five phenethylamines whose fragmentation patterns were determined by a variety of mass spectrometry techniques (Kölliker and Oehme, 2004).

MDE, MDDMA, MBDB, and their 2,3-methylenedioxy positional isomers 2,3-MDE, 2,3-MDDMA, and 2,3-MBDB, all of identical mass and extremely similar mass spectra, were synthesized, derivatized, and clearly defined by GC/MS (Thigpen et al., 2007). MBDB was identified and distinguished from several structurally related compounds in human urine by capillary electrophoresis and fluorescence spectroscopy (Chung et al., 2001). An enantiomeric analysis of MBDB and its metabolite BDB was developed for rat urine (Nagai et al., 2002). A GC/MS screening of a urine sample to differentiate between MDMA, MDA, MDE, and MBDB following extraction, deconjugation, and derivatization was reported (Pellegrini et al., 2002). Analytical procedures were developed for MBDB analysis of hair samples (Junker et al., 2001; Van den Berg et al., 2002; Musshoff et al., 2002). A plasma screening and quantitative GC/MS analysis has been reported (Peters et al., 2003). Human urine was analyzed by LC-MS-MS methods (Nordgren and Beck, 2004; Nordgren et al., 2005), and serum was analyzed by extraction, derivatization with trifluoroacetic anhydride, and GC/MS (Hidvegi et al., 2006). Determination of MDMA, MDA, MDE, and MBDB in oral fluid was achieved via high performance liquid chromatography with native fluorescence detection (Concheiro et al., 2005).

Distinction of MBDB from structurally related compounds was achieved by GC/MS (Clark et al., 1996a). The nearly identical isomers, MDE and MBDB, were distinguished from one another by MS (Garofano et al., 1998), and GC/MS, with appropriate derivatization (Maruyama et al., 1998). Synthesis and spectral characterization of MBDB, BDB, GEA, and *N*-Me-α-Et-GEA was reported (Kanamori et al., 1999). Chromatographic and GC/MS techniques were developed for distinguishing the three isomers MDDMA, MDE, and MBDB (Aalberg et al., 2003).

Neural network analysis (NN) and neural networks coupled with principal component analysis (PC-NN) were applied to infrared spectra of stimulant and psychedelic amphetamines (Gosav et al., 2005).

Homologues and Analogues

3-	4-	α-	N-	Name	CAS#	Ref
-OCO-		Et	Me	MBDB	(this entry)	
-OCF ₂ O-		Et	Me	F2-MBDB	[914800-83-2]	(1)

(1) Synthesis (Trachsel et al., 2006).

Biochemistry

With MBDB treatment, [³H]-labeled serotonin was released from rat hippocampal slices and [³H]-labeled dopamine, similarly, from rat caudate nucleus slices (Johnson et al., 1986). Stereochemical aspects of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) and related amphetamine derivatives' inhibition of uptake of [³H]-monoamines into synaptosomes from different regions of rat brain were evaluated (Steele et al., 1987). With *S*-MBDB, telemetric recordings of field potentials from frontal cortex, hippocampus, striatum, and reticular formation were made on freely moving rats (Dimpfel et al., 1989). The optical

isomers of PMMA, DOM, MBDB, MDMA, and DMA were compared as stimulants in rats (Rangisetty et al., 2001).

GC/MS analysis of human urine has shown that the methylenedioxy ring of MBDB opens to give DH- α -Et-MA and MH- α -Et-MA as metabolites (Maurer, 1996).

MBDB, administered orally to male rats at 20 mg/kg, was excreted in part unchanged, and as the three metabolites BDB, GEA, and *N*-Me-GEA (Kanamori et al., 1998a); (Nagai et al., 2002) also found MBDB and its metabolite BDB in rat urine following oral administration. Using GC/MS and LC/MS, two major routes to the observed human urinary metabolites of MBDB were *N*-dealkylation and demethylenation to the catechol, and demethylation and also *N*-demethylation by CYP1A2 (Maurer et al., 2000). The conversion of MBDB to BDB was confirmed in human trials monitoring urine, saliva, and sweat with GC/MS; in all the biological specimens tested, MBDB was present in higher concentrations than its metabolite (Kintz, 1997). Studies were reviewed on screening procedures for detection of MDA, MDMA, MDE, BDB, and MBDB, and on their metabolism, including cytochrome P450 isoenzyme dependencies (Maurer and Kraemer, 2002).

