

Microgram

Bulletin

Published by:

The Drug Enforcement Administration
Office of Forensic Sciences
Washington, DC 20537

The U.S. Attorney General has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by the Department of Justice. Information, instructions, and disclaimers are published in the January issues.

- JANUARY 2008 -

- INTELLIGENCE ALERT -

**ECSTASY COMBINATION TABLET (CONTAINING METHAMPHETAMINE,
BZP, TFMPP, MDMA, DIBENZYLPIPERAZINE, AND PROCAINE)
IN CONCORD, CALIFORNIA**

The Contra Costa County Sheriff - Coroner's Office Forensic Services Division Laboratory (Martinez, California) recently received a single blue tablet with an Iron Cross logo, approximately 9 millimeters in diameter, suspected Ecstasy (see Photo 1). The exhibit was seized from an individual in Concord by the Concord Police, pursuant to a local arrest for possession (no further details). Analysis of a basic petroleum ether extract by GC/MS indicated a complex mixture of methamphetamine, benzylpiperazine (BZP), trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine (TFMPP), MDMA, 1,4-dibenzylpiperazine, and procaine (BZP not quantitated, but a moderate loading based on the TIC). This was the laboratory's first encounter with a tablet with this logo, and also with BZP in any form.



Photo 1

[Editor's Note: This also appears to be the first report of dibenzylpiperazine to *Microgram*.]

- INTELLIGENCE ALERT -

**LARGE SEIZURE OF PSILOCYBIN MUSHROOMS AND MARIJUANA
IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MISSOURI**

The Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Laboratory (Jefferson City) recently received five medium sized suitcases, one containing three 5-gallon bags of dried mushrooms, one containing two 5-gallon bags of dried mushrooms, all presumed psilocybe mushrooms (see Photo 2), and three containing vacuum sealed plastic bags containing dried plant material, all presumed marijuana (no photos). The exhibits were seized in Montgomery County (about 80 miles west of St. Louis) by the Missouri State Highway Patrol - Troop F (no further details). Analysis of the mushrooms (total net mass 2.25 kilograms) by TLC and GC/MS confirmed psilocin (not quantitated). Analysis of the plant material (total net mass 5.40 kilograms) by microscopic examination, TLC, and modified Duquenois-Levine confirmed marijuana (THC not quantitated). The laboratory has previously seen similar exhibits, but this is believed to be the largest ever submission of psilocybe mushrooms to the laboratory.



Photo 2

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- INTELLIGENCE ALERT -

WOOD CHIPS IMPREGNATED WITH COCAINE IN BOLIVIA

The DEA Special Testing and Research Laboratory (Dulles, Virginia) recently received a submission of thin, brown wood chips from the DEA Cochabamba, Bolivia Resident Office, suspected to contain cocaine (see Photo 3). The exhibit (total net mass 16 grams) was a sample from a larger seizure made by the Bolivian National Police (location and details not provided). Analysis of a chloroform extract of the chips with GC, GC/MS, and FTIR/ATR confirmed 5.0 percent cocaine (relative to sample weight), calculated as the hydrochloride. This is the first submission of this type to the Special Testing and Research Laboratory.



Photo 3

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- INTELLIGENCE ALERT -

**HEROIN SMUGGLED FROM BOGOTA TO MIAMI
IN AN OPERATIONAL LAPTOP COMPUTER**

The DEA Northeast Laboratory (New York, New York) recently received a laptop computer and its external power supply, both containing concealed packages of beige powder, suspected heroin (see Photos 4 and 5, both displayed oversize to show detail). The exhibits were seized by Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel from a passenger arriving at Miami's International Airport from a flight originating from Bogota, Colombia. Unusually, the computer was apparently functional, with LED lights and fans operational when turned on. The laptop had four packages, each wrapped in tape and carbon paper, placed in the areas normally occupied by the second internal battery and the CD drive (both of which had been removed). The power supply contained a single, similarly wrapped package. Analysis of the powder (total net mass 520.9 grams) by GC/FID, GC/MS, and FTIR/ATR confirmed 67 percent heroin hydrochloride, adulterated with caffeine and thiamine (adulterants not quantitated). This was the first time the Northeast Laboratory has received a laptop that was apparently functional; however, a second such laptop has since been submitted to the laboratory.

