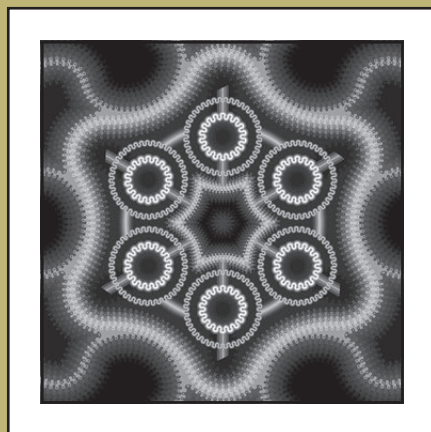
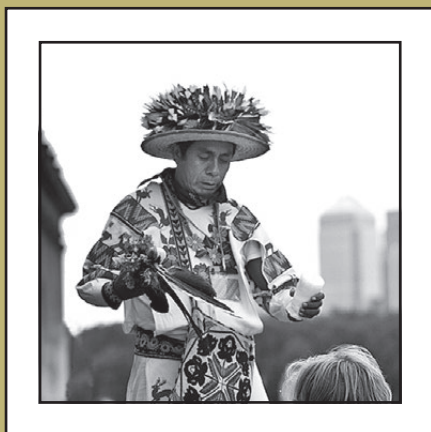


Erowid Extracts

DOCUMENTING THE COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS AND PSYCHOACTIVES

December 2013

Number 25

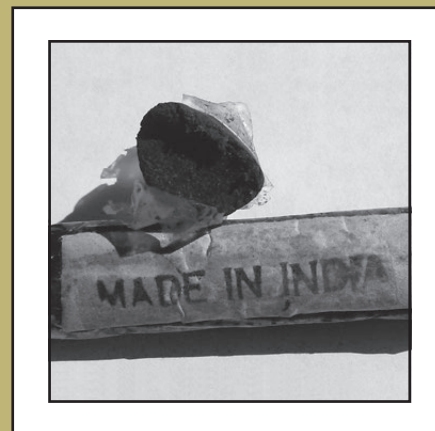
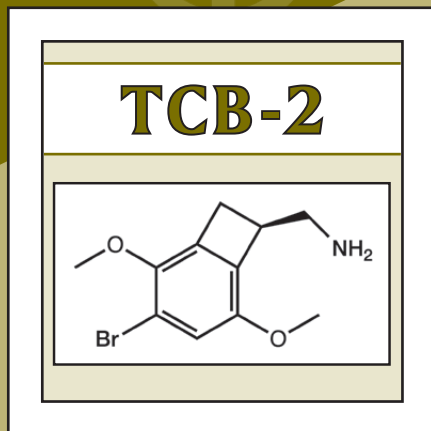
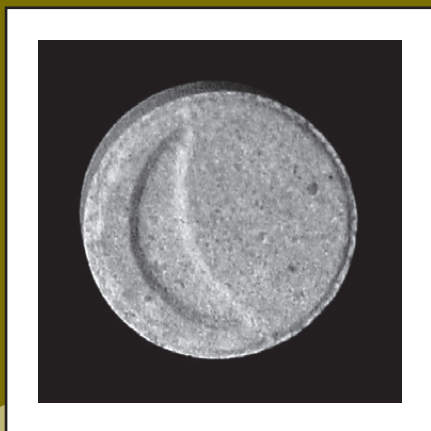
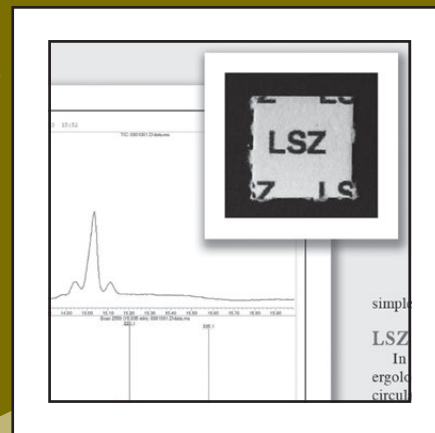


Wisdom

Analysis Under Wa

25) Do you believe that ps

Definitely Not Prob



Psychedelic Discourse • Novel Drug Briefs • Tastes Like Candyflipping?
Vintage Opium or Incense? • *Nexus* Excerpt • Analytical Glimpses

LETTERS & FEEDBACK

We've Been Told...

At a recent big meeting of academic and pharmaceutical industry representatives discussing prescription drug abuse deterrence (adfscience meeting.com), two speakers identified Erowid as being responsible for the prescription drug abuse problems in the US. Erowid was also blamed for pushing information about how to defeat cannabis abuse deterrent formulations.

I'm a student of anthropology. I've studied several cultures and the substances they use. Having been recommended this website by my professor, I researched it thoroughly. After extensive research, I can honestly say this is the most unbiased and accurate source of information of this type on the Internet. This isn't a place for druggies, it's a place for knowledge.

— ZACH S.
GreatNonprofits.org

Thank you for your important and ongoing work. It has been exciting to see Erowid being acknowledged by the professional community and I have been pleased to recommend your relevant and reliable site to others.

—L.C.
Erowid Contributor

I have been visiting Erowid as a researcher since the late 1990's. It is the most comprehensive data source for information on psychotropic herbs and plants. The catalogue of substances is extensive and fails in no area; each entry is complete, concise and takes a clinical as well as anecdotal approach. I recommend this resource to academics and the every-man alike.

— ANONYMOUS BA MSC JD
GreatNonprofits.org

What would life be without Erowid, honestly?

— TAHMEED
Twitter

This website has saved my own life and the lives of many others and should be used as a reference in schools. Tens of thousands of first hand accounts of drug use... Why is this NOT being taught to our students? Enough of the lies, propaganda, and misinformation spread by the government. Erowid is a breath of fresh air in a world of BS.

— ANONYMOUS238938
GreatNonprofits.org

Erowid is the shining beacon of light in a world otherwise clouded by disillusionment, bias, and often terribly dangerous misinformation. It is without a doubt the single best encyclopedic source for accurate data on essentially every psychoactive. It cites up-to-date legal changes, references scientific research, and keeps relevant historical and societal influence in mind as well. It's a community of people ranging from users who share their experience to researchers who confirm the data shown. It is astonishing in how unbiased it is.

Considering that somebody somewhere is and always will be using any drug in its database regardless of consequence, Erowid clearly and honestly states the real risks and dangers of using a substance, however severe or non-existent these may be. If the general populace used Erowid more extensively, it would without a doubt decrease the harmful effects drugs have on society. Erowid has changed my whole perspective on psychoactives, keeping certain drugs deservingly vilified but also opening my eyes to the fact that some drugs that we have been told from a very young age are very dangerous are in fact safer than ibuprofen.

—LIGATURE
GreatNonprofits.org

I enjoy wearing my Erowid sweatshirt and having interesting conversations with people at the dog park about psychedelic experiences. So many people had good experiences in college, but don't realize their inner growth can continue in new ways.

—ALISON
Erowid Contributor

Thank you for being the world's best psychedelic librarians.

—ANONYMOUS
Erowid Contributor

I wanted to congratulate you on the Erowid Center prospectus. In lesser hands such a document might easily degenerate into an auto-hagiography. I was alert to that going in, yet felt no trace of it. It reads as dispassionate, matter-of-fact reporting and analysis.

Further, a quiet realization crept over me as I read it. Like the moment when it dawns on a child how much of his or her circumstances didn't "just happen", but rather grew from the quiet and tireless efforts of others.

I've been a drug geek and coder all my life. I've watched you come of age from another time, when the web was new and Gopher was the "next big thing". In getting from there to here Erowid evolved in my mind from an exotic place of dark magic and wonder to an axiomatic, almost quotidian resource.

I think the time and effort you spent on the prospectus was a wise investment. It was sobering, not a little mortifying, but timely and compulsory to be reminded—it doesn't "just happen".

— STEVE CHAPMAN
Founder, Isomer Design

Erowid continues to be the best place for information on psychoactive plants and substances. I remain impressed by its focus on harm reduction, without denying the possibility of real benefits from some, and without ever proselytizing for either side of the psychoactives debate. It's an honour but also a duty to support it.

—NUBIS
Erowid Contributor

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.

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Erowid Center’s mission is to provide and facilitate access to objective, accurate, and non-judgmental information about plants, chemicals, technologies, and related issues that affect the mind, body, and culture. Erowid Center supports and trains libraries, publishers, and other information distributors on issues related to these fields.

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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Number 25, December 2013

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

Marijuana Mainstreamed by Gupta

2013 has been a tipping point in the cultural sea change around cannabis. Surveys show a majority of US citizens now support legalization, and CNN's popular doctor Sanjay Gupta publicly apologized for believing anti-weed propaganda.

(Aug 2013)

Cannabis Stupidity Booms

A method for extracting ultra-potent psychoactive oil from any grade of cannabis using common butane gas gains infamy as foolish home extractors use the flammable method indoors.

(2013)

DEA Emergency Schedules 25B-, 25C-, and 25I-NBOMe

Technically temporary, but it'll be permanent. In 2013, NBOMes are controlled in Israel, Russia, Sweden, and the UK.

(Nov 2013)

False LSD Deaths

NBOMes sold on blotter and as liquid result in hospitalizations and deaths. News media repeatedly declare these "LSD deaths".

(2013)

Molly Makes the Front Page

Following several deaths and a handful of hospitalizations of people taking recreational stimulants at festivals in the US, the term "molly", a hipper term for ecstasy, is abused by mainstream news sources.

(Sep 2013)

Krokodil Hits the US

Or does it? Several cases of home-synthesized desomorphine are reported in the US, after years of being known as a low-end opioid used in Russia. The only published case report is removed by its publisher in December.

(Sep 2013)

Drug Zombie Meme Will Not Die

Media obsession results in users of nearly any psychoactive drug being likened to mindless zombies: krokodil, molly, euphoric stimulants, synthetic cannabinoids, pharmaceutical opioids.

(2013)

Silk Road v1 Busted

Silk Road, the world's number one, public, online, illegal marketplace, is shut down by the FBI after two years in the media limelight. Luckily, founder Dread Pirate Roberts is not an Erowid funder.

(Sep 2013)

DMT Found in Rat Pineal

Researchers working with Rick Strassman finally verify dimethyltryptamine in the rat pineal gland.

(May 2013)

New Zealand, New Drugs, New Law

Legislation designed in collaboration between law enforcement, the Ministry of Health, and legal-high vendors creates a regulatory category for new psychoactive substances.

It's the first law of its kind in the world.

(Jul 2013)

Erowid Banned in Russia

Erowid.org is formally added to the list of sites that the Russian government requires Russian ISPs to block.

(Feb 2013)

Crack-Smoking Mayor

Rob Ford, mayor of Toronto, goes on record as a heavy drinker who occasionally smokes cocaine.

(Nov 2013)

Shulgins Accept Bitcoins

Keeping up with the times, Team Shulgin begins accepting donations in digital form.

(Nov 2013)

Drug Testing the Sewer

The first international conference on detecting, monitoring, and estimating use of illicit drugs through testing of waste water takes place in Portugal.
(May 2013)

Kratom Target of Prohibition

Sold in flashy Mylar packaging and used by opioid addicts to self-treat withdrawal, it's now banned in three US states. Dozens of anti-kratom news stories published.
(Nov 2013)

@Erowid Twitter Feed

More than 13,000 people follow our daily stream covering psychedelic and psychoactive law, media, and current events.
(Dec 2013)

Everybody Smokes Pot

Miley Cyrus, Lady Gaga, Morgan Freeman, and Oprah all admit to smoking cannabis. The majority of the US adult population has tried pot and the UNODC estimates that 5% of the world's population used cannabis in the last year.
(2013)

Blocked from the US for Smoking Pot

A 30-year-old Canadian woman is refused entry into the US after admitting cannabis use.
(Sep 2013)

Cops, Chips, Pot Smokers

Seattle police hand out Doritos with cannabis info stickers at Seattle Hemp Fest.
(Aug 2013)

Hanna Moves On

After five years of serving his time in the Erowid mines, psychedelic luminary Jon Hanna turns to other adventures.
(Oct 2013)

Britain Debates Khat

Catha edulis, a shrub native to North Africa that contains a caffeine/ephedrine-like stimulant, is temporarily banned in the UK. But then a government panel suggests the ban be reversed.
(Sep/Nov 2013)

FinCEN Recognizes Bitcoin

The US Financial Crimes Enforcement Network issues a binding statement defining rules for virtual currency. Department of Homeland Security seizes Bitcoin-related holdings of non-compliant traders.
(Mar 2013)

Bitcoin Hits \$1,200 USD

Lazy Bitcoin owners who had forgotten to sell for a few years wake up rich.
(Nov 2013)

100,000th Experience Report

Just over 13 years after opening, Erowid's Experience Vaults now contain 100,000 first-hand reports of psychoactive use. Not all have yet been reviewed or published.
(Apr 2013)