A reproducible, simple, and small-scale method was developed for detecting the uptake and release of monoamines (dopamine, serotonin, and norepinephrine) by rat brain synaptosomes (Nagai et al., 2007).

Pharmacology

3,4-MMA and MMAI were tested for stimulus generalization in two-lever discrimination tests with rats trained with MDMA or MBDB (Johnson et al., 1991b). BDB, MBDB, and MMBDB responses were compared to one another in the newly hatched chicken, and produced behaviors more characteristic of psychedelics than amphetamine (Bronson et al., 1995a); the effects of 2C-B, MDA, MBDB, and cathinone were similarly compared (Bronson et al., 1995b). MTA, MBDB, and MMAI were compared as serotonin releasers in rats (Li et al., 1996).

Biochemical and behavioral studies with MDMA and MBDB gave results similar to one another, but distinct from stimulants (amphetamine) or psychedelics (DOM, LSD); this prompted the creation of a new class name, “entactogens” (Nichols, 1986b). MBDB partially generalized for LSD in rat discrimination studies (Nichols et al., 1986a), and produced MDMA-like behaviors (Oberlender and Nichols, 1990); rats trained to discriminate between MBDB and saline, substituted MDA, MDMA, MDAI, and MDMAI completely, but not mescaline, DOM, or LSD. The term “entactogen” was further discussed for those compounds that substituted completely (Oberlender and Nichols, 1990). In establishing the definitions of entactogen, hallucinogen, and stimulant, drug discrimination-trained rats (MDMA versus (+)-amphetamine), had been used to evaluate the optical isomers of MDA, MDMA, MBDB, amphetamine, LSD, and DOM (Oberlender and Nichols, 1988). Possible neurotoxic effects of MBDB in rats were evaluated (Johnson and Nichols, 1989).

Ten suspected drug offenders (in Sweden) showed the presence of MBDB in urine at levels ranging from 0.10 to 24 μ g/ml. All specimens also contained the metabolite BDB, with qualitative and quantitative GC/MS analysis of trifluoroacetic anhydride derivatives of MBDB, BDB, MDMA, MDA, and MDE (Kronstrand, 1996). Several homologues of MDA appeared in the illicit drug market in Italy (Furnari et al., 1998). The appearance of MBDB in France required careful analysis to distinguish it from its illegal, structurally close analogues and isomers (Baudot et al., 1999). GC/FTIR analysis showed that 2C-B, MDMMA, and MBDB had appeared for sale in Belgium (Dirinck et al., 2000). Employing HPLC-PDA, HPLC-MS, TLC, and NMR, a library of 35 illegal drugs was assembled and used to identify street samples (Nakashima et al., 2005). Analysis by GC/MS and LC-ESI-MS also found MBDB to be present in street drugs in Japan (Kikura-Hanajiri et al., 2005). In Japan, homo-MDMA was sold on the street under the recognized name MBDB (Matsumoto et al., 2006). Syntheses and analytical methods for MBDB and its analogues, including BDB, MDA, MDE, MDMA, and methylone, were developed to support forensic investigations (Sanuki et al., 2006). A thorough review article highlighted the distinction of MBDB (analytically and pharmacologically) from its close analogues and homologues (Van Aerts et al., 2000).

Two deaths were established as having been caused by MBDB (Carter et al., 2000).

MBDB's *S*-(+)-isomer is orally active in humans at 125 mg, the racemate is active at 150–210 mg (Nichols et al., 1986a); the racemate was active at 180–210 mg; duration 4–6 hours (Shulgin and Shulgin, 1991).

Legal Status

MBDB is not a scheduled compound under federal drug law, or under District of Columbia or any state laws.