[Editor's Notes: There have been a number of reports to *Microgram* of non-functional computers and/or computer components being used to smuggle controlled substances. This is the first report of a partially operational computer used in this manner, and appears to be intended to take advantage of the common practice of passing electronics through airport security checkpoints once they have been shown to be "operational."]



Photo 4



Photo 5

- INTELLIGENCE ALERT -

FRESH PEYOTE IN GOOCHLAND, VIRGINIA

The DEA Mid-Atlantic Laboratory (Largo, Maryland) recently received a box of tubers, suspected fresh peyote cacti (see Photo 6). The exhibit was seized in Goochland, Virginia by agents from the DEA Richmond District Office (Goochland is about 20 miles west-northwest of Richmond). Analysis of the material (total net mass 471.8 grams) by GC/FID and GC/MS confirmed mescaline (3,4,5-trimethoxyphenethylamine; not quantitated). This is the first submission of fresh peyote cacti to the Mid-Atlantic Laboratory.



Photo 6

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- INTELLIGENCE ALERT -

**ECSTASY MIMIC TABLETS (CONTAINING BZP, TFMPP, AND CAFFEINE)
IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

The DEA North Central Laboratory (Chicago, Illinois) recently received nine exhibits containing a total of 1432 tablets of varying colors and logos, all suspected MDMA (no photos). The exhibits were acquired via two purchases in Detroit by DEA and Task Force personnel (details sensitive). The tablets were all approximately 8 mm in diameter by 5 mm thick, and averaged 288 milligrams (ranging from 269 to 303 milligrams). The colors and logos included yellow tablets with Air Jordan logos, purple/blue tablets with Adidas logos, pink tablets with teddy bear logos, and pink tablets with a man's head silhouette logo. Analysis of the tablets via GC/MS and GC/FID, however, indicated not MDMA but rather a mixture of benzylpiperazine (BZP),

trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine (TFMPP), and caffeine. The BZP was not formally quantitated, but was estimated to be 84 milligrams per tablet based on the GC/FID chromatogram (average of three different tablets). These were the first submissions of Ecstasy mimic tablets containing BZP to the North Central Laboratory in several years; however, since these submissions, the laboratory has seen an increase in tablets containing BZP, both with and without MDMA.

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- INTELLIGENCE ALERT -

LARGE SEIZURE OF MDMA POWDER IN OKANOGAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The DEA Western Laboratory (San Francisco, California) recently received 30 uniformly packaged one-gallon plastic bags containing a fluffy tan powder, suspected MDMA (see Photo 7; note that the smudge marks on the packages are smeared magic marker markings on the inner plastic bags). The exhibits were seized by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement personnel from a stash-site near a fixed wing aircraft that had abruptly landed at a makeshift airstrip in Okanogan County (central Washington) after entering U.S. airspace from Canada. Analysis of the powder (total net mass 29.89 kilograms) by color testing, IR, GC/FID, GC/MS, and HPLC confirmed 96 percent MDMA HCl. The Western Laboratory rarely receives MDMA powder exhibits of this size.



Photo 7

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SELECTED REFERENCES

[The Selected References section is a compilation of recent publications of presumed interest to forensic chemists. Unless otherwise stated, all listed citations are published in English. Abbreviated mailing address information duplicates that provided by the abstracting service. Patents and Proceedings are reported only by their *Chemical Abstracts* citation number.]

1. Awad T, DeRuiter J, Clark CR. **Chromatographic and mass spectral studies on methoxy methyl methamphetamines related to 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine.** Journal of Chromatographic Science 2007;45(8):466. [Editor's Notes: Mass spectral differentiation of 3,4-MDMA from some of the methoxy methyl methamphetamines was possible after formation of the pentafluoropropionamide (PFPA) and heptafluorobutyramide (HFBA) derivatives. Contact: Auburn Univ, Sch Pharm, Dept Pharmacol Sci, Auburn, AL 36849.]
2. Awad T, Clark CR, DeRuiter J. **GC-MS analysis of acylated derivatives of the side-chain regioisomers of 4-methoxy-3-methylphenethylamines related to methylenedioxy-**