Tramadol Found in Nature

Synthetic opioid tramadol discovered occurring naturally in *Nauclea latifolia*, an African shrub.
(Sep 2013)

DEA Moves to Schedule Tramadol

The US government issues a notice of proposed rulemaking to move tramadol into Schedule IV. Likely to be finalized in early 2014.
(Nov 2013)

Psychedelics Not Linked to Mental Disease

Epidemiological research based on over 100,000 Americans shows no link between psychedelic use and psychiatric problems.
(Aug 2013)

People Keep Taking Datura

Despite widely available, nearly-universal information advising against the use of datura, prisoners and teens continue to use this delirium-inducing hallucinogen.
(2013)

Majority Say War on Drugs a Failure

Rasmussen poll finds Americans have pessimistic views of Drug War: 82% say we're not winning, 4% say we're winning, 13% remain undecided.
(Aug 2013)

The Multidisciplinary Associations of Psychedelic Discourse

by Erik Davis

I have been writing about psychedelics and psychedelic culture, off and on, for nearly all of my professional life. When starting out as a journalist over two decades ago, I penned articles on Terence McKenna, Burning Man, and the early psy-trance scene; later, I wrote think-pieces about Erowid, research chemicals, and the psychedelic roots of American Buddhism. In 1993, I flew out from New York to Santa Cruz for the Bicycle Day gathering, and began attending and eventually speaking at

A THOROUGH ASSESSMENT
OF THE TOPIC WOULD IDEALLY
ENGAGE HISTORY, POETRY,
ETHNOBOTANY, RELIGION,
LAW, PHARMACOLOGY,
OCCULTISM, NEUROSCIENCE,
ANTHROPOLOGY, CULTURAL
POLITICS, MYTHOLOGY,
LITERATURE, PSYCHOLOGY,
MYSTICISM, AND—CRUCIALLY—
FIRST-PERSON TESTIMONIES.

other conferences centered around what were then more widely known as “entheogens”.

I was fascinated with many of the substances, but what really attracted me to these gatherings was the variegated tapestry of their discourse: the stories, conversations, insights, rants, reports, visions, myths, data, and debates that

made up the wild chatter of the scene. I encountered a powerful paradox: though personal encounters with psychedelics are often characterized as ineffable—something that must be known through experience rather than words—these encounters nonetheless seemed to generate an enormous amount of text and talk.

Part of what makes psychedelic discourse so compelling is its kaleidoscopic diversity. A thorough assessment of the topic would ideally engage history, poetry, ethnobotany, religion, law, pharmacology, occultism, neuroscience, anthropology, cultural politics, mythology, literature, psychology, mysticism, and—crucially—first-person testimonies.

Many of the most significant and entertaining psychedelic texts are defined by such diversity—here I am thinking of the encyclopedic poetics of Dale Pendell’s *Pharmakopoeia* series, or the magisterial scope of Stephan Beyer’s *Singing to the Plants*, which, despite its scholarly sobriety, looks at ayahuasca through a dizzying array of lenses, including the author’s own experience as an apprentice of mestizo shamans. This sort of multidisciplinaryity is evident in the bookshelves of most entheophiles, in online repositories like

Erowid, in the seminal texts of Jonathan Ott, and in the fascinating texture of psychedelic conferences, where cross-talk takes place between painters and botany nerds, skeptics and mystics, the underground and the overground.

I had the opportunity to plunge into these swirling waters yet again when I attended Breaking Convention, held in London over a sweltering July weekend this past summer. Billed as a “Multidisciplinary Conference on Psychedelic Consciousness”, the gathering was, refreshingly, *actually multidisciplinary*. There were presentations by professional scientists, psychedelic musicians, countercultural historians, underground chemists, academically-trained philosophers, mystic healers, paranormal researchers, working shamans, and visionary freaks. Though I was unable to simultaneously attend all three concurrent tracks, and occasionally had to flee the stuffy overcapacity rooms, by the end I felt well glutted on an illuminating and often novel range of insights and points of view. As one of the few Americans at the conference, I absorbed primarily British perspectives, while the many Brazilian researchers who were present—neuroscientists, sociologists, religious historians—offered particularly stimulating angles.

Outside the lecture halls, the usual intense and friendly vibe reigned. Though I wish the bar for “visionary art” had been set a bit higher, the colorful garb, stimulating chatter, and occasional bursts of mystic performance art temporarily transformed the grounds

of the University of Greenwich into a liminal zone, what Michel Foucault would call a *heterotopia*: a social space of otherness, at once physical and interpsychic, that emerges in the midst of the normal run of things.

I came away from the conference with a renewed sense of the importance of psychedelic heterotopia. Beyond the fun of meme-swapping with smart heads, conferences like Breaking Convention also serve as theaters for socially embodied ways of knowing and understanding the world—something that is rare in today’s intensely fragmented and professionalized global society. Despite decades of critique, the official picture of reality remains one that violently severs the “subjective” world of vision, emotion, and mythopoetics “in here” from the “objective” world of naturalistic knowledge “out there”. In addition, the objective pole of knowledge is chopped and balkanized into domains of expertise, jealously defended by turf guardians who are professionally obligated to demonize or ignore alternate modes of understanding and being in the world.

I believe that psychedelics, by their very nature, frustrate these supposedly clear divides between disciplines, especially as it relates to what Bruno Latour refers to as the “Great Divide” between nature and culture. After all,

psychedelics link some of the most exalted, socially transformative, and infernally enigmatic zones of consciousness with material molecules that themselves need to be seen simultaneously as natural products, chemical agents, global commodities, and conversational allies with a point of view and a life of their own. By weaving “in-between and in-between” so many perspectives, and especially by jerry-rigging “gentle bridges” between nature and culture, science and spirituality, psychedelics become a trans-disciplinary tutelage in integral and kaleidoscopic knowing and being. Think of it as the art of wearing many hats: the explorer’s pith helmet, the PhD’s tasseled black mortarboard, the bohemian’s beret, the shaman’s feathered headdress, the futurist’s head-mounted display.

Psychedelics are “hyper-objects” that demand this multiplicity of perspectives. But their trickster dance is also a concrete result of prohibition, which made psychedelics verboten for all but the most courageous members of the professional class, and thus forced

psychedelic discourse into marginalized discursive zones where boundaries were inevitably blurry. This was particularly true in the pre-web 20th century, when there were far fewer psychedelic conferences, and when they were more

WHETHER DEVOTED TO PSILOCYBIN MUSHROOM SCIENCE OR ALTERED STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS, ENTHEOGENIC GATHERINGS IN THE 1970s, 80s, AND 90s WERE ALL IN SOME FUNDAMENTAL SENSE *LIMINAL*.

necessary to stitch the various scenes together. Whether devoted to psilocybin mushroom science or altered states of consciousness, entheogenic gatherings in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s were all in some fundamental sense *liminal*. They were either underground, self-identified as countercultural, or surfing the edge of institutional respectability.

Some of the more visible colloquia of those years—like “LSD: A Generation Later” (1977), the Psychedelics and Spirituality conference (1983), and Bruce Eisner’s galvanizing Bridge Conference (1991)—took place at academic institutions, generally in California. But even these officially-sanctioned gatherings invariably featured speakers who were working (and speaking) outside of conventional institutional boundaries, whether they were writers, transpersonal therapists, spiritual teachers, or notorious fringe raconteurs like Tim Leary, Terence McKenna, and Robert Anton Wilson.

This countercultural fringe, of course, provides the most colorful vibrations of psychedelia’s discursive rainbow, with its witch’s brew of spirituality, hedonism, science fiction, occult mysticism, and freak philosophy (with or without something resembling “quantum physics”). But the multidisciplinary character of psychedelia also reflects one crucial and under-acknowledged reality: prohibition did not halt serious research.



Paul Freedlander Light Performance, Photo by Jonathan Greet

Indeed, one of the biggest fibs bandied about in discussions of the current research revival is the (often self-serving) claim that psychedelic science ground to a halt in the 1960s and is now “back”. This is true only if you somehow believe that science needs the imprimatur of the state in order to actually be science.

What actually happened was that droves of individuals (with and quite often without academic pedigrees) pursued all manner of hard-nosed research, including ethnobotany, chemical analysis, novel synthesis, extraction methods, and therapeutic protocols. Many DIY researchers were driven to share their results as well, not only through underground publications, mail networks, computer bulletin boards, and friendships, but through formal and semi-formal gatherings devoted to open dialogue. Perhaps the most well known and influential of these smaller gatherings were the annual Entheobotany gatherings produced by the Botanical Preservation Corps. These seminars, held in the 1990s, mostly took place at a legendary hotel in Palenque, Mexico. Though Terence McKenna’s eclectic and incandescent raps were a big draw, the Entheobotany seminars were, like the two recent Psychedelic Science conferences, largely devoted to psychopharmacological research—albeit with a more outlaw relationship to professionalism and a much greater love of plants.

PSYCHEDELIC CONFERENCES INEVITABLY SERVE AS GATHERINGS OF THE TRIBES, WHERE ENTHUSIASTS, SEEKERS, MANUFACTURERS, ARTISTS, AND AFICIONADOS CAN MEET.

Palenque’s curious mix of plant geeks and mushroom mystics reminds us that however left-brained their content, psychedelic conferences inevitably serve as gatherings of the tribes, where enthusiasts, seekers, manufacturers, artists, and aficionados can meet in contexts more conducive to conversation

than Dead shows or raves. Inevitably, this rabble got its mitts on the mic as well. Conferences like Gathering of the Minds (1994) and the Mind States series (beginning in 1997) brought the explicitly underground current of freakdom, metaphysical speculation, and visionary art strongly into the mix, weaving presentations by artists, cultural historians, and far-out psychonauts alongside more established ethnobotanical, legal, and transpersonal presentations.

In the 2000s, the conference format also started making influential in-roads into psychedelic festivals, weaving psychedelic discourse more directly into the underground fabric of substance-fueled celebration and gathering. Stand-out examples here include the “Liminal Village” at the semi-annual BOOM festival, and Lorenzo Hagerty’s Palenque Norte, which pioneered the public (and psychedelic) lecture format at Burning Man. In these contexts, in the lecture hall or the festival tent, psychedelic discourse becomes multidisciplinary less by involving a wide range of authorities than by *performing* that knowledge within an open, informal context that draws people in with widely varying degrees of formal training, philosophical persuasion, and social authority. It can be goofy, and it can sometimes be wrong, but heterotopia can also be a cognitive blast.



The world of psychedelic discourse is currently experiencing a tectonic shift due to the return to officially sanctioned human-subject research with psychedelics and the corresponding opening of mainstream organs like the *New York Times* to positive accounts of entheogens as agents of psychological healing. This opening has attracted a wide number of scientific, journalistic, and commercial

actors, but much of the mobilization of the emerging discourse can be laid at the feet of the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), either indirectly through the organization’s research efforts, or directly through its various outreach and publicity campaigns. To lift the title from a recent Psychedelic Science talk by Brad Burges

ALTHOUGH MAPS ITSELF EMERGED FROM LIMINAL ROOTS, AND STILL CLAIMS MULTIDISCIPLINARITY, THE ORGANIZATION NOW PRESENTS A FAR MORE HOMOGENOUS AND CONTROLLED PORTRAIT OF PSYCHEDELIC DISCOURSE.

(the organization’s director of communications), MAPS is quite consciously “re-positioning” psychedelics in the public mind. And one of the best ways to see this repositioning in action is to take a glance at the large, very public, and very successful psychedelic conferences that MAPS has sponsored or co-sponsored in recent years.

On the surface, MAPS’s 25th anniversary gathering and the two Psychedelic Science conferences (co-sponsored with the Beckley Foundation, the Heffter Research Institute, and the Council on Spiritual Practices) seem like good ole kaleidoscopic affairs. Familiar psychedelic elders are part of the program, the vendor space is full of colorful characters, and the attendant EDM-fueled parties and giclée visionary art prints suggest an underground vibe. Although MAPS itself emerged from liminal roots, and still claims multidisciplinary, the organization now presents a far more homogenous and controlled portrait of psychedelic discourse. Consider the program schedule for Psychedelic Science 2013, which included three tracks: clinical, “interdisciplinary”, and ayahuasca. The clinical track, as you might expect, featured professional PhDs and MDs speaking in dry terms about above-board research; the ayahuasca

track, for which MAPS recruited an outside programmer, is another story I will address in a moment. What interests me here is what MAPS means by “inter-disciplinary”.