MBDB has been regulated in Japan by their Narcotics and Psychotropics Control Law since April 22, 2006 (Sanuki et al., 2006). ●

infinite nothingness

An experience with *Amanita muscaria* var. *formosa*

by Existence

This was by far the worst experience I have ever had on any kind of drug. I am fairly experienced, and have dabbled in my fair share of at least the recognized drugs, from datura to DMT.

I read a fair bit about psychoactive amanitas when I first was introduced to psychedelics, and had hoped to one day locate some to try. One fall a few years back a friend and I were mushroom picking on a small mountain next to town and found some *A. muscaria* var. *formosa*. We took them home and tried them, with no effects. I lost hope and let go of any expectation of trying these mushrooms again. Perhaps one day.

The next 18 hours consisted of an Infinite Void of nothingness and Everything-Timeless-Eternal.

At the beginning of this month, that day came to pass. I went camping for a long weekend with two of my best friends. They brought a bunch of beer, but being totally broke I only managed to scrape together a couple of beers and two smokes...and no weed! But I brought my pipe which I had just finished smoking some hash in, so there was plenty of resin.

I drank my beers the first day, finishing them by the time we got the tent up. We were a ways out into the woods, at a man-made reservoir. I had accepted that I would be on my own on this trip, and thought I'd make it a sacred soul search. I was a bit lost in my spiritual journeys and was trying to find more meaning in life.

I decided to go explore some of these woods by myself. While I was out in the brush I stumbled upon a tiny clearing covered in dried pine needles, and there beneath the trees were some rather ugly

looking *Amanita muscaria* var. *formosa*. The majority of them had a blue powdery mould growing on them though there were some really nice specimens. I was awestruck, as they were far larger than the ones I had found years ago, and I figured would be more potent.

I collected five of the best looking specimens, being sure to cut away any little bits of mould, and took them back to camp. I showed my friends, and both of them rolled their eyes at me. One jokingly said that if I was going to do the mushrooms, that I better not poison myself, start dying and ruin the camping trip. Oh how the Gawds were laughing.

So, I figured I would play it safe, and just smoke some of the mushroom skins. I dried the largest mushroom

over the fire, scraped the skin off, and smoked it in my bowl. I smoked long and hard, and it was nasty. I began to feel the mild effects of the hash resin, but really failed to notice much effect from the mushrooms besides feeling more drowsy than normal. A short time later we all decided to head to bed. My dreams were really weird that night, in 2D like a Nintendo game.

The next day was fairly uneventful. We explored the area, but I felt a bit left out as they were drinking and smoking. I tried to connect more with nature, but it didn't really work and I got more depressed.

On the third day I again told my friends that I was going to explore by myself. My friends went fishing and I went back towards where I had found the mushrooms earlier. I figured I wouldn't bother using the ones I had found before, considering the lack of effects on my smoking test run.

While I was out, I stumbled upon an even larger batch of mushrooms and these were all beautifully fresh. I was awestruck, again! The Gawds must be insisting, I thought, and I quickly gathered up the best looking ones. Around 15 mushrooms ranging from some with their veils still attached to fully-grown and wonderfully strong-looking specimens. These indeed were a gift. I made my way back to camp and set my mushrooms aside, building the fire back up. My friends returned to grab more beer and munchies and headed back out, insisting I go with them. I said I was going to stay and meditate, which I figured wasn't exactly lying, though I didn't say what I was planning to do.

After they left, I boiled some water with eight of the mushrooms, leaving the best-looking ones to take home. I let the water steep for some time, finally straining it out through the bandana I had carried them in. I thought about the can of beans I had eaten for breakfast, and realized I would be dealing with plenty of nausea, so I made some tea, and drank lots of water, trying to encourage the food to digest more. After about an hour I gulped down half the tea (about a mugful) and figured I'd wait to see if I felt any effects.

After about a half an hour I started to feel nausea, and decided to head for the outhouses. I sat on the toilet for maybe 20 minutes zoning in and out, feeling like I had to shit and puke, but unable to do either. I finally got up, realizing that I had probably been in there for a while, and started back for camp. I noticed I was losing my balance, and stumbled some of the way. When I looked from one place to another, there were no frames of vision during the movement in between end locations. It was just a black blur, and I could really only see something if

I was statically looking at it. It was sort of interesting, but mostly annoying, as I had to focus much more.

