



PharmChem

Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 3

1972

We are thankful for the favorable responses, including a number of letters from individuals and agencies, concerning the proposed reinstatement of our currently suspended Analysis Anonymous® service. As previously mentioned, the BNDD (Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs) asked PharmChem to require the names and addresses of individuals submitting street samples for analysis. PharmChem feels that the public should have access to unbiased information about the true content of street drugs and a means of having these drugs analyzed on an anonymous basis. Consequently we are continuing to make every possible effort to reinstate our Analysis Anonymous® program. Your opinions and suggestions will help us in our efforts to re-establish this needed service. Of course, the suspension of the anonymous clause affects only private individuals, not health clinics, drug treatment centers, physicians, etc. Some individuals, who do not choose to reveal their names and addresses, are sending samples through these channels.

on the street



Three-Month Summary—On the Street: During the past three months PharmChem has analyzed a total of 120 street drug samples. In only 43 instances did the alleged drug content correspond to the actual drug content. In other words, there is a 64% chance that what someone buys on the street actually contains some other substance. "Caveat emptor!"

A breakdown by drug category indicates that LSD is the most common drug available on the illicit market in this area. Of a total of 61 LSD samples only 18 were actually represented as being LSD, the other 43 samples were sold under the guise of mescaline or psilocybin.

Analysis indicated that only 6 of a total of 34 mescaline samples (18%) actually contained mescaline; of the remaining 28 samples, 15 were LSD; 3-PCP; 9-LSD/PCP; 1-STP. Thirteen samples alleged to be psilocybin did not contain any of the drug. Twelve of these contained LSD and one yielded a negative result (no active ingredient).

PCP is also a relatively common illicit drug. Frequently it is found in combination with LSD (11 actual samples) and sold as another hallucinogenic drug (eg. mescaline, psilocybin). Analysis of the following 21 drugs: 4 alleged samples of LSD/PCP, 9 of mescaline, 5 of THC, 1 of cocaine and 2 of unknown content indicated that all were actually PCP.

Included in this month's analysis of street drugs are samples from Georgia, Illinois and New England. Thanks to widespread interest in our service, we are gradually receiving samples from an expanding geographical area.

Fifty samples were analyzed; over half of these (26) contained LSD and 6 also contained PCP. Two actual PCP samples were analyzed and two others alleged to be THC were actually PCP. One real sample of THC was submitted for analysis; this finding is exceedingly rare.

Sixteen samples alleged to be mescaline were actually LSD or a combination of LSD/PCP and another was STP. Only three alleged mescaline samples actually contained the drug. Five alleged psilocybin samples

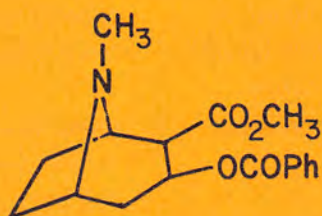
contained only LSD.

The alleged drug content corresponded to the actual content in only 38% of the samples tested this month.

ON THE STREET

<u>ACTUAL CONTENT</u>	<u>ALLEGED CONTENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ORIGIN</u>	<u>STREET PRICE</u>
1. LSD	LSD	red-orange saccharin size tablet	Los Angeles, Ca.	?
2. LSD	LSD	orange saccharin size tablet	?	?
3. LSD	LSD	small purple "bead"	New England	?
4. LSD	Mescaline	white powder in large clear capsule	San Francisco, Ca.	?
5. LSD	Mescaline	brown powder in large clear capsule	Menlo Park, Ca.	\$1.50 ea.
6. LSD	Mescaline	pink, coarse grain powder	?	?
7. LSD	Mescaline	bright blue saccharin size tablet	Seattle, Wash.	?
8. LSD	Mescaline	pink cylindrical tablet	Lake Tahoe, Ca.	\$2.00 ea.
9. LSD	Mescaline	brown powder in red transparent capsule	Lake Tahoe, Ca.	\$2.00 ea.
10. LSD	Mescaline	white powder in large clear capsule	?	?
11. LSD (impure)	Mescaline	fine white powder	Berkeley, Ca.	\$0.65 ea.
12. LSD	Synthetic Psilocybin	purple tablet	?	\$2.50
13. LSD	Synthetic Psilocybin	sticky off-white powder	?	\$2.50
14. LSD (impure)	Psilocybin	beige powder in red capsule	Los Angeles, Ca.	\$2.50
15. LSD (impure)	Psilocybin	beige powder in red capsule	Los Angeles, Ca.	\$1.25
16. LSD	Psilocybin	brown powder in red and clear capsule	Berkeley, Ca.	\$2.50
17. LSD	"speed"	white powder in red capsule	San Francisco, Ca.	?
18. LSD (impure)	Methadone	thick brown liquid	San Francisco, Ca.	?
19. LSD	?	orange saccharin size tablet	?	?
20. LSD	?	orange saccharin size tablet	Los Altos, Ca.	?
21. LSD, PCP	Mescaline	white powder in clear capsule	Berkeley, Ca.	\$1.50 ea.
22. LSD, PCP	Mescaline	small, green cylindrical tablet	Los Angeles, Ca.	?
23. LSD, PCP	Mescaline	white powder in large clear capsule	Vallejo, Ca.	\$0.75 ea.
24. LSD, PCP	Mescaline	purple tablet	San Francisco, Ca.	\$1.00-2.00
25. LSD, PCP	Mescaline	off-white powder in large clear capsule	Lake Tahoe, Ca.	?
26. LSD, PCP	Mescaline	white powder in large clear capsule	?	?
27. PCP (contaminated)	THC	white powder	?	?
28. PCP, diluents	THC	pink tablet	?	?
29. PCP	PCP	"salt and pepper" powder	?	?
30. Mescaline	Mescaline	crystalline powder in clear capsule	?	?
31. Mescaline (40%)	Mescaline	crystalline powder	Berkeley, Ca.	\$20/gram
32. Mescaline, alkaloids	Peyote buttons	dried, dark brown sticks	?	?
33. Cocaine	Cocaine	white powder	?	?
34. Amphetamine	?	light colored powder with orange specks	?	?
35. MDA	MDA	white powder	?	\$1.25/100 mg
36. STP	Mescaline	light brown powder	?	?
37. THC	THC	very dark green paste	Los Angeles, Ca.	\$100/8 gram
38. Hashish	Hashish	dark brown compound	?	\$5/2 fingers
39. Heroin, procaine,	Heroin	off-white powder with brown particles	San Francisco, Ca.	?
40. Marijuana	Marijuana and ?	very brown leaves	?	\$35/oz.
41. Marijuana	Marijuana	green-brown leaves	?	\$15/oz.
42. Methaqualude	?	white tablet	Sunnyvale, Ca.	\$2.00
43. Unidentified	?	off-white paste	Stanford, Ca.	?
44. Unidentified	?	red capsule	Palo Alto, Ca.	?
45. Unidentified	?	red oblong tablet	Palo Alto, Ca.	?
46. Unidentified	Cocaine	white powder	San Francisco, Ca.	?
47. Unidentified	Cocaine	white powder	San Francisco, Ca.	?
48. Unidentified	Cocaine	white powder	Wheeling, Ill.	?
49. Negative results	Psilocybin	pink tablet	Atlanta, Ga.	\$0.60 ea.
50. Negative results	?	white powder	San Francisco, Ca.	?