If you consider psychotherapy to be “clinical”, then well over half of the interdisciplinary presentations could have fit into the clinical track; indeed many seemed like spill-overs from the conference’s central hard science focus. Within the remaining presentations we find a smattering of ethnobotanical reports, a few Buddhist and transpersonal perspectives, some old-guard presentations by Ralph Metzner and Ann Shulgin, and one genuinely novel neuro-phenomenological assessment of psychedelic linguistics by Diana Slattery. The underground was largely absent—David Nickels, of the DMT-Nexus, was the only younger speaker whose cheeky photo and personal bio suggested personal links to the freak scene. Even discussions *about* the underground—such as Erowid’s ever-popular “State of the Stone” talk—were kept to a minimum, despite the extraordinary growth of novel research chemical use in recent years. This discursive marginalization was in turn mirrored in the layout of the conference: the vendor room, where the culture of current entheogenophiles was closest to the surface, was conspicuously tucked away from the main traffic flows.

One might counter that the MAPS conferences are devoted to Psychedelic *Science*, and that plenty of other gatherings these days keep the freak flag flying. True enough, but only if we define “science” narrowly. MAPS is not trying to keep pure research front and center—if they were, you’d hear a lot more from botanists, ethno- or otherwise, professional or not. Instead, MAPS wants to domesticate psychedelics into regulated psychotherapeutic and clinical medicines—not “plant medicines” (an anthropological category) but pharmaceutical “solutions”.

It’s an expensive, slow, and politically sensitive agenda, one that requires laborious clinical trials, massive fundraising, conservative institutional partners, and the savvy rebranding of compounds still associated by many with pacifier-sucking ravers and crazy hippies. For MAPS’s roughly 30 million dollar project to allow MDMA use in clinical centers to succeed, the edgy discourse of the underground—with its roots in 60s counterculture, ecstatic

hedonism, and all manner of intellectual and spiritual heresies—must be scraped away like dross from an opium pipe. But despite recent partnerships with very

ONE CAN GLIMPSE AN IRONIC FUTURE WHERE INDIVIDUALS WILL BE ABLE TO CONSUME PSYCHEDELICS WITHOUT FEAR OF INCARCERATION, BUT ONLY IF THEY AGREE TO SUBMIT TO THE AUTHORITY OF A LICENSED MEDICAL THERAPIST OR A STATE-SANCTIONED CHURCH.

“square” groups, funding pressures put MAPS in a odd bind: the organization must continue to cultivate psychedelic funders whose core values need to be accommodated while simultaneously being swept under the carpet.

This complicated dance helps explain why MAPS brought in the Brazilian social anthropologist Beatriz Labate to program the ayahuasca track. While Brazil is producing some fantastic psychedelic science, the visionary and exotic charisma of the tea also plays to MAPS’s base. Moreover, in light of the 2006 Supreme Court decision regarding the União do Vegetal, ayahuasca is already being reframed according to another legitimizing discourse: religion. Not *spirituality*, or *visionary mysticism*, or *tripping balls*, but organized religion.

This is an important point: as a recent Erowid Wisdom Cycle survey makes clear, serious long-term aficionados of psychedelics are usually not members of religious institutions; for many, psychedelics offer a “spiritual but not religious” path that precisely avoids formal rituals and top-down belief systems. However, extrapolating from Psychedelic Science, one can glimpse an ironic future where individuals will be able to consume psychedelics without fear of incarceration, but only if they agree to submit to the authority of a licensed medical therapist or a state-sanctioned church.



Don Santos Performing Huichol Ceremony, Photo by Jonathan Greet

At the same time, the substance and the popularity of the ayahuasca track also suggests that the move towards Big Science will be ghosted, for the foreseeable future, by a more humanistic and critical array of perspectives. Because of the legal status of ayahuasca in Brazil, and because of the creative pluralism of ayahuasca religions in the country, social scientists there have been studying it intensively. So alongside addiction studies and reports on brain imaging, Labate's track included scholarly discussions of ritual dynamics, cultural commodification, and the esoteric history and global transformation of ayahuasca sects.

Ayahuasca, it seems, carries its own kaleidoscope with it, an ever-shifting gaze that keeps us, in William Blake's terms, "from single vision & Newton's sleep"—in other words, from reductionism. This message was brought home at Breaking Convention with an illuminating talk by Brazilian anthropologist Alberto Groisman. When it comes to understanding the tea, Groisman argued, neuroscience and psychoanalysis miss the boat because they focus too much on the individual, rather than on the wider field of social relationships that compose the context of personal experience. Groisman studies Barquinha (translates as "little boat"), a particularly vivid ayahuasca religion that features incorporation—

LEAVING ASIDE THE MARGINALIZATION OF UNDERGROUND VOICES, THE "SCIENCE" OF PSYCHEDELICS NEEDS OTHER APPROACHES.

aka, "possession"—by orixa-like entities during services. In preparation for his talk, Groisman had filmed the ritual invocation of a *preta velha* (old black woman) named Vó Nadir (Granny Nadir), a spirit who suffered and died as a slave on a sugar plantation and now radiates kindness and compassion. Like a good ethnographer, Groisman sought permission from the human participants

in order to show the film at Breaking Convention. They agreed, but Groisman then realized that he needed permission from Vó Nadir as well. Unfortunately for us, the *preta velha* did not show up in a subsequent service, so we did not see the clip. If Groisman had been a sect member, his request to the spirit would be understandable, and only so interesting. But as an observer and a social scientist, his act of politesse—communicated to us in a liminal conference room—opened up a transdisciplinary space where the spirits and the humans and the molecules weave their multiplex array.

For "multidisciplinary" MAPS, however, social science basically means psychology, and mainstream, individual-centered psychotherapy at that. Leaving aside the marginalization of underground voices, the "science" of psychedelics needs other approaches, including sociology, medical anthropology, comparative religion, history, and especially science studies, which could help track the construction of psychedelics as "scientific" objects.

Recent studies like Nicolas Langlitz's *Neuropsychodelia*, which presents an anthropologist's philosophical analysis of two psychedelic science labs, point in the right direction. However, these analyses are of more than academic interest, because the reconstruction of psychedelics as pharmaceutical medicines is not innocent, but *biopolitical*. An important term in contemporary social theory, "biopolitics" refers to the various ways—including the discursive authority of science—that institutions, corporations, and governments manage and police the boundaries and processes of life itself.

The biopolitical implications of MAPS's work are glaringly obvious in one of their most widely trumpeted projects: the treatment of PTSD with

MDMA. Successfully treating anyone's PTSD is a laudable goal. But the sentimentality and heroic triumphalism that MAPS taps in order to publicize this research (funded by 25 years of contributions from psychedelic freaks)

TAKING SHAMANISM SERIOUSLY MAY REQUIRE US TO ABANDON THE MODEL OF PSYCHEDELIC SUBSTANCES AS EITHER NEUROSCIENTIFIC OBJECTS OR THERAPEUTIC "TOOLS".

glosses over the disturbing possibility that MDMA therapy could one day be used with active-duty soldiers, a deployment that turns the compound into affective grease for the military machine.

I would like to make clear that I am not against MAPS, nor psychedelic science, nor entheogenic therapy for soldiers. What troubles me is the colonizing and non-reflective nature of these increasingly powerful scientific (and "scientific") voices, which need to shove aside the authority of other discourses in order to accomplish their agenda. But we should never forget a central axiom of "set and setting": there is no drug by itself. Instead, what we have are endlessly reverberating feedback loops of mind, cultural context, and compound. Even if neuroscience or psychopharmacology gives us something closer to hard facts, the *presentation* of "hard facts" is still a theatre of expectation and culture crafting (and not necessarily the most inspiring or courageous one, let alone the "truest").

As Stephan Beyer suggested at the Psychedelic Science conference, taking shamanism seriously—which means engaging with it rigorously—may require us to abandon the model of psychedelic substances as either neuroscientific objects or therapeutic "tools". And the best way to train ourselves for this expanded cognitive encounter is to continue to refine the multidisciplinary art of the kaleidoscope. ●

Wisdom Cycle Pilot Survey

Analysis Under Way

25) Do you believe that psychedelics/empathogens can play a beneficial role in one's life?

Definitely Not
 Probably Not
 Don't Know
 Probably
 Definitely Yes

Those who first had wide access to psychedelics back in the 1960s are now seniors. Erowid Center is gathering the views of these elders, recording what they think about their lifetime experiences with psychoactive plants and chemicals. Now is the time to capture their wisdom about integrating psychoactive use into a healthy life, and to communicate that knowledge to younger generations.

First Stage

In 2012, we formed a twenty-five member Wisdom Cycle working group led by Earth and Fire, and Stonna and

responses were collected on-site at conferences, though visitors were encouraged to fill out the survey at their leisure and send it in later.

We designed the pilot to target older individuals who have experience with psychedelics, and whose answers could help shape the next stage of this project. This was not a survey of the general population, and that is reflected in the demographics.

We received 136 responses, ten sent in by mail. The average respondent age was over 50 years old. The group was remarkably well educated: 95% reported having

Privacy & Accuracy

Surveying people about disapproved or illegal behavior is notoriously difficult since there are many reasons to respond less than truthfully. We bracketed the body of the survey by asking how comfortable respondents were discussing and answering questions about their psychoactive drug use. One of our hypotheses is that people may be more frank about their past psychedelic use as they age and retire from professional careers. Although 93% of respondents said that they were "very" or "somewhat" comfortable answering questions anonymously, only

28) Have any of your difficult experiences also proven beneficial? (Skip if no difficult experiences)

Definitely Not
 Not Really
 Don't Know
 Yes, Sort of
 Definitely Yes

Richard Edelman. As the first step in our new Wisdom Cycle project, we developed a six-page pilot survey.

This past April, the pilot survey was launched, primarily targeting those over the age of 50. Participants were asked about levels of lifetime use, benefits and problems experienced, and how psychedelics, empathogens, and cannabis have affected their lives. We also gathered feedback on what topics participants felt would be important to include in future surveys and how privacy concerns could affect willingness to answer questions. Most

attended at least some college, 56% some graduate school, and 46% had a graduate degree. 50% of respondents were male, 45% female, 1.5% transgender, and 3.75% "other" or provided no response to the gender question.

All but one respondent had tried a psychedelic, empathogen, or cannabis and the vast majority had used such psychoactives fifty or more times. In summary, respondents were highly-educated older people who have extensive experience with psychedelics.

43% said they would be comfortable with a non-anonymous survey about past psychedelic use.

Further Analysis

Although the primary objective of this pilot survey is to inform the questions and design of a second-stage, more widely distributed survey, the results of the pilot are interesting enough to present more fully. We've completed an initial first-pass examination of responses and will be analyzing and documenting the findings more formally in the next few months. ○

6) Do you feel that you derived lasting benefit from your use of any psychedelic/empathogen?

No Benefit
 Not Sure
 Probably Benefit
 Some Benefit
 Strong Benefit

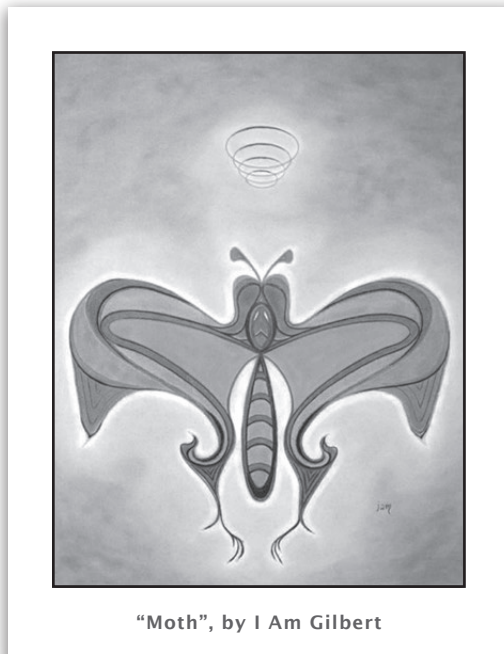
Tastes Like Candyflipping?

Psychedelic Musings by the Teafærie

If I had a dollar for every time I've heard someone describe the latest supposedly-not-even-illegal-yet white powder as being "like a cross between acid and ecstasy", I could buy me a sheet of actual acid and a couple grams of genuine MDMA. And then the Teafærie would be a very happy girl.

A silly friend of mine recently had a rather horrible trip on something that was sold simply as "NBOMe" (which is already confusing, since this designation includes a series of substances). In any event, whatever it was that she took had been described at point-of-sale as feeling like "taking acid and ecstasy at the same time, only sexier", a description that is arguably not without merit. But it is also woefully incomplete. In particular, it would have been helpful if the young entrepreneur had bothered to give my friend more appropriate dosage information. Perhaps then my friend might not have gotten caught up in an endless series of nested and interlocking personal hell loops. These could probably have been avoided if she'd bothered to look it up on Erowid. But she was at some freaking desert party out in the boonies where there was a distinct lack of Internet. So she decided to try a new substance (in public!) without doing her homework first, and became something of a vivid object lesson to the folks around her: "Don't let this happen to you!"

It's a well-worn truism that it's impossible to satisfactorily describe



"Moth", by I Am Gilbert

what tripping is really like to a person who has never taken a psychedelic drug. Endeavoring to do so has been compared to trying to tell a blind person about the nature of color, or attempting to describe a symphony to someone who was born deaf.