When I got to the camp (a 2–5 minute walk) I started to feel really sleepy, not physically but mentally. I was having a hard time thinking and seemed to get lost in a thought, forgetting what I was just thinking about. I clumsily stoked the fire and sat down on one of the fold-out chairs. Suddenly I felt like I had to close my eyes and rest. It was the weirdest feeling. Sleepy, yet not sleepy. I had to close my eyes and go to sleep, but I wasn't physically fatigued and my eyelids weren't droopy. I just had to close them. I told myself "I'll just rest a bit, waiting for the trip to kick in, and try not to focus on this nausea". I leaned sideways in the chair and closed my eyes. I remember a flash or beam of light shooting past my vision from right to left and then I blacked out.

The next 18 hours consisted of an Infinite Void of nothingness and Everything-Timeless-Eternal. Pure darkness and light. Just awareness. I knew who I was, but yet had forgotten who I was. I was nowhere, yet somewhere. It's very difficult to explain. Just pure awareness. No fear, no pain, no love or bliss, just There. All I can relate it to is what I used to imagine death would be

like when I was an atheist. Just nothing, and everything.

I later found out that my friends had come back (about three hours after I blacked out) and I was unconscious, still sitting in the chair, slumped over, my face on the ground. The cloth arm had ripped and I was leaning over my right side, puke and blood around my face. My eyes were so far back in my head that all they could see was white, and I was convulsing, breathing through gurgles, and was cold to the touch.

After those 18 hours I woke up in the hospital, ripped from my place of nothingness, sensation flooding slowly back into me, finally into intensity, and then numbness. At first I couldn't see, but my vision returned and I was still hallucinating. I found myself in a hospital-like room, but there were treetops all around me—outside the door, and through the window as well. Treetops everywhere! And people or beings. I couldn't recognize their faces; they were melting and swirling, and twisted, with long tongues and grotesque features. I was unable to speak (later realizing I had a breathing tube down my throat) and something was in my penis (a catheter) and arm (an IV). I was totally confused and scared. I yelled out in anger and fear, ripped the things out from my mouth, penis and arm (I didn't feel a thing), and began to struggle. It took six people to push me down and shackle me in. They yelled and told me to calm down, and I yelled and said to let me go. I honestly thought I had been abducted by aliens or evil forest spirits or something. I seriously was out of my mind. They pulled out a needle, and I yelled at them not to stick me with it, but they managed to, and I went back into unconsciousness.

I awoke two hours later, and found myself strapped into the bed, wide awake and no longer confused or hallucinating. I knew where I was. I knew

something bad had happened. But I did not want to be there. I managed to get out and go home against doctor's orders. I had a bad infection in my right nostril, and whenever I breathed through my nose it reeked of beans, mushrooms, and vomit. It was horrid (I can still smell it sometimes now, a month later). My nose and cheek were swollen, and my face throbbed with the infection. Also, the whole upper part of my left leg was numb,

I later found out that my friends had come back (about three hours after I blacked out) and I was unconscious, still sitting in the chair, slumped over, my face on the ground.

as being slumped over for so long had cut the blood off, and I got pins and needles all the way to nerve damage. Part of the top of my leg is still numb.

That night I managed to sleep well in my own bed, but my jaw began to lock the next day, and my tongue was trying to swallow itself. I went back to the hospital and they said it was the side effects of the antipsychotics (oh wonderful). They gave me some antihistamines, and it subsided. Then I was told that I had far too many muscle proteins in my blood: a count of 12,000, about 11,970 points above the normal range (yes, about 30 is the normal count). They said if I didn't clear it out, it would crystallize in my kidneys and I would have to go on dialysis. Joy. So for four days I stayed in the hospital and recovered.