- methamphetamine.** Journal of Chromatographic Science 2007;45(8):477. [Editor's Notes: The 5 side-chain regioisomers of the title parent compound were examined. Mass spectral differentiation was possible after formation of the perfluoroacyl derivatives, pentafluoropropionamides and heptafluorobutyrylamides. Contact: Auburn Univ, Sch Pharm, Dept Pharmacol Sci, Auburn, AL 36849.]
3. Awad T, DeRuiter J, Clark CR. **Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry analysis of regioisomeric ring substituted methoxy methyl phenylacetones.** Journal of Chromatographic Science 2007;45(8):458. [Editor's Notes: The 10 regioisomeric methoxy methyl phenylacetones were prepared from the appropriately substituted benzaldehydes. Complete resolution of all ten regioisomeric ketones was obtained on a stationary phase containing modified beta-cyclodextrin. The compounds demonstrate essentially equivalent mass spectra with major fragment ions at m/z 135 and 43. The methoxy methyl phenylacetones with an ortho methoxy group show a further fragmentation to lose formaldehyde (CH₂O) and yield a significant ion at m/z 105. Contact: Auburn Univ, Sch Pharm, Dept Pharmacol Sci, Auburn, AL 36849.]
 4. Boleda MR, Galceran MT, Ventura F. **Trace determination of cannabinoids and opiates in wastewater and surface waters by ultra-performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry.** Journal of Chromatography A 2007;1175(1):38. [Editor's Notes: UPLC-MS/MS was used to detect and quantify cannabinoids (THC), opiates (morphine, codeine, heroin, methadone, fentanyl) and their metabolites. Contact: AGBAR, Aigües de Barcelona, Avinguda Diagonal 211, 08018 Barcelona, Spain.]
 5. Du H, Ge H, Yu L, Wang X. **Fast detection of clonazepam mixed illegally in traditional Chinese medicine by TLCS.** Zhongguo Yaoshi 2007;10(9):891. [Editor's Notes: TLCS was used to detect clonazepam in a Danlian Anshen capsule. This article is written in Chinese. Contact: Institute for Drug Control, Chinese People's Armed Police Forces, Beijing 102613, Peop. Rep. China.]
 6. Giraudon I, Bello PY. **Monitoring ecstasy content in France: Results from the national surveillance system 1999-2004.** Substance Use & Misuse 2007;42(10):1567-78. [Editor's Notes: A survey and discussion. 7,004 tablets were analyzed. Contact: Observatoire Français des Drogues et Toxicomanies (French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction); no further addressing information was provided.]
 7. Lin X, Wang J, Li L, Wang X, Lü H, Xie Z. **Separation and determination of five major opium alkaloids with mixed mode of hydrophilic/cation-exchange monolith by pressurized capillary electrochromatography.** Journal of Separation Science 2007;30(17):3011. [Editor's Notes: Presents analysis of Pericarpium papaveris by pCEC on a monolithic column; the title alkaloids were narcotine, papaverine, thebaine, codeine, and morphine. Contact: Department of Chemistry, Fuzhou University, Fuzhou, Fujian, P. R. China.]
 8. Luiz da Costa J, Wang AY, Micke GA, Maldaner AO, Romano RL, Martins-Junior HA, Negrini Neto O, Tavares MFM. **Chemical identification of 2,5-dimethoxy-4-bromoamphetamine (DOB).** Forensic Science International 2007;173(2-3):130. [Editor's Notes: Presents the title study on a 31 capsule seizure (each containing only 1.5 milligrams of powder). Analyses were performed using color tests, HPTLC, CZE, MS, CID-MS, and IR. Contact: Instrumental Analysis Laboratory, Criminalistic Institute of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo-SP, Brazil.]
 9. Pavlova V, Petrovska-Jovanovic S. **Simultaneous determination of amphetamine, methamphetamine, and caffeine in seized tablets by high-performance liquid**

chromatography. Acta Chromatographica 2007;18:157. [Editor's Notes: The HPLC method used was reverse phase; UV was used for detection and identification. Contact: Institute of Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Science and Mathematics, Saints Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia 1000.]