It's a well-worn truism that it's impossible to satisfactorily describe what tripping is really like to a person who has never taken a psychedelic drug.

In contrast, describing the idiosyncratic effects of a novel drug to an experienced psychonaut feels to me more like trying to characterize a musical genre to a hearing person who hasn't encountered that particular

groove before. It's an easier task if the listener already has a passing familiarity with a related genre. For example, it would be relatively simple for me to describe hip-hop to somebody who had grown up listening to old school rap music. So, in some ways, it makes sense to describe a drug's action by comparing it to the effects of relatively similar substances. And acid and ecstasy are both common enough that they naturally come up as standard reference points. But when it comes down to it, nothing besides a real live (well, hopefully dead) chicken actually tastes exactly like chicken. If I wanted to describe how an alligator tastes, I would probably communicate more effectively to my listeners if

I tried my best to tell them the ways that it *differs* from chicken.

Comparisons can still be wildly misleading, especially if the person who is doing the talking doesn't have enough firsthand experience with the substances

in question to effectively differentiate between them. The first time I tried 5-MeO-DMT, for instance, my well-meaning provider told me that it was "just like DMT, only different". Nothing could have been further from the truth, of course. They are unique substances, and their subjective effects

couldn't be more dissimilar. But this person had apparently been present when *others* had done them, and in retrospect, I can see how they *could* seem roughly analogous to an outside observer. Which is to say, in both cases the tremulous

psychonaut vaporizes a few hits of some strange substance and then proceeds to pass out for several minutes, after which he or she tends to return to normal consciousness somewhat overawed and unable to adequately describe whatever it was that just happened.

Even firsthand descriptions of a drug's effects are bound to be approximations; many types of experiences are maddeningly difficult to put across to anybody who hasn't actually been there themselves. Imagine, for instance, that the Teafærie managed to kidnap a young Amish girl who had never been exposed to any sort of electronica at all and forced her to listen to dubstep. Once I returned her to her friends and family, she might attempt to describe what she had heard. Perhaps she would say that it sounded like what gigantic pieces of forbidden farm machinery would sound like if the devil had brought them to life and caused them all to experience severe gastric distress whilst simultaneously attempting to copulate with and destroy one another.

Now, that might sound like a humorously accurate description of dubstep to a person who happens to know (and loathe) it. But nobody's going to be able to mentally construct anything that sounds even roughly like actual dubstep from such a description. Nor can someone who has never personally taken DMT come any closer to correctly imagining the phenomenon that Terence McKenna famously described as elf-machines from hyperspace busily using a visible language to manifest intricate objects.

I'm endlessly fascinated with people's attempts to describe this stuff, though, because it's a fun challenge and an extremely important endeavor. We are currently in the process of evolving and finessing a language for talking about subjective states of consciousness, a process that has been both advanced and necessitated by the semi-sudden appearance and widening availability

of a whole new slew of designer drugs.

In order to do a better job of communicating about psychoactives we're going to have to continue to expand our language. This starts with familiarizing ourselves with the emerging vocabulary used to describe psychedelic states, and actively contributing to the evolving conversation about the ways that these new terms should be used. There is

We are currently in the process of evolving and finessing a language for talking about subjective states of consciousness, a process that has been both advanced and necessitated by the semi-sudden appearance and widening availability of a whole new slew of designer drugs.

a great deal of both philosophical and linguistic dissent regarding these matters. What does it indicate when we say that a substance is psychedelic, for instance? Is "entheogen" just a loftier-sounding word for the same thing, or does it tend to suggest a particular quality? What is implied by the term "plant teacher"? What's the difference between an empathogen and an entactogen? What do we mean when we say that something is addictive, and how does that differ from suggesting that it may be habit-forming?

Then, there are all of the less categorical and more colorfully descriptive words, such as *speedy*, *rushy*, *heavy*, *heady*, *sparkly*, *strobey*, and *dark*. (I'm seeing a parody of Snow White here somewhere...)

Ultimately, it's impossible to know what a new experience is really going to be like until you've tried it for yourself. This is true of everything from riding a roller-coaster to falling in

love. For one thing, every individual is different. My personal reaction to any particular chemical is naturally going to be at least a little different from everybody else's, because I have my own unique chemistry—to say nothing of set, setting, and dosage. So maybe the best way to try to find out about a drug's action in advance is to collect a whole bunch of varying descriptions of its effects, and then check to see what (if anything) they all have in common, while at the same time taking note of any recurring anomalies.

It would be instructive if somebody designed a massive anonymous web survey that first queries participants on which substances they have tried and at what dosage levels. Then they would be asked to rate the specified drugs on a scale of 1-10 for each of a wide-ranging list of adjectives and short descriptors such as: psychedelic, empathogenic, erotogenic, euphoric, dysphoric, dissociative, visual, immersive, inhabited, intense, insightful, spiritual, speedy, life-changing, dance-enhancing, difficult to control, difficult to remember, deliriant, dissociative, physically discomfiting, anxiolytic, psycholytic, creativity-enhancing or time-distorting. The collective results could then be mapped out with pretty infographics.

What would *really* be awesome, though, would be if somebody collected all of the data that they could find about almost every single popular substance, and then put the most relevant information on the web for easy access. There could be notes about each drug's history, chemistry, dosage, and legal status, as well as generalized summaries of its effects. Plus, they could include detailed trip reports so that potential users (as well as the merely curious, the academic researchers, and anyone else with an interest) could peruse the personal experiences of those who have gone before.

Oh, wait... it's already being done. I love living in the future! ●

NOVEL DRUG BRIEFS

New Entries in the Rapidly Expanding Market

by Abrad

As part of the Erowid crew, I monitor various public and private forums as well as news articles, vendor websites and incoming experience reports to try and stay abreast of current trends in the use of psychoactives. I pay particular attention to rare or novel substances and those with limited available experiential data in humans.

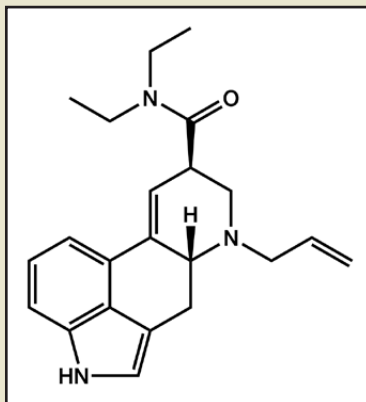
Some of the newer compounds to emerge through online research chemical suppliers have previously never been seen outside of the laboratory where they had been used in receptor binding assays, while others are drugs that have been in clinical use, or are derivatives of medicinal drugs.

New research chemicals are often described glowingly in the first few public experience reports. This can create an anticipatory buzz online and make initial assessments unbalanced. Erowid has dealt with this issue for nearly 15 years. It's best to wait to form impressions until enough voices have joined the discussion to temper initial enthusiasm or vendor bias.

I've chosen two ergoloids (AL-LAD and LSZ), an indole derivative (5-IT), two phenethylamine relatives (2C-EF and TCB-2), a new entactogen (5-MAPB), and two novel benzodiazepines (flubromazepam and pyrazolam). These eight substances are representative of the broad range of novel compounds recently made available in the current marketplace.

AL-LAD 6-allyl-6-nor-lysergic acid diethylamide

AL-LAD is an LSD analog that was first synthesized in the mid 1970s by Niwaguchi and Nakahara, and then studied in the 1980s by the Nichols lab at Purdue, where it was compared with LSD using rat discrimination research. AL-LAD was included in Alexander and Ann Shulgin's 1997 book, *TiHKAL*. It became available through an underground source in early May 2013, and was being sold by several



research chemical vendors in the UK within weeks.

Initial descriptions of its effects by those who purchased the early batches were very positive. True to its description in *TiHKAL*, AL-LAD seems to be slightly less potent than LSD, with reports pointing to a shorter duration and greater euphoria than LSD. As of November 2013, it was being sold by UK vendors at £69 (\$111 USD) for ten 150-µg blotter tabs.

The following report, written by Sepher [RIP—July 2, 2013], was posted on Bluelight and a UK-based forum in late May 2013 and submitted to Erowid shortly after.

T+0:00: ~450 µg, or as close as I can be cutting blotter. Applied upper lip, see if buccal admin comes up any faster. I proved it's orally active last week with a 300 µg oral dose.

T+1:00: First signs of a visual disturbance, patches of colour coming at the very edges of vision. Buzz mainly at the temples coming in. Very vague at this point.

T+3:00: Developed really fast, from T+2:30 on, seemed to suddenly come up in a great big rush. Massive rush of colour, patterns exploding all over visual field, stacking up over each other. Lots of vibration to everything. Long tracers swirling my hands about. Bedroom door looks jellified, wobbling and melting in its doorframe, rippling away. Really good, detailed CEVs, beautifully intricate with dynamic fractal patterns. Brightly lit, colours include lots of pale pinks and yellows, kinda neon. Thrashing around a bit, breathing hard helps bring massive rushes of euphoria with waves of warmth coming up from the body and through the head. The images seem to surge with the motion of my head.

T+4:00: Weird thinking very much in evidence. Caught myself a couple of times going down long meanders that don't make sense. The chains of thoughts from one thing to another don't link up. I don't understand the thinking going on. Some of it is irrational, with hints of the madhouse I sometimes get with LSD, that kind of "have I gone mad" questioning where I can't make sense of things. Little time-out moments where I have to just stop and focus, stop all thought, and try and pull back to something I have a proper handle on. Not that easy at times. I have to exert some real effort to wrest control back. Very meditative, emotionally connected.

Music sounds incredible. Massive distortions with huge flanging effects, pitch-shifting, and tempo all over the place at times. Moments where it was just waves of sound washing over me. The shape of each one evident in minute detail [...].

T+6:00: Past peak now. Still very visual and colourful. CEVs have dropped off in intensity, not so engaging. Still there but can't melt into them anymore. They're outside of me again, eye-candy only. Still can barely see to type, but easier. Very euphoric still, but more relaxed with it, calmer, not rushy anymore. Still a nice buzz to it.

T+8:00: Still going, not faded completely yet. Colour patterns still in evidence, all OEV now, with CEVs almost gone [...] Think will sleep despite there still being some of the buzz going. It's not stimulation as such.

Other reports followed, many of them similarly positive. AL-LAD has only been available through a small number of vendors, perhaps due to its relatively difficult synthesis process. However, that it is available at all is an interesting development since synthetic recreational ergoloids other than LSD have never before been available on such a scale.

LSZ

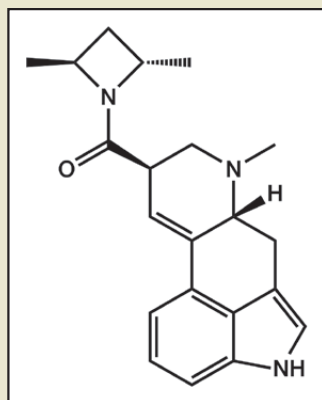
lysergic acid (*S,S*)-2,4-dimethylazetidide

Another ergoloid, LSZ, also hit the market in mid-2013, and at the time of writing is available from many of the same sources as AL-LAD. It was developed by David Nichols's lab at Purdue in the early 2000s. There is little experiential data on it.

One experience report by Brother Wolf published on Erowid in July 2013, indicates that it has a longer duration than AL-LAD with a slower onset and a roughly similar potency.

T+0:00: A half blotter, 75 µg, tucked in my gums (buccal).

T+1:45: Gradual increase in and building of effects noted. Still extremely subtle but I may have caught some imprinting when glancing at and away from a monochrome fractal poster on my wall. There seems to be a little more red, pink, and orange in my visible spectrum than might usually be present. I continue to kick back. Still very comfortable, mentally and physically, a very nice, relaxing way to spend a gorgeous summer Saturday.



T+2:15: Visuals are picking up a little and my mind is less clear now, foggier, heavier. Hand-eye coordination has also been affected. Typing is slightly trickier than it was 15 minutes ago. The appearance of tracers and other common visual activity has increased.

T+3:45: Wow, fully immersed now. This shit is a slow-burner, and it's reminding me a little bit of a DOx type experience.

It took approximately 45–60 minutes until the first alert, 3 hours to peak and a total duration of perhaps 8 hours plus afterglow.

T+5:15: Still pretty busy here. I think the effects peaked about half an hour ago, I feel as though I might be on the downslope now. Not certain or anything, if this is anything like the original L it's bound to ease off in waves, much like it started...

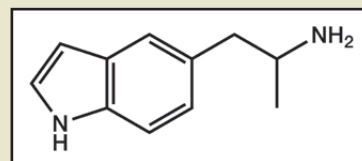
T+10:15: Definitely easing off now, I expect to be completely baseline in an hour. I expect easy sleep before midnight.

A report by Borax, submitted to Erowid in July 2013, notes a total duration of about 8 hours with a 3-hour onset.