I have to admit, it was quite the experience. The doctors said I was a miracle, that I was on the edge of death and it was by sheer strength of youth that I pulled through. I like to think it was everyone's love. I wanted a life-changing experience, and I got one. I realized how much my friends and family love me, and how much this life means to me. I will never again disrespect my body or nature like I did that day. And now I accept the responsibility of the love in my life. I still can't tell you where I went, or what that place was, but I was there. Yet there was no "There". Hm.

Take warning my friends. *Amanita muscaria* can be a dangerous spirit. ●



Amanita muscaria, Photo by Bhairava

The Distillation

The Distillation includes updates, statistics, and information that we hope will offer insight into the ongoing site additions, traffic, and projects currently underway at Erowid.

Summary

General Content Pages	15,886
Archived Site Pages	4,666
Experience Reports	21,317
References	7,860
Ask Erowid	591
The Erowid Review	267
Content Images	5,464
Visionary Art	2,021
Total	58,072

Erowid Files on Server	166,501
Erowid Disk Footprint	47.5 GB

Current Members	1,412
Daily Visitors	81,593

Content Details

General Content Pages	15,886
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Number of Substance Vaults	325
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Most Popular Substance Vaults (with Change)

MDMA (↑); LSD (↑); Cannabis (↑); Mushrooms (↔); DMT (↑); Cocaine (↔); Oxycodone (↑); Methamphetamine (↑); Salvia divinorum (↓); Morning Glory (↔); Ketamine (↓); 2C-B (↑); DXM (↔); Heroin (↓); Opiates (↔); Amanitas (↑); Ayahuasca (↔); Peyote (↑); Datura (↔); Amphetamine (↑); 5-MeO-DMT (↑); Cacti (↑)

Most Accessed Documents

How to Grow Medical Marijuana; Microgram—LSD Blotter Index; Essential Psychedelic Guide—LSD; Guidelines for Saying No to Police Searches; Drug Testing Basics; Cary Grant on Acid; MDMA Trick Tract

EcstasyData

In the past 13 months, since EcstasyData—with the help of DanceSafe—resumed covering two-thirds of the lab costs for submitted samples, we have published more than 220 results. The DEA still prohibits the lab from releasing detailed information about quantity or purity.

Other Drugs

Many people ask about getting pharmaceutical tablets tested. This tablet was confirmed to contain alprazolam.



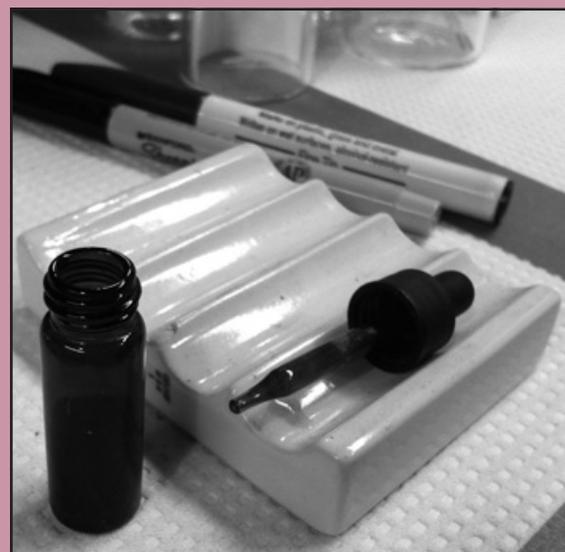
Two full capsules containing a mixture of 4-methylmethcathinone and methyldone.



A sample of MDAI submitted to Energy Control (Spain). We occasionally publish results that Energy Control shares with us.

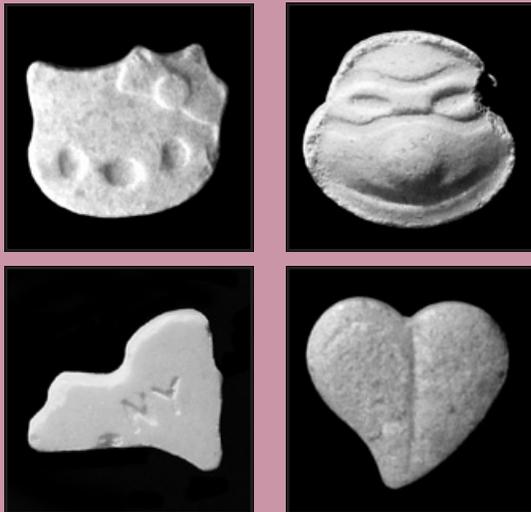


Results of an interesting analysis received through the Erowid Expert Network (EEN) in May 2011: a brown liquid in a dropper bottle contained active levels of LSD along with sub-threshold amounts of MDMA and Ketamine.