COCAINE



Cocaine is called the "Champagne" of illicit drugs because it is scarce and consequently expensive. Due to its extraordinary euphoric properties it has a high potential for abuse with severe psychic and/or physical dependence. Slang names for cocaine include Snow, C, Cecil, Dynamite, Flake, Speedball (when mixed with heroin), White Girl, Gold Dust, Corine, Bernice, Gin, Star Dust, Carrie and Paradise.

Pharmacologically, cocaine may be classed as a local anesthetic with minimal psychoactive properties. Chemically, it is known as benzoylmethylecgonine, which contains an amino group and an intermediate chain. Cocaine exhibits a general stimulating action on the central nervous system mimicking that of amphetamine or speed. Humans typically show symptoms of restlessness, euphoria, excitation and feelings of heightened physical and mental powers. Some find it sexually stimulating. The usual route of administration is by sniffing although the drug is sometimes introduced intravenously.

History: Cocaine can be chemically synthesized (1923) or it can be extracted from the leaves of *Erythroxylon coca* and other species of erythroxylaceae which grow in Columbia, Brazil and the Peruvian Andes. The drug usually comes through Mexico to the U.S. Last year customs agents seized \$49.2 million worth of cocaine, about 3 times as much as in the preceeding year.

Street "coke" is frequently cut or "stepped-on" with boric acid, procaine, xylocaine, benzocaine, amphetamines, quinine, mannitol, lactose and occasionally arsenic. In 1971, the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs analyzed 1,192 samples alleged to be cocaine and found 1,008 actual specimens. Of the 184 found not to be cocaine, 10% were heroin, 8% were quinine, 7% PCP, 5% procaine, 3% mannitol and 2% MDA (3, 4-methylene dioxyamphetamine).

Pharmacological Effects: When introduced into the body, cocaine blocks the generation and transmission of nerve impulses on an unselective basis. This blocking action reverses itself once the drug enters the bloodstream. Cocaine produces an ionic imbalance thereby yielding a blockage of neuronal impulses. This phenomena is in part responsible for its anesthetic properties. It also constricts blood vessels at the site of application. This constriction limits the rate at which cocaine enters the bloodstream. Detoxification occurs in the liver at a rate equal to about one lethal dose per hour. The fatal human dose of cocaine is about 200 milligrams, but there are wide variations in individual suseptibility. Toxic effects have been reported from as little as 20 milligrams while there are reports of individuals surviving 10,000 milligram doses in a series of frequent injections. No tolerance seems to develop but, on the contrary, repeated use seems to induce a degree of sensitivity to the drug. There is little evidence to indicate that cocaine is truly addictive. This drug, like many other illicit drugs can cause psychological dependence with unfortunate consequences. Physically, frequent sniffing destroys delicate nasal membranes and produces deterioration of the nasal cartilage.

Physiological Effects: After sniffing there is 15-20 minutes of pleasurable exhilaration. This, in turn, is followed by several hours of nervousness and depression similar to the after effects of amphetamine abuse. Other effects include: irritability, loss of sense of heat and cold, muscle tightening, convulsions, dilated pupils, and with a fatal dose, cardiovascular collapse and respiratory arrest. Because of the unknown quantity of adulterants in most street samples, the possibility of an overdose is ever present.

There is no physical craving for repeated doses, although cocaine may be psychologically addicting.

Many people seem to be able to use cocaine moderately but more and more heavy users are turning up. A heavy "coke" habit can cost \$100 a day while heroin addicts can get by for \$50-\$75 a day. As a consequence "coke" has become a status symbol in some social circles.

Thousands of South Americans chew coca leaves with lime for the same reason Americans drink coffee—as

a social ritual and moderate stimulant. Except for stained teeth, there is little evidence of physical or mental harm.

Other Comments: Some of the information contained herein was extracted from the 5th Annual Report to the Legislature prepared by Drs. David Smith and David Bentel of the University of California Medical Center.

©PharmChem 1972
All Rights Reserved

Newsletter

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Palo Alto, Ca.
Permit No. 244

Address correction requested



**PharmChem
Laboratories**

1848 Bay Road, Palo Alto, California 94303 • (415) 322-9942