It took approximately 45–60 minutes until the first alert, 3 hours to peak and a total duration of perhaps 8 hours plus afterglow. With a higher dose it may reveal itself to last longer and come up a little faster.

5-IT

5-(2-Aminopropyl)indole



5-IT is a chemical related to AMT that was first described by Albert Hofmann and Franz Troxler in 1963. It became available from chemical suppliers in the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Spain in early 2012. Initial reports suggested its effects were similar to AMT but “dirtier” and “less visual”, with a duration of about 10 hours. Many positive reports were written in the following months describing doses up to 400 mg being taken without incident. Users reported taking it in combination with compounds such as 6-APB and 5-MeO-MiPT, among others.

Displaying empathogenic effects similar to MDA and 5-APB, 5-IT quickly gained popularity despite concerns about psychotic reactions and cardiovascular problems. These concerns have turned out to be justified.

In July 2012, a popular chemical supply company posted a notice on their website saying, “We have decided not to sell this chemical anymore, we heard about to[o] much abuse! We are sorry, but we cannot allow our selfs [sic] to ruin our image because of one chemical! We hope for your understanding!”

Later that month a news report surfaced linking 5-IT to 14 deaths in Sweden, with it being found to be the sole intoxicating agent in three of the cases.¹ A short time later, most chemical suppliers began discontinuing sales of 5-IT.

In late August 2012, a member of a UK-centric forum reported that a member had died after taking 5-IT. *BMJ* then published a letter reporting that 5-IT was identified in the postmortem blood of two adults.² An additional hospitalisation was reported in October, though this seems to have been a case of 5-IT overdose following a stimulant binge.

In late 2012, the Belgian Early Warning System website published a warning hinting at one possible explanation for the Swedish deaths, “It seems that recently, a batch of 5-IT has been mislabeled, and was sold on the internet as 5-APB or 6-APB. Considering the difference in dosage, a lot of users in Sweden thought they were consuming APB, and, consequently, overdosed, with 14 deaths reported in 2012.”

Because of concerns over safety and the resulting reduced availability, 5-IT fell out of favor with vendors and users and was banned as a Temporary Class Drug in the UK in 2013.

1. “Folkhälsoinstitutet föreslår förbud för ny livsfarlig nättdrog”. *Statens folkhälsoinstitut*. Jul 26, 2012. fhi.se/Aktuellt/Nyheter/Folkhalsoinstitutet-foreslar-forbud-for-ny-livsfarlig-nattdrog/
2. Seetohul LN, Maskell PD, De Paoli G, et al. “Deaths associated with new designer drug 5-IT”. [letter] *BMJ*. Aug 24, 2012;345:e55625. bmj.com/content/345/bmj.e55625

In September 2010, Fastandbulbous posted a description to Bluelight, titled “Another wonderful drug experience”, describing the effect of 10 mg 2C-EF combined with 20 mg methoxetamine as “unexpectedly strong”.

T+0:00: Swallowed 10 mg in some orange juice.

T+0:15: First alerts noticed (on top of 20 mg of methoxetamine)

T+0:30: Visual patterning very noticeable. I thought 2C-D was better than 2C-B, but this is much, much more in every department.

If I had to make a conclusion, it would be that this is the best 2C-x compound I'd ever taken, a real

During the next hour the effects continue to increase with visual patterning on the walls and inside of my eyelids.

quality psychedelic up there with mescaline, DOM, and LSD. In fact, given the choice, I'd take 2C-EF over those three on most occasions. Thank fuck that I decided to dose on the low side. I'd hate to think what sort of experience would erupt from taking 20 mg. Either overwhelmingly positive or a trip to hell.

2C-EF left 2C-B/2C-E standing in the dust IMO. Shame it's illegal in the UK as this would be my first choice for a night of dancing/spiritual revelation. My cynical side is still looking for a negative aspect to the experience, but I still haven't found one!

A few days later, an experimenter named B9 submitted his own report, “It's a wonderful night”, to Bluelight.

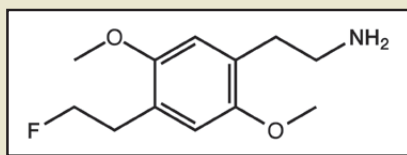
10 mgs dosed in juice for me and my friend, Kevin. The setting was my house during a weekday afternoon with my kids and dogs roaming about asking questions and barking, respectively.

There's definite activity at 20 minutes. At 30 minutes I consumed another 5 mg. I feel a little lightheaded and a good humour has come over me. During the next hour the effects continue to increase with visual patterning on the walls and inside of my eyelids. The conversation as I recall it was mainly centered around how good the music we were listening to sounded. This stuff seems to enhance nearly every sense, music sounds incredibly good, the grapefruit I ate was a thing of wonder as my teeth sank slowly through the juicy flesh. I felt like it was as good as the first time I ever ate a citrus fruit.

For such a strong experience the drug produced no noticeable physical side effects. At no point was my pulse elevated. There was no increase in body

2C-EF

4-fluoroethyl-2,5-methoxyphenethylamine



In November 2013, 2C-EF caused excitement on forums due to some glowing experiences reported a few years ago coupled with the expectation that it would soon become available from at least one online chemical supplier.

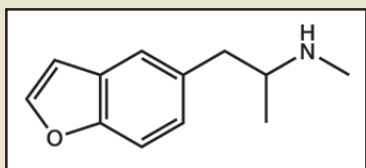
Though lacking its own *PiHKAL* entry, Shulgin does mention it under DOEF as the 2-carbon analog, noting that “it would be every bit as much a treasure and ally as is 2C-B or 2C-I”.

Two very enthusiastic reports posted on Bluelight in 2010, along with a mention in *PiHKAL*, generated an air of anticipation on forums about its possible availability.

temperature, no sweating or shivering, no feeling of artificially induced stimulation or artificially induced euphoria, unlike say MDMA. The whole good mood thing was just that. It felt as near natural as it possibly could.

5-MAPB

1-(benzofuran-5-yl)-N-methylpropan-2-amine



First appearing in December 2012, 5-MAPB quickly gained reputation as being very close in effects to MDMA, with users noting that they wouldn't be able to tell the difference between MDMA and 5-MAPB in a blind test.

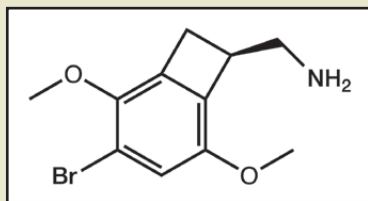
It seems to be strongly active at ~100 mg, making it roughly the same potency as MDMA. It is also reportedly more stimulating than either 6-APB or 5-APB.

Sepher commented on *Bluelight*:

It's the closest RC I've yet found [to MDMA] and it produced very good results in a club. Effects were broadly similar but it's still not quite there. Not quite as full on as far as energy, euphoria and empathy are concerned. You'd probably feel there was something missing if you took it expecting an exact substitute and be disappointed by it. Take it for what it is though. I think it's a very worthwhile substance.

TCB-2

(4-Bromo-3,6-dimethoxy-1,2-dihydrocyclobutabenzene-1-yl)methanamine



First synthesized by Thomas McClean in the Nichols lab at Purdue University in 2006, TCB-2 is a derivative of 2C-B. TCB-2 appears to be extremely potent, as much or more so as DOI and with a total duration of longer than 24 hours. At this time, there are few reports of recreational use, though this could change if more vendors choose to distribute it.

In "TCB-2 Overview", published on Erowid in September 2012, BilZ0r describes a series of increasing doses with TCB-2 hydrobromide salt:

Erowid Extracts — Number 25 / December 2013

T+0:00: 250 µg ingested orally.

T+1:55: Possible alert. Unsure. Nothing else to report. Slept well.

The second day:

T+0:00: 750 µg ingested orally.

T+1:15: Clear alert. I sense the classic body signals I feel when I take hallucinogens, an uncomfortable sensation in my neck.

T+2:15: There has been no progression. No visual or thought disturbances.

T+3:15: Body signals dissipate.

The third day:

T+0:00: 3 mg insufflated. As expected, this is quite painful. The pain continues in my sinus for 15 minutes while I resist sneezing or blowing my nose.

T+2:04: First alert.

T+3:04: Nothing greater to report. Wondering if the previous day's effect was imagined. I settle in to

I took the 5 mg dose assuming it would take several hours to kick in, and so I began to make dinner, however, I am already significantly disorientated as I make the bean stew.

watch a movie.

T+3:34: I smoke a small amount of marijuana (quarter of a bowl). Feel very, very stoned. Having difficulty expressing myself. Realize I am having subtle visual hallucinations when looking at faces. Oddly, no CEVs.

T+5:04: Still having subtle hallucinations and difficulty expressing my thoughts when speaking. This is definitely a mild psychedelic experience.

T+5:34: Take 3.5 mg of zopiclone to sleep. I wake the next day feeling fine.

One week later:

T+0:00: Ingest 5 mg orally with S (a 110 lb female). Begin to make a stew, assuming it would take several hours to kick in as it did previously.

T+0:13: First alert. This is not going to take hours to kick in.

T+0:28: The classic body sensations continue to mount for half an hour. No visuals to report, however I am having significant difficulties in expressing myself succinctly. S reports that she felt it kick in within 15 minutes, but didn't want to say anything after I had claimed, "it will take several hours to have an effect". I timed my dose with the with the assumption

that it would be several hours before I felt effects, however, I am already significantly disorientated as I make the bean stew. Thankfully I just get it done before I start to experience coordination difficulties.

T+0:33: Open eye visuals are beginning to start (interestingly, no CEVs). Not currently what I would call classic psychedelic effects, but effects like the TV screen seeming further from me than I know it is, or other size and scale distortions.

T+0:43: Full psychedelic state. ++/+++. Large degree of visual hallucinations, fractals patterns, apparent movement of details, etc.

T+12:45: The ++/+++ state continued for the last 12 hours. I was without anxiety, depression or nausea. S reports similarly. She had a slightly higher degree of visual hallucinations. Insignificant side effects are very shaky hands. S is very stimulated and declares she will not be able to sleep. I am unsure if I will be able to. We both ingest approximately 10 mg of zopiclone to sleep.

T+23:00: The next day, there are still subtle visual effects, like visual snow. We are both tired and groggy. I develop a rather bad headache. S does not. I attribute the headache to dehydration due to general partying over the preceding days. The next day the headache is gone, and I feel fine.

Conclusions: TCB-2 does not appear to be the ultra potent hallucinogen some of its pharmacological properties suggest it should be. It appears to be somewhat less potent than DOI.

Documenting and determining dosage ranges in humans is difficult when only a small number of experience reports are available. This is one of the major issues faced when collecting data on such novel compounds. While BilZ0r speculates that TCB-2 is less potent than DOI (which is active at around a milligram), an author on Bluelight describes TCB-2 as fully active at 250 µg (0.25 mg). Potency extrapolated from drug substitution studies in rats suggests

as reports posted on internet forums described it as weak, with little euphoric or recreational potential. As described by ScottishDNB on Bluelight in August 2012:

Pyrazolam does not seem to be very euphoric;

Documenting and determining dosage ranges in humans is difficult when only a small number of experience reports are available.

the come-up is pretty drawn out.

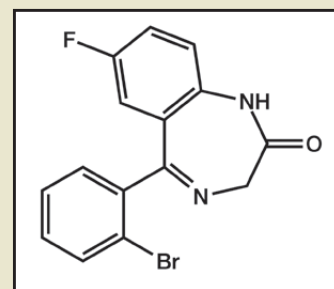
Having 3 mg made me pretty intoxicated but if you have a tolerance they don't offer good value.

After trying pyrazolam, I would say it is a lot less euphoric than etizolam and diazepam although it shares the amnesia/blackout/clumsy traits and

Flubromazepam

length of diazepam.

Flubromazepam is a novel benzodiazepine and analog of bromazepam that became available in late 2012. It has been compared to diazepam, though it appears to be more potent.



Initial reports posted to discussion forums were positive and drew comparisons to clonazepam, diazepam, alprazolam and etizolam. In late 2012, Mela wrote on Bluelight:

8 mg sublingual. 60 minutes later, initial sedative effect developed which evolved into mainly warm chilled anxiolysis by the 3rd hour. A few things happened later which, shall we say, meant it was difficult to distinguish its specific effects. Looks like a winner in the k-pin [klonopin] ballpark (given proposed 30 hour half-life). [...]

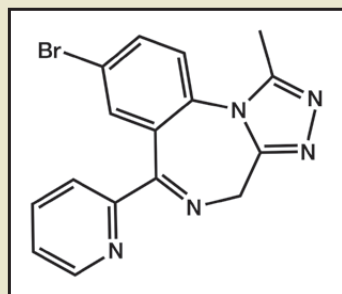
The onset effects are more in the diazepam ballpark (notably sedating). I tried 4 mg a few days later, and still found it sedating for an hour or so at this lower dose. For instance, I don't find clonazepam (1 mg), lorazepam (2 mg), alprazolam (1 mg), or even etizolam (at 1 mg) as sedating as 4mg of flubromazepam.