Shaped Tablets

A few years ago the first wave of die-cut (irregularly-shaped) ecstasy tablets hit the streets. Recent examples include Ninja Turtle heads, Hello Kitty, Transformers, hearts, stars, and a tablet in the shape of the state of New York.



Paul Frank Monkeys

Several Paul Frank–styled monkey tablets were floating around in early 2011, with most containing a mix of MDMA and caffeine, some with procaine, and one containing MDPV and caffeine.



Experience Reports

Published Reports	21,317
Published in Last 6 Mo.	433
Fully Triaged Reports	32,047
Partially Triaged Reports	2,152
Un-triaged Reports	12,932
Viewed Each Day	125,381
Submitted Each Day	9
Substances Included	530
Active Triagers/Reviewers	22

Erowid Physical Library on the Move

In November and December 2010, we (Earth and Fire) moved the physical Erowid library 30 miles from Rough and Ready to Auburn, California. This collection of books and periodicals covers topics related to psychoactive plants, chemicals, and culture with a focus on psychedelics. It currently consists of around 1,400 books, 25 linear feet of periodicals, and a small collection of art and ephemera.

We maintain a list of most of the physical books in the library on Erowid.org (Erowid.org/library) and hope to eventually index all the periodicals. The collection is a great resource for our research and writing, and over time we're also working to get permission to digitize and put online hard-to-find texts.

The physical library previously inhabited our living room, but then we moved into a small cabin in the woods with no space for the 500 square feet (45 square meters) of library shelves, shipping materials, and membership gifts. Our solution was to rent a small library/office near our new home as a two-to-four-year solution while we sort out creating a more permanent home for the collection on our property.

The two of us moved the library ourselves: disassembling shelves, boxing up materials, painting the walls of the new space, rebuilding shelves, and setting it all back up again. It was a back-aching reminder of why information stored on paper is on the way out. Paper had a good couple of millennia as the best way to archive information, but data kept on it weighs roughly 100 pounds per gigabyte, searches are painstakingly slow, and making backups is absurdly expensive. Our Tokidoki keychain USB jump drive weighs 8 grams and holds 4 GB.

Anachronistically, we both love books and paper, so we'll be making a comfy new home for the collection in the coming years. But for now, we're pleased to have a new library space where our books can be stored and accessed.

Image Vaults

Published Images	7,485	New in Last 6 Mo.	29
Image Vaults	295	Submitted Each Day	2.5
Viewed Per Day	26,275	Awaiting Processing	11,338

Dried Coca Leaves, Photo by Farmer Dodds



San Pedro Tea with Lime, Photo by Purple Mouth Bandit

A New Digital Adventure

In April 2011, Twitter.com finally handed control of the @Erowid account over to Erowid Center. It had been registered by a squatter four years ago, and then left derelict and unused. Despite previous requests, Twitter had failed to turn it over, once claiming simply that the account name was currently being used by someone else, and another time repeatedly deleting our request and closing the customer service ticket without addressing the issue.

Our lawyer advised us to send the company a written letter including a scan of the Erowid trademark documents and a copy of Twitter's own stated policy against using a trademarked name "in a manner that will mislead or confuse others". Prior to sending such a letter, we once again sent our request through what seemed to now be an improved online form. This time, within a day, Twitter closed the previous registrant's unused account and gave us control of @Erowid.

We have just begun using the account and over the next few months we will be refining the best ways to use it to provide additional value to our visitors. Let us know if you have ideas!

