11-1-1971

Pacific Information Service on Street-Drugs
November 1971

School of Pharmacy

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/issd
Part of the Chemicals and Drugs Commons, and the Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation
School of Pharmacy, "Pacific Information Service on Street-Drugs November 1971" (1971). Pacific Information Service on Street-Drugs. 1.
https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/issd/1

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pacific Information Service on Street-Drugs by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.
Pacific Information Service on Street-Drugs

Sponsored by:
Beta Omega Chapter
Rho Chi

Editors: John K. Brown, Ph. D.
Associate Professor of Pharmacognosy

Marvin H. Malone, Ph. D.
Professor of Pharmacology

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
University of the Pacific
Stockton, California 95204

Bulletin No. 1
November, 1971
This bulletin is the first of what we hope will be a series published at irregular intervals—each issue dealing with some aspect of the non-medical use of drugs and reporting the results of our street-drug monitoring program. We feel as others do, that the true composition of the various street-drugs, when known, should be reported to the community.

The Canadian Commission of Inquiry into the non-medical use of drugs has strongly recommended the establishment of drug analysis facilities and wide dissemination of results. The Addiction Research Foundation in Toronto, Canada has such a program (Marshman and Gibbons, 1969, 1970), and Fieldt Kok, et al. (1971) are operating a similar program in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. At the present time these are the only two street-drug monitoring programs, besides ours, that we are aware of in the western world. We have no knowledge of a similar program in the United States.

Financial support for the program comes from the School of Pharmacy and Beta Omega Chapter of Rho Chi. The University of the Pacific chapter of Rho Chi has allotted $100.00 for the purchase of supplies. The laboratory work is done by four senior students, also members of Rho Chi, Howard Appell, Vince Chan, Carl Gross, and Brian Winterberg. These students are enrolled in Pharmacognosy 194, special problems, and receive academic credit for their participation.

Samples for identification may be submitted to us through Friends Inc., Stockton, Tuolumne County Inc., Sonora or through your community pharmacist. We do not ask for names of persons or sources but we would like to know what the sample is reputed to be. We feel that anonymity is important if this type of program is to be successful.

The term street-drug refers to both legally and illegally manufactured drugs that are sold in the illicit street market and usually are of unknown composition.
MESCALINE - and the market place

Mescaline, one of the active constituents of the Peyote cactus [Lophophora williamsii (Lem.) Coult.] is also known as 3,4,5-trimethoxyphenylethylamine. This compound is reputed to be a mild psychedelic, capable of producing colorful hallucinations and altered human consciousness. This state is considered by "drug experimenters" to be rather pleasant and without danger. For these reasons and possibly others, some people will try mescaline but will shun LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide).

During the past 10 months we have had the opportunity to investigate a number of street-drugs allegedly containing mescaline. The results of our analyses are interesting. To date, 13 samples have been brought to our laboratory - each had been bought as mescaline in the Stockton, California area. Each had been sent to us because of "bad trips" - in each case they were found to contain varying amounts of LSD.

We use an extraction method and thin-layer chromatographic procedure that was developed in our laboratory (Brown, et al. [In Press]). We like to have at least one capsule or tablet and if the material is a loose powder, 50-100 mg. It requires approximately 2 hours to screen the drug.

We wondered if our findings were only a local phenomenon so the drug literature was checked. Unfortunately we could find only four references to street-drug analyses, but the results reported and the geographical areas where this monitoring was done supplied a rather clear picture of the "mescaline" market in the western world.

Marshman and Gibbons (1969,1970) in Toronto, Canada analyzed 58 alleged mescaline samples and reported the following:
27 samples contained pure LSD
7 samples contained impure LSD
8 samples-mixtures of LSD and reaction products
5 contained a mixture of LSD and PCP (phencyclidine)
11 unidentified constituent(s) or no drug

As in our study, no mescaline was found in any of the alleged mescaline samples.

References


Structures and Doses of Some Psychotomimetics

CH₃O
CH₂CH₂-NH₂
CH₃O
Mescaline - 3,4,5-trimethoxyphenylethylamine

Dose: Oral, 200-400 mg (1)
300-600 mg (2)

Action: Hallucinogenic (2)
Duration: 10-18 hours

CH₃
OCH₃
CH₂CH₂-NH₂
CH₃
STP (DOM) - 4-methyl-2,5-dimethoxysamphetamine

Dose: Oral, 5 mg (1)

Action: Hallucinogenic (1)
Duration: 18-72 hours

N
PCP - Phencyclidine Hydrochloride
HCl
1-((1-phenylcyclohexyl)-piperidine hydrochloride
Sernyl, CI 395, Sernylan, (parke-Davis)

Dose: 5-10 mg (2)

Action: Hallucinogenic (2)
Duration: 2-4 hours

References