This compound seems likely to see increased use due to it recently becoming more widely available. ○

Pyrazolam

its dosage is on par with LSD or Bromo-Dragonfly.

Developed in the 1970s as an anxiolytic, pyrazolam became available through online chemical suppliers in July 2012. Initial excitement over the potential similarity to the highly sought after benzodiazepines triazolom and alprazolam quickly turned to disappointment





Vintage Opium or Incense?

by Rev. MeO

The slender, plastic-wrapped and candy-tied package looks like a chunk of opium, dressed up with a fading sticker: “MADE IN INDIA”. The material smells lightly of incense. Each bundle weighs about 20 grams.

“This was sold under the counter as incense in the 1970s”, explained the former head shop proprietor who first showed it to me. “The kids used to roll up balls of this stuff and swallow it before going to concerts.”

The intent in the 1970s was either the discrete distribution of dilute opium, or misdirection (wink-wink-nudge-nudge) to suggest the substance contained opium while instead being a lettuce “opium” or other mildly soporific herbal extract.

“I have no idea”, the former proprietor said when asked bluntly if the material contained opium. I asked multiple people who were familiar with the head shop scene in the 1970s and none recognized the material nor had heard of opium being sold under the counter as incense.

After almost 40 years, the wrapping is yellowed and beautifully brittle. The outer layer of the resin is dry, and when torn open the insides are goeey and sticky, just as one might expect of opium. But could it really be old, dilute opium?

One of the sources I queried commented that it looked like hashish while still in the wrapper, but recanted upon seeing how sticky it remained inside. He said hashish would unquestionably have dried out in the intervening decades.

The product had no bitter taste—almost no taste at all. I first tried vaporizing a test dosage, but the material caught aflame and burned like incense. A dozen inhalations brought only a mild alteration. Placebo remained a candidate.

Days later, I sliced approximately four grams from the small bar and swallowed it quickly on an empty stomach. The effect bordered on placebo, with mild eye glazing and light sensitivity. I wrote it off, had several glasses of whiskey and fell asleep.

However, that night was filled with intense and vibrant dreaming characteristic of opium. But other herbal extracts, such as passionflower and skullcap, have provided me with similar experiences. The morning brought brief constipation followed by sudden diarrhea, which was suggestive of an opiate. I did feel pleasantly, though mildly, sedated for the first couple of hours after waking.

It was interesting to experience no opiate euphoria yet still have the

characteristic dream activity and bowel response associated with opium.

A few days later, I swallowed about eight grams of the substance while already intoxicated from two alcoholic drinks. My belches had a mild incense flavor. About three hours post ingestion, relaxed but not euphoric, I fell into a slumber.

Once again, I had a night full of vivid dreams—more intense than the previous time. They were more realistic, with a recurring storyline to which I repeatedly returned throughout the night.

The next morning, I felt a slight opiate glow, but no gastric discomfort. There’s something active in this stuff, but I don’t know if it’s deteriorated opium or any number of other herbal extracts.

I had the material tested by EcstasyData and the lab analysis revealed palmitic, myristic, and phenylacetic acids (all found in food supplements). There were a number of unidentified compounds but none matched any opium-derived substance (codeine, morphine, heroin, thebaine, papaverine, noscapine, or other common opioids).

The mystery incense remains a mystery! ●

Analytical Glimpses of “Molly” and Research Chemicals

by Earth and Fire Erowid

Erowid’s EcstasyData project started in July 2001, with the objective of identifying the contents of street ecstasy tablets. Although we have run this project for over twelve years, many Erowid visitors and members still aren’t familiar with it. Samples of a drug can be anonymously submitted to a DEA-licensed laboratory for analysis (following instructions provided on EcstasyData.org), along with a payment ranging from \$40 to \$200. The lab analyzes each sample and sends Erowid a list of what substances were found. We publish the results on the EcstasyData website to help illuminate trends in drug distribution, substitution, and contamination as well as the specific contents of individual black-market tablets and blotter. Testing costs Erowid \$160 per sample in lab and staff costs, covered in part by the co-pay and support from sponsors DanceSafe and Isomer Design.

Public, Open Data

EcstasyData is the only present-day project we’re aware of in the world that accepts, tests, and publishes results of anonymously submitted samples of controlled substances. Other testing programs exist, but none are as open or transparent. Some European countries provide government-subsidized street drug testing, and there are a number of harm reduction groups that do on-site testing and lab analysis. But, despite more progressive regulations in many countries, none accept samples mailed by the general public, and few publish results regularly.

A number of private programs and secret projects exist where individuals (who often have access to commercial or academic labs) analyze samples for friends, but few publish results of any sort. Some academic projects have purchased research chemicals and/or street products and done analyses, but it often takes a year or more between the product acquisition and publication of data. Additionally, extensive lab testing is conducted by toxicology and law enforcement labs around the world, but essentially none of their data is released to the public in a useful form.

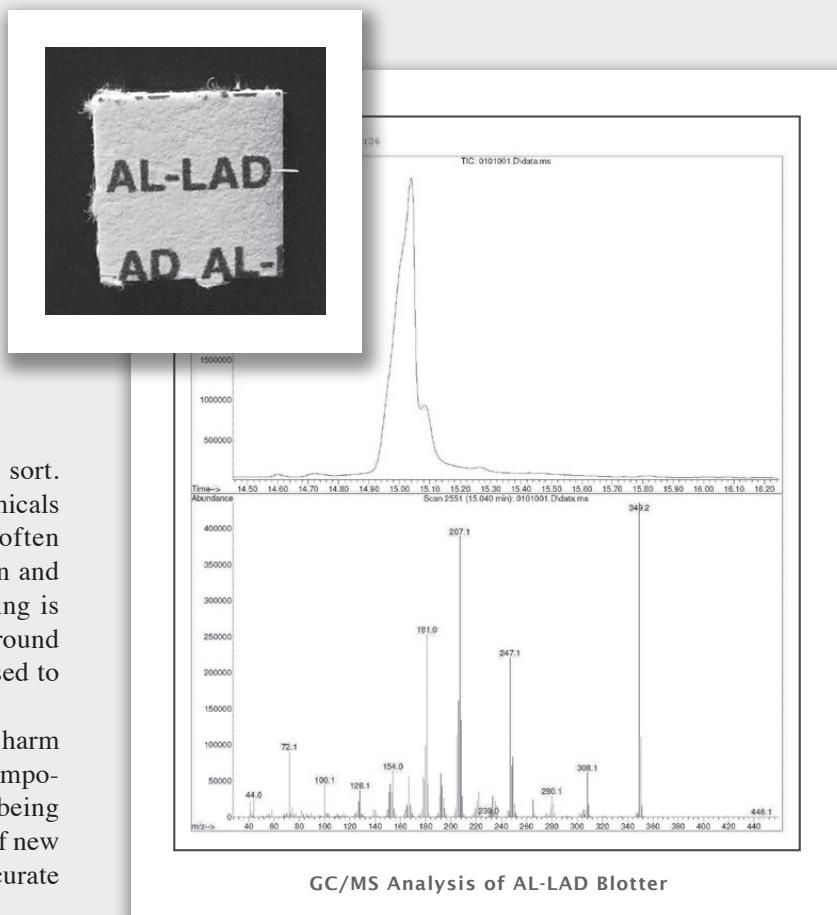
The EcstasyData project has global importance for harm reduction and in helping promote an accurate, contemporaneous public record of what recreational drugs are being sold. An increasingly complex world with a blizzard of new psychoactive substances demands public access to accurate identification and analysis.

Who or What is Molly?

Over Labor Day weekend (Aug 31–Sep 2), “molly” received international media attention due to several hospitalizations and deaths at festivals in the United States. “Molly” has been used as a slang name for MDMA/ecstasy for over a decade. EcstasyData’s first published test result for a sample of so-called molly is from April 2000. As of December 2013, we have received 86 submitted samples identified as molly.

Despite the term’s history, it is being treated in current news reports as if it were brand new. Ignoring numerous easy-to-find web resources describing how the name “molly” is used, most news reports in September 2013 weren’t able to correctly use the term.

In the mid 2000s, “molly” became more associated with the powdered/crystalline MDMA form rather than tablets and was generally used to imply purity. In the last six years, just one molly sample submitted to EcstasyData was in tablet form,



and that sample contained only amitriptyline, a mildly sedating tricyclic antidepressant.

The most notable change over the last few years is the increased number of new euphoric stimulants available as pure powders. These euphoric stimulants are purchased online in bulk and then sometimes resold at the retail level as molly. Parallel to the term “ecstasy” being used for any tablet or powder that produces effects similar to MDMA, the name “molly” is now increasingly used for any euphoric stimulant in powder form.

IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, ECSTASYDATA HAS TESTED 58 SAMPLES SUBMITTED UNDER THE NAME “MOLLY”. ONLY 27 (47%) CONTAINED MDMA OR MDA, SOMETIMES IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER SUBSTANCES.

In the last two years, EcstasyData has tested 58 samples submitted under the name “molly”. Only 27 (47%) contained MDMA or MDA, sometimes in combination with other substances. Another 16 samples (28%) contained methydone, and the remaining 15 (26%) contained a variety of stimulants, including ethylone, 4-MEC, cocaine, ethcathinone, and caffeine, among others. Interestingly, none of the samples containing methydone contained any other active chemicals.

Testing Other Drugs

Prior to 2009, nearly all samples sent in to EcstasyData’s testing lab had been sold to the submitter as ecstasy. In recent years, we’ve increased the number of non-ecstasy samples we test. With the increase in research chemicals available for purchase online, more people are looking for verification that a chemical they purchased is what they think it is. In 2013, we’ve tested 80 such samples.

Because of the importance of both documenting what is being sold on the research chemical market and reducing harms associated with misidentified substances, EcstasyData has temporarily reduced the co-payment to \$100 (down from the previous \$140) for research chemical powders. This was made possible by a grant from our new sponsor, Isomer Design.

AL-LAD

In May 2013, we were asked if we could identify AL-LAD (an uncommon, newly available ergoloid related to LSD) on blotter. The Erowid crew reported that AL-LAD had been showing up in small batches in Europe for the last month or two. After consulting with the EcstasyData lab, they accepted the sample to see if they could successfully identify its contents.

Unfortunately, the lab was unable to identify AL-LAD with gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS). Our next step was to contact analytical chemists in the Erowid Expert Network (from Canada, the UK, and Russia) who were able to

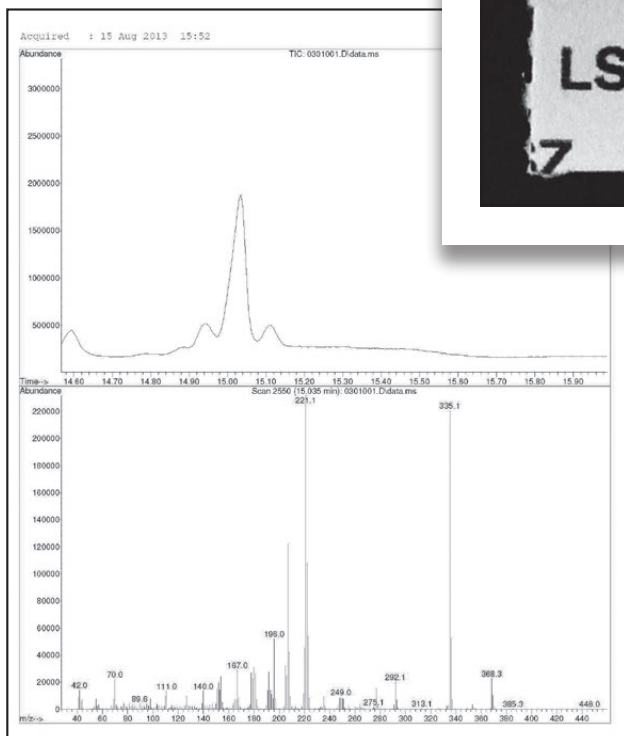
confirm that the mass spectrum from the material on the blotter was correct for AL-LAD. Then, an academic lab we collaborate with tested a sample of the blotter using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). This lab took some time to sort out the extremely complex NMR results, but was able to confirm that the results were consistent with AL-LAD.

To our knowledge, this is the first published identification/analysis of commercially available AL-LAD, which has also been correlated to a number of experience reports on Bluelight and Erowid. In June, an online vendor began selling white ¼-inch square perforated blotter hits containing AL-LAD, bearing “AL-LAD” in a simple black font so it would not be resold as LSD.

LSZ

In June we started to hear that another synthetic ergoloid, LSZ (lysergic acid 2,4-dimethylazetidide), was circulating. A few weeks later it became available from public research chemical sales sites.