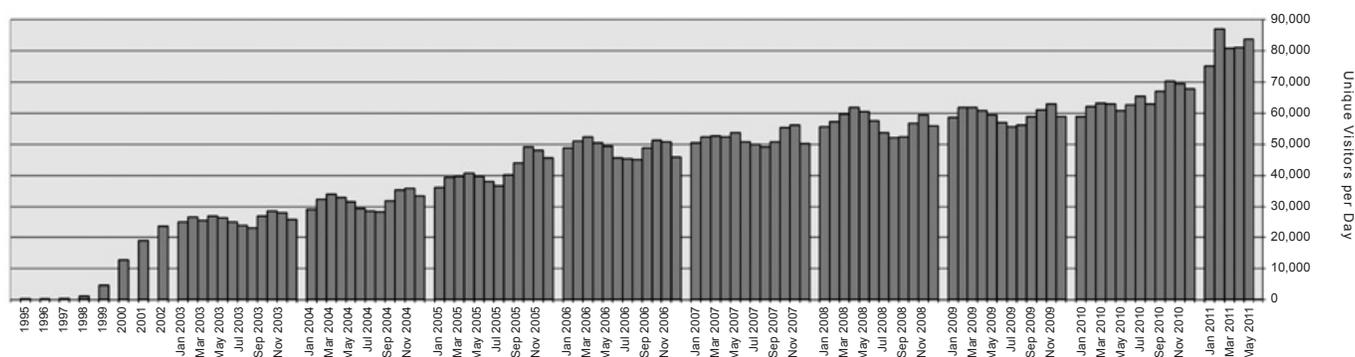
The Erowid Review

Published Reviews	267
Published in Last 6 Mo.	10
Viewed Each Day	1,343



Tablets Containing 5-MeO-DIPT, Anonymous Photographer

Daily Erowid Visitors (1995–2011)



Drugs.com Copies Erowid Errors

We recently discovered an error on our *Tabernanthe iboga* index; somehow the common name list had been accidentally copied over from the *Calea zacatechichi* vault. Oops. While fixing the error, Fire did a web search and discovered that our erroneous information had been copied verbatim by Drugs.com into their list of common names for *T. iboga*. Clearly they used our page as a source without enough knowledge to sanity-check the info before publication.

Drugs.com is one of the largest mainstream websites providing information about drugs, including pharmaceuticals, a smattering of recreational substances, and some herbs. As of May 1, 2011, they still inaccurately list “leaf of God”, “thie-pelakano”, and “bitter grass” as common names for *T. iboga*. While we appreciate that Erowid is trusted as a resource by those who work in overlapping fields, it is unfortunate when major, mainstream websites use our images and content without providing credit or a link.

They also spell *iboga*’s Latin family name incorrectly. We wonder where they copied *that* from.

Erowid Traffic Statistics

DAILY	Visitors	81,593	File Hits	3,891,547
	Transfer	27.78 GB	Page Hits	384,060
BY MONTH		Avg Daily File Hits	Avg Daily Page Hits	Avg Daily Visitors
	Apr 2011	4,000,265	377,578	81,082
	Mar 2011	4,005,713	388,029	80,866
	Feb 2011	3,830,591	396,505	86,989
	Jan 2011	3,650,846	376,805	75,072
	Dec 2010	3,419,862	356,381	67,812
Nov 2010	3,629,920	374,811	69,518	
BY YEAR	2010	3,682,793	384,788	59,483
	2008	3,812,410	418,918	57,012
	2006	3,025,185	409,796	48,755
	2004	1,799,694	405,528	31,241
	2002	1,206,855	283,541	23,042
	2000	462,000	126,000	12,000
	1998	31,200	8,500	1,000

Membership

Current Members	1,412
Recently Expired Members (0–6 mo.)	431
Older Expired Members (>6 mo.)	4,857
Members in the United States	1,003 (71%)
Members in Other Countries	409 (29%)
Countries with Members	42
Top Contributor Countries	
USA (1003); Australia (75); Canada (74); UK (67); Germany (28); Netherlands (21); Norway (15); France (12); Switzerland (11); New Zealand (10); Finland (10); Belgium (8); Brazil (6); Sweden (6); Austria (6); South Africa (5); Spain (5); Mexico (5); Italy (5); Israel (5)	

EcstasyData Summary

2011	Daily Visitors	3,672	Daily Page Hits	12,037
	Results Posted	86	Daily File Hits	465,452
BY YEAR	Results Posted In		Testing Results (1996–2011)	
	2010	183	Total Results Posted	2,073
	2009	161	MDMA Only	(33%) 676
	2008	78	MDMA + Something	(21%) 432
	2004–2007	349	No MDMA	(47%) 965
	2000–2003	1114	– Nothing	106
1996–1999	102	– Unidentified	85	



VERBATIM

“The defining function of the artist is to cherish consciousness.”