The LSZ blotter was printed in a fashion similar to the AL-LAD. With help from a number of chemists, we were able to confirm that the mass spectrum of a sample submitted to our lab was consistent with LSZ. Unfortunately, it’s impossible for the GC/MS process used by our lab to identify which LSZ isomer was on the blotter, and there are three stereoisomers, only one of which is very active. ●



GC/MS Analysis of LSZ Blotter

A Psychedelic Excerpt from...

NEXUS

Mankind Gets an Upgrade

by Ramez Naam

Ramez Naam's 2012 book Nexus: Mankind Gets an Upgrade, takes place in 2040, where a new drug called "Nexus 5" is under development. This drug takes the form of psychedelic nanotechnology that helps users modify and control their brains in new and powerful ways. It not only enables telepathic and empathic connections between humans, but also infinite possibilities for programming the brain and body to function at higher levels.

The choice of the name "Nexus" is meaningful, as that was a common name for 2C-B in the 1990s. Though most people won't catch this association, and will instead understand "Nexus" to imply connectivity (indeed, the same reason 2C-B was given this slang name originally), the effects of the fictional Nexus are not unlike amplified versions of the empathogenic and psychedelic effects of a phenethylamine like 2C-B.

Naam (a founding member of Erowid Center's Council of Electors) does a fantastic job describing psychedelic experiences and the sense of connection that empathogenic drugs can facilitate. His poetic characterizations bring the experiences of Nexus to life. He artfully incorporates these descriptions, along with musical, ritual, and spiritual elements from modern electronic dance communities and tribal culture into a believable sci-fi future.

Of course, in 2040, everyone wants control of the new tech-drug, with governments and religions around the world fighting to be the first to develop its potential. The ethical dilemmas that follow contrast the value of freedom of the mind with the ways direct brain control could be misused. Are the benefits of brain enhancement (or "enlightenment") worth the possibility that non-enhanced humans might become a lower class?

We hope you enjoy the following excerpt as much as we did. Crux, the sequel to Nexus, was released in August 2013. —Fire Erowid

Calibration

Nexus 3 was the most common Nexus formulation on the street. Nexus 4 had been a flash in the pan out of a lab in Santa Fe, put down quickly in a joint mission between ERD and the DEA. Something called Nexus 5 was rumored to exist, but until this point had never been confirmed. [...]

Sam downed the drug. The liquid tasted strongly metallic, slightly bitter. It felt heavy on her tongue, oily as it flowed down her throat. [...]

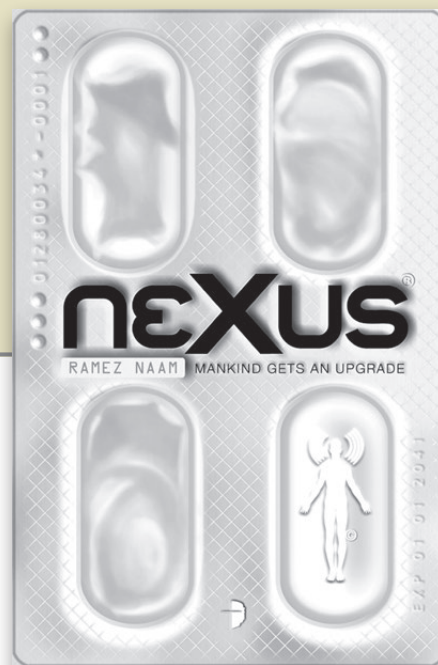
Samara Chavez was flying. Eyes closed, reclined on the couch, she soared above a landscape of shapes and emotions, senses and experiences. Below her a pulsing red sea of arousal lapped against a sharp and glistening black shore of mathematics, which gave way to green and brown hills of Spanish, Mandarin, and English. She dove into those hills, let the ground accept her and pass through her, burrowed into the earth, tasting tones and verbs and conjugates, feeling the shape of letters, words, characters, feeling their meanings and sounds coalesce. It felt gorgeous.

Sam was aware that she was high. She was tripping more intensely than any time since... since... And at the same time she felt clear-headed. Every sensation was sharp. Everything fit together just so. She understood where she was and what was going on.

Samara Chavez was flying. Eyes closed, reclined on the couch, she soared above a landscape of shapes and emotions, senses and experiences.

Nexus is learning me, she thought. This is the calibration phase.

She penetrated through the dense earth of languages into a cavern of abstraction, filled with a soaring, brilliant city of concepts. Broad lanes of Time and Space cut the city into quarters. A bell tolled from within the soaring towers of the delicate crystal and steel Temple of Self in the center of the city. The sound of the bell was the sound of everything she'd ever tried to communicate. It pulsed in the air,



almost physical, spreading outwards in concentric waves she could see, pulsing and resonating through city blocks where ideas crashed together. Open public squares of contemplation, serene parks and elegant symphony halls of harmony and synthesis, wrecked bombed-out shells of discord, confusion, misunderstanding. Her thoughts spread out into suburbs full of memories and beyond them into the dark forest of Other which wrapped the city, isolated it.

With delight she dove down into a public pool of Laughter, pulled herself out and walked a street of Beauty, turned down the lane and entered the vast museum of Animate Things, exited from its rear door onto a street of Actions, and soon came to the great open plaza around the Temple of Self. Everywhere she looked in the plaza she saw the faithful come, called to prayer. The faithful were her. A hundred of her, a thousand, ten thousand, all kneeling, praying, paying homage and sending prayers to herself.

She spun around then, taking in this city, her city, her mind. She whirled once, twice, three times, until the spin had a perpetual motion of its own, and then she found herself rotating faster and faster, the city blurring by too fast to see, but her mind spreading out to encompass it, the centrifugal force of her dervish-whirl sending the edges of her thoughts and senses outward from her, spread out and held taut to her by the line of her will.

it as close to her face as she could, wanting to see those tiny cells inside. Her college graduation, unexpectedly meaningful to her, a flush of excitement, visible pride on the face of her aunt and uncle, wishing her parents could be there if not for... for... Her first taste of sushi, incredible texture of raw albacore, followed by intense wasabi flavor overwhelming her sense of smell. A rainbow in the desert, seen alone. A lover's kiss on her neck. The sharp joy of sparring. Childhood games. And data archeology – the 3am discovery of the key that cracked the Watzer archive, the way the pieces of the puzzle fit together perfectly to decode the message Venter had encoded with his genome.

All of this is you—the words came unbidden to her. The memories came not one at a time, but in parallel, overlaid with one another, interleaving in ways she'd never seen, the timeline of her life becoming three-dimensional.

She felt she would explode with joy, with the sheer intensity of being, with the incredible largeness she felt. She wanted to grow ever larger, to spread beyond this city and cavern, to encompass this entire psychedelic planet of self, to experience every instant and morsel and potential of her

between her thighs. She had never felt so turned on or so alive in her life. Except... except...

“Sam?” [...]

Kade smiled. “Tell me. What are you feeling?”

Compassion for all life filled him. The universe cried out in pain, in the illusion of division. He was called to teach, to spread love, to release beings from their bonds of craving and aversion, to teach them that all was one.

Sam closed her eyes, spoke with them closed. “I'm inside myself. Inside my mind. I see how the pieces of me fit together. The different concepts. The different kinds of concepts I can hold. And I can see all these scenes from my life. Patterns between them, connections I never noticed. [...]

“Ready?” Kade spoke aloud, pitched for her alone.

Sam nodded.

Something happened. Eleven more minds grew larger in her perception. They brightened, swam more fully into focus. They were so full. So alive with thoughts and memories, emotions and desires. Her breathing synchronized with theirs. She closed her eyes and she could see and feel their individual lines of thought. [...]

Each person had not one thread, but many. They intertwined in parallel, each connected to the others.

Synchronicity

Compassion for all life filled him. The universe cried out in pain, in the illusion of division. He was called to teach, to spread love, to release beings from their bonds of craving and aversion, to teach them that all was one.

He was the Buddha. He was all of them here. The fourteen of them together, together they were something more, something amazing. They were the universe observing itself. They had achieved enlightenment. They could spread it to the world. ●

She wanted to grow ever larger, to spread beyond this city and cavern, to encompass this entire psychedelic planet of self, to experience every instant and morsel and potential of her being at once.

She was this city. She was the million hers within it. She tasted a hundred thousand memories. Memories of places and times and things and words. Her sixth birthday, falling off her bike, blood running down her knee, she'd dipped her finger in it, brought

being at once. To spread beyond this one planet, to experience everything of everyone!

“Sam?”

Her eyes opened. She was flush with excitement. Her chest was heaving. Her heart was pounding. She was damp

The Distillation

Organizational updates, statistics, and information about Erowid Center's ongoing projects

EROWID CONTENT

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS ON EROWID.ORG

63,019

Experience Reports	23,690
Articles & Information Pages	17,689
References	8,246
Photographs & Images	5,760
Archived Site Pages	4,703
Visionary Art	2,021
"Ask Erowid" Answers	598
The Erowid Review	312



TECH SPECS

Erowid Files on Server	154,832
Erowid Disk Footprint	62.5 GB
Average Response Time	150 ms



PLANTS AND DRUGS

NUMBER OF SUBSTANCES WITH THEIR OWN VAULT

342

MOST ACCESSED VAULTS (W/ CHANGE)

1) MDMA (↔)	11) 2C-B (↑)
2) LSD (↔)	12) 25I-NBOMe (↑↑)
3) DMT (↑)	13) Oxycodone (↓)
4) Mushrooms (↓)	14) Heroin (↑)
5) Cannabis (↓)	15) Amphetamine (↑)
6) Meth (↑)	16) Cacti (↑)
7) Ketamine (↑)	17) Peyote (↑)
8) Cocaine (↓)	18) Amanitas (↓)
9) Ayahuasca (↑)	19) DXM (↓)
10) Salvia divinorum (↓)	20) Mescaline (↑)

SUBSTANCES WITH PUBLISHED EXPERIENCES

568



EXPERIENCE REPORTS

Published Reports	23,690
Fully Triaged Reports	37,445
Partially Triaged Reports	896
Un-triaged Reports	16,664
Rejected Reports	23,304

EXPERIENCE REPORTS IN OUR COLLECTION

101,986

Submitted Each Day	8
Published in the Last 6 Mo.	356
Active Triagers/Reviewers	20



SOCIAL MEDIA

@Erowid Followers	13,017
Tweets in 2013	1,594
GreatNonprofits Reviews	645



MEMBERSHIP

CONTRIBUTORS IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS

1,763

Current Membership	1,500
Recently Expired (0-6 mo.)	1217
Older Expired (>6 mo.)	5588
Members in the United States	1,050 (70%)
Members in Other Countries	450 (30%)

Top 20 Membership Countries

USA (1050); Canada (82); Australia (77); UK (48); Germany (30); Switzerland (21); Netherlands (21); Sweden (19); Norway (16); France (13); Denmark (12); New Zealand (10); Brazil (10); Belgium (10); Finland (9); Israel (7); Austria (5); Italy (5); Spain (4); Slovakia (4)

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH AT LEAST ONE MEMBER

44

Stolaroff Project Moves Forward

At the Psychedelic Science conference in April 2013, the Saturday-evening dinner was followed by a tribute to Myron Stolaroff created and presented by Jon Hanna and Tania Manning. Jon's slideshow incorporated many photos gleaned from Erowid's Stolaroff Project, and their eulogy included stories about digging the original documents out from an old shed on the Stolaroff ranch, which had been commandeered by dust bunnies and mice.

After completing an index of the 5,000 items in the Stolaroff Collection in 2012, the Erowid team took a bit of a break from this project. But in September, Bläk leapt back in. The next phase is to create abstracts describing each item. As of the end of November, Bläk has written abstracts for the first 150 documents. She is developing a style and format that will then be used by volunteers to create summaries for every document in the collection. The cost of the abstract-creation phase will be about \$8,000, assuming half of the abstracts are written by volunteers.

Once we complete this stage, we will have a full digital collection of the documents, an index of the contents, and a description of each document. At that point, we will be ready to launch the collection for the public! ○

Psychoactive Photography



PHOTOS & IMAGES

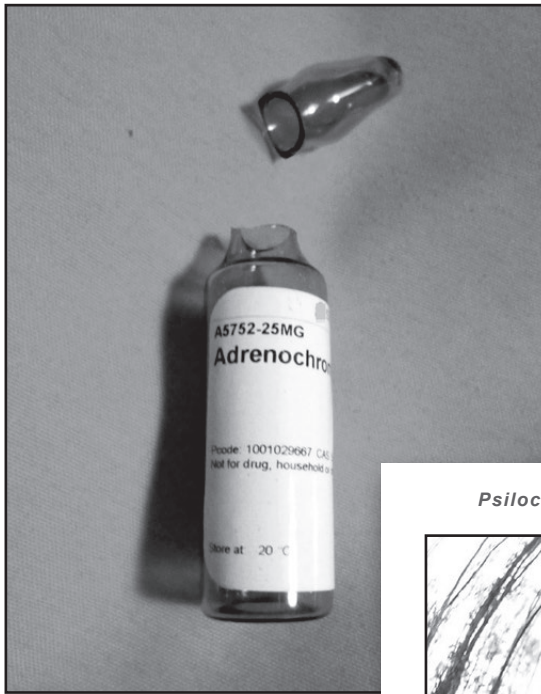
Published Photos & Art	7,781
Image Vaults	307
Viewed Per Day	18,014
New in Last 6 Months	23
Submitted Each Day	1.9
Awaiting Processing	13,126



THE EROWID REVIEW

Published Reviews	312
Published in Last 12 Months	14
Viewed Each Day	5,081

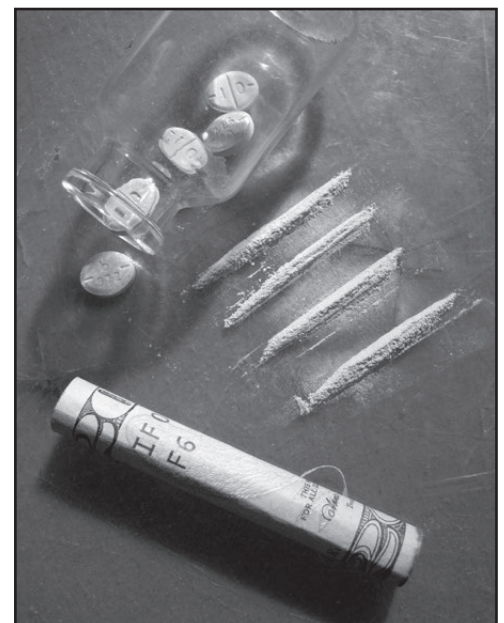
Adrenochrome Vial, Photo by E. Hidalgo Downing



Psilocybe serbica var *bohemica*, Photo by Juraj Somolanyi

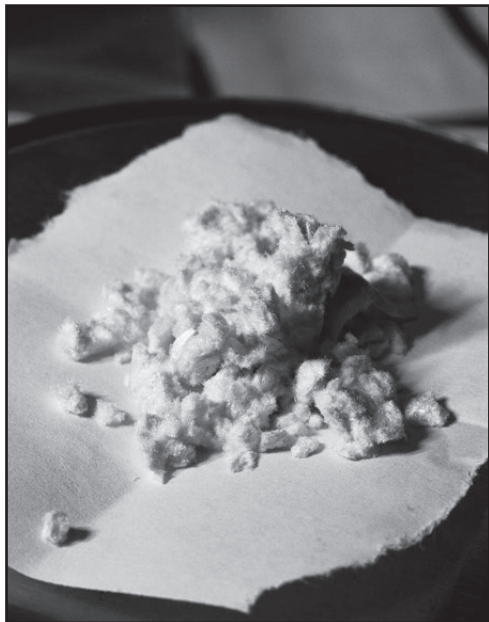


LSD Microdots, Photo by D. Jibbly



Amphetamine Tablets, Photo by Quentin Kellogg

An Illustrated Lesson



Fluffy MDPV Weighed and Ready for Dissolving
Anonymous Photographer



Plastic Shot Glass after 30 Seconds in Microwave
Anonymous Photographer

MDPV is active at under 10 mg, making liquid measuring key for accurate, safe dosing. A plastic shot glass, containing 250 mg of MDPV in 50 ml of distilled water, was microwaved for 30 seconds to fully dissolve the material. The shot glass cracked and burst, spilling the MDPV solution into the microwave.

Servers, Challenges, and Privacy

One of the important ongoing tasks at Erowid is to maintain the servers that make our online resources available to almost 20 million unique visitors each year.

Erowid currently operates three dedicated physical servers and three virtual servers, which monitor or proxy the primary servers. Our two staff and three volunteer sysadmins keep the server software and operating systems up to date, implement security fixes, replace hardware as necessary, protect the privacy of visitors, and make sure our websites are responsive.

At 6 am on November 3rd, the Erowid.org web server began responding slowly. Our normal 150 millisecond response time degraded to an average of 6.5 seconds, more than 40 times slower than it should be.

After a few days, we realized that the problem was persisting. Beginning at 6 am and ending at 8 pm every day (west coast time), the main server was responding slowly. Our best guess was that a new site indexer (such as Google or Bing) or site archiver was causing the slowdown by overloading our server. But, after extensive review of our logs and watching site traffic, we couldn't find an obvious culprit. The number of visitors wasn't significantly higher than usual, the number of file hits hadn't jumped, and the types of traffic hadn't changed.

JL, our lead sysadmin, was eventually able to solve the problem and bring the server response time back down to the 150 millisecond average by reducing the number and duration of "keep alive" requests (active connections) that we would accept. For reasons that remain a mystery, on November 3rd, some browsers began holding open connections for much longer than they had previously.

Individual browsers were holding open request tunnels that eventually filled up the maximum number of concurrent connections the server could handle. Additional requests then had to wait for an open connection to close.

Though systems administration is usually done behind the scenes, only drawing attention when things stop working, it is an extremely important task that underlies the success of an online project like Erowid.org.

As we enter 2014, we again have to reassess our priorities: how we strike a balance between privacy, security, and systems costs. BurningMan.com, with which we have shared a server rack for 13 years, might be moving their main operations into "the cloud". This could result in the dissolution of the group of organizations with which we share bandwidth. Moving services into cloud systems like Amazon's AWS can reduce maintenance costs substantially, but it also means less privacy for visitors and less control over our data, including email and visitor submissions. We will continue weighing our options and the costs of continuing to own and operate dedicated Erowid server hardware. ○



EROWID SITE STATISTICS

DAILY	Viewers	97,525	File Hits	3,279,306
	Transfer	35.65 GB	Page Hits	313,568

BY MONTH		Avg Daily Viewers	Avg Daily Page Hits	Avg Daily File Hits
	Nov 2013	102,239	309,234	3,085,898
	Oct 2013	99,527	317,657	3,376,527
	Sep 2013	90,810	313,814	3,375,493
	Aug 2013	91,453	299,962	3,259,554
	Jul 2013	89,602	305,370	3,184,862
	Jun 2013	88,341	291,680	3,160,480
	May 2013	89,398	303,449	3,263,076

BY YEAR	2012	80,554	326,344	3,707,001
	2010	64,463	367,591	3,587,903
	2005	41,412	402,567	2,544,202
	2000	12,000	126,000	462,000
	1995	4,608	36,867	140,093

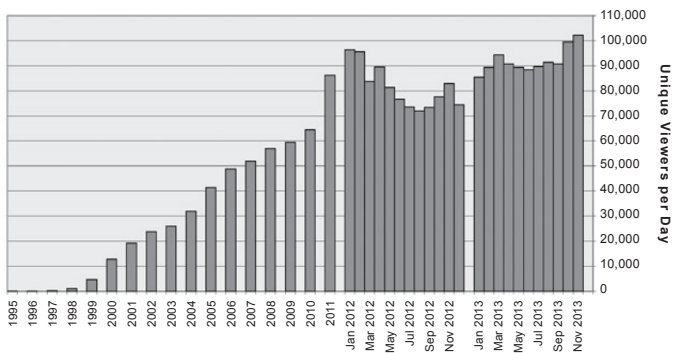
Erowid at Horizons

Earth and Fire were the opening speakers for this year's Horizons Conference in New York City, held at Judson Memorial Church in Manhattan.

It's often the social events and conversations around conferences that provide the richest interactions. The pre-event gathering on Friday evening was a great opportunity to meet interesting and engaged characters. We had a chance to talk with several people from the New York office of the Drug Policy Alliance that we hadn't previously met, as well as dozens of others engaged in studying psychoactive drugs in one way or another.

Earth and Fire delivered a presentation from their State of the Stone series, titled "Winds of Change". They discussed new psychoactive substances, the Silk Road bust from the week before, and upcoming changes in the fast-moving world of research chemicals, cannabis, and pharmaceuticals. ○

Daily Erowid Viewers (1995–2013)



ECSTASYDATA TESTING

2013	Daily Viewers	3,598	Daily Page Hits	10,296
	Results Published	297	Daily File Hits	293,115

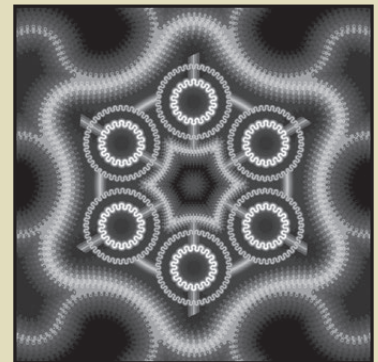
BY YEAR	Results Published		Testing Results (2013)	
	2013	297	Ecstasy Results	217
	2012	310	MDMA Only (39%)	84
	2011	298	MDMA + Something (18%)	39
	2008–2010	422	No MDMA (43%)	94
	2005–2007	198	– Other Stimulants	72
	2002–2004	600	– Nothing	9
	1999–2001	734	– Unidentified	2
	1996–1998	33	Non-Ecstasy Samples	80



Solve et Elucido

Vibrata Chromodoris is a visual artist and designer with a distinctive style that includes vibrant colors, reverberating lines, and abstract figures. In 2013, we asked Vibrata to lend her artistic eye towards the Erowid logo. She took on the challenge and transformed our logo into a fabulous piece of visionary art named "Solve et Elucido".

The results were first presented publicly in April, with details of color and size finalized shortly after. Vibrata is producing a limited-edition signed and numbered run of 100 giclée prints as a fundraiser for Erowid Center. Each will be 12" x 12" (30.5 x 30.5 cm), printed on canvas, stretched, and signed by Vibrata, Earth, and Fire. We're kicking off their release by making ten available as membership gifts at the \$500 "Sponsor" level! ○



VERBATIM

“Every truth in this world stretched beyond its limits will become a false doctrine.”

— K.P. Yohannan (b. 1950)

“Life is to be lived, not controlled; and humanity is won by continuing to play in face of certain defeat.”

— Ralph Ellison (1914–1994)

“The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum...”

— Noam Chomsky (b. 1928)

“Whoever controls the media, controls the mind.”

— Jim Morrison (1943–1971)

“Withholding information is the essence of tyranny. Control of the flow of information is the tool of the dictatorship.”

— Bruce Coville (b. 1950)

“The most erroneous assumption is to the effect that the aim of public education is to fill the young of the species with knowledge and awaken their intelligence, and so make them fit to discharge the duties of citizenship in an enlightened and independent manner. Nothing could be further from the truth. The aim of public education is not to spread enlightenment at all; it is simply to reduce as many individuals as possible to the same safe level, to breed and train a standardized citizenry, to put down dissent and originality.”

— H.L. Menken (1880–1956)

“Chaos was the law of nature; Order was the dream of man.”

— Henry Adams (1838–1918)

“Chaos is what we’ve lost touch with. This is why it is given a bad name. It is feared by the dominant archetype of our world, which is Ego, which clenches because its existence is defined in terms of control.”

— Terence McKenna (1946–2000)

“One must have chaos in oneself in order to give birth to a dancing star.”

— Friedrich Nietzsche (1844–1900)

**Nada hay
más surreal
que la
realidad.**

**[There is nothing as surreal
as reality.]**

— Salvador Dalí (1904–1989)

“Our real discoveries come from chaos, from going to the place that looks wrong and stupid and foolish.”

— Chuck Palahniuk (b. 1962)

“It’s a cruel and random world, but the chaos is all so beautiful.”

— Hiromu Arakawa (b. 1973)

“Democracy is a seesaw between complete chaos and tolerable confusion.”

— Rohinton Mistry (b. 1952)

“In the space between chaos and shape there was another chance.”

— Jeanette Winterson (b. 1959)

“Your hand opens and closes, opens and closes. If it were always a fist or always stretched open, you would be paralyzed. Your deepest presence is in every small contracting and expanding, the two as beautifully balanced and coordinated as birds’ wings.”

— Rumi (1207–1273)

“I want to caution you against the idea that balance has to be a routine that looks the same week in and week out.”

— Kevin Thoman (b. unknown)

“There is something perfect to be found in the imperfect: the law keeps balance through the juxtaposition of beauty, which gains perfection through nurtured imperfection.”

— Dejan Stojanovic (b. 1959)

“At the heart of science is an essential balance between two seemingly contradictory attitudes— an openness to new ideas, no matter how bizarre or counterintuitive they may be, and the most ruthless skeptical scrutiny of all ideas, old and new. This is how deep truths are winnowed from deep nonsense.”

— Carl Sagan (1934–1996)

“Live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.”

— Robert Fulghum (b. 1937)

“Neither the life of anarchy nor the life enslaved by tyrants, no, worship neither. Strike the balance all in all and god will give you power.”

— Aeschylus (525 BCE–456 BCE)

“Gardens are made of darkness and light entwined.”

— F.T. McKinstry (b. 1963)