— Max Eastman (1883–1969)

“As the brain-changes are continuous, so do all these consciousnesses melt into each other like dissolving views. Properly they are but one protracted consciousness, one unbroken stream.”

— William James (1842–1910)

“Life is an ecstasy. Life is sweet as nitrous oxide[.]”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)

“The idea is to produce things that are as strange and mysterious to you as the first music you ever heard.”

— Brian Eno (b. 1948)

“All progress is experimental.”

— John Jay Chapman (1862–1933)

“If you wait to do everything until you’re sure it’s right, you’ll probably never do much of anything.”

— Win Borden (b. 1943)

“Calculated risks of abuse are taken in order to preserve higher values.”

— Warren E. Burger (1907–1995)

“The first step in the risk management process is to acknowledge the reality of risk. Denial is a common tactic that substitutes deliberate ignorance for thoughtful planning.”

— Charles Tremper (b. 1956)

“Risk comes from not knowing what you’re doing.”

— Warren Buffett (b. 1930)

“There is a great difference between knowing and understanding: you can know a lot about something and not really understand it.”

— Charles Kettering (1876–1958)

“[...] risk varies inversely with knowledge.”

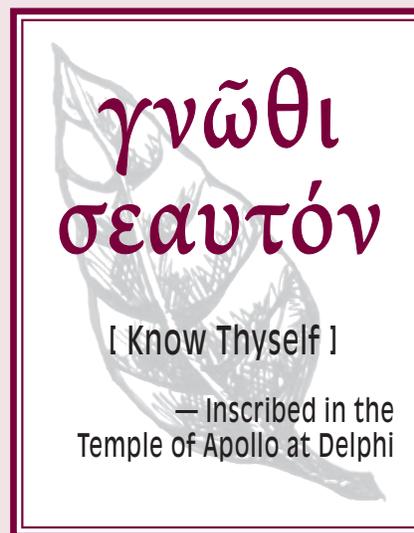
— Irving Fisher (1867–1947)

“The more data we have, the more likely we are to drown in it.”

— Nassim Nicholas Taleb (b. 1960)

“No trumpets sound when the important decisions of our life are made. Destiny is made known silently.”

— Agnes de Mille (1905–1993)



“If you limit your choices only to what seems possible or reasonable, you disconnect yourself from what you truly want, and all that is left is a compromise.”

— Robert Fritz (b. 1943)

“Every nation makes decisions based on self-interest and defends them in the name of morality.”

— William Sloane Coffin (1924–2006)

“‘Careful with fire’ is good advice we know. ‘Careful with words’ is ten times doubly so.”

— William Carleton (1794–1869)

“Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind.”

— Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936)

“Certainly nothing is unnatural, that is not physically impossible.”

— Richard B. Sheridan (1751–1816)

“Our life is composed greatly from dreams, from the unconscious, and they must be brought into connection with action. They must be woven together.”

— Anaïs Nin (1903–1977)

“I have been true to the principles of nonviolence, developing a stronger and stronger aversion to the ideologies of both the far right and the far left and a deeper sense of rage and sorrow over the suffering they continue to produce all over the world.”

— Joan Baez (b. 1941)

“The prestige of government has undoubtedly been lowered considerably by the Prohibition law. For nothing is more destructive of respect for the government and the law of the land than passing laws which cannot be enforced.”

— Albert Einstein (1879–1955)

“I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and willingly accepts the penalty by staying in jail to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the very highest respect for the law.”

— Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968)

“Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.”

— John F. Kennedy (1917–1963)