10. Reid RG, Durham DG, Boyle SP, Low AS, Wangboonskul J. **Differentiation of opium and poppy straw using capillary electrophoresis and pattern recognition techniques.** Analytica Chimica Acta 2007;605(1):20. [Editor's Notes: Opium samples from four different locations, and poppy straw from different plant varieties, were assayed using micellar CE incorporating a sweeping technique. Alkaloids (morphine, codeine, papaverine, noscapine, thebaine, oripavine, reticuline and narceine) were quantitatively determined. Pattern recognition of the samples by hierarchical cluster analysis and principal component analysis showed distinct clusters. Contact: School of Pharmacy, The Robert Gordon University, Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1FR, UK.]
11. Webb R, Doble P, Dawson M. **A rapid CZE method for the analysis of benzodiazepines in spiked beverages.** Electrophoresis 2007;28(19):3553. [Editor's Notes: The title substrates were nitrazepam oxazepam, alprazolam, flunitrazepam, temazepam, diazepam, 7-aminoflunitrazepam, 7-aminonitrazepam and 7-aminoclonazepam. The validated method was successfully applied to beverages that had been spiked with benzodiazepines at concentrations simulating prescription tablets. With one exception, no sample pretreatment was required. Contact: Centre for Forensic Science, Department of Chemistry, Materials and Forensic Science, University of Technology, Sydney, NSW, Australia.]

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THE JOURNAL/TEXTBOOK COLLECTION EXCHANGE

The Journal/Textbook Collection Exchange is a service intended to facilitate the transfer of unwanted journals and textbooks to forensic libraries or other *Microgram* subscribers. At present, this service is offered once a quarter (in January, April, July, and October). The current donations are listed below. The offers are First Come/First Serve (except **libraries have preference**). There are no charges to the requestor. Please provide a full mailing address in the request. **Important!:** Do not provide an address that irradiates mail!

Journal of Forensic Sciences:

1992 - All

1993 - January (#1, 2 Copies), March (#2), July (#4), September (#5), and November (#6)

1994 - March (#2), May (#3), and July (#4)

2005 - May (#3) and July (#4)

All subscribers are encouraged to donate surplus or unwanted items/collections. Reference texts and long runs of forensic/analytical journals are of particular interest; however, even single issues are worthwhile, and may fill a hole in an existing collection. If interested, please consult the *Microgram* website or contact the *Microgram* Editor for further instructions.

The next offering of journals and textbooks will be in the April 2008 issue of *Microgram Bulletin*.

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THE DEA FY 2008 STATE AND LOCAL FORENSIC CHEMISTS SEMINAR SCHEDULE

The remaining FY 2008 schedule for the State and Local Forensic Chemists Seminar is as follows:

March 10 - 14 May 5 - 9 September 8 - 12

The school is open only to forensic chemists working for law enforcement agencies, and is intended for chemists who have completed their agency's internal training program and have also been working on the bench for at least one year. There is no tuition charge. The course is held at the Hyatt Place Dulles North in Sterling, Virginia (near the Washington/Dulles International Airport). A copy of the application form is reproduced on the last page of the August 2004 issue of *Microgram Bulletin*. (See: <http://www.dea.gov/programs/forensicsci/microgram/mg0804/aug04.pdf>) Completed applications should be mailed to the Special Testing and Research Laboratory (Attention: J. Head) at: 22624 Dulles Summit Court, Dulles, VA 20166. For additional information, call 703/668-3349.

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Microgram Surface Mail Address Change

On October 12th, 2007 the address for "hard" mailings to the *Microgram* Editor changed to:

DEA Headquarters
Attn: Office of Forensic Sciences/Microgram Editor
8701 Morrisette Drive
Springfield, VA 22152

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Microgram email Address Changes

Effective January 1st, 2008 the email address for the *Microgram* Editor changed to:

[DEA-Microgram-2008 -at- mailsnare.net](mailto:DEA-Microgram-2008-at-mailsnare.net)

The previous email address ([microgram-2007 -at- mailsnare.net](mailto:microgram-2007-at-mailsnare.net)) will be monitored until January 31st, 2008. An automated response will direct senders to the new address until April 1st, 2008, at which point the account will lapse.

Important Notes to All Subscribers: All subscribers with filters on their accounts should immediately "whitelist" the [DEA-Microgram-2008 -at- mailsnare.net](mailto:DEA-Microgram-2008-at-mailsnare.net) email address. In addition, it is recommended that the current and previous email addresses used for *Microgram* ([microgram-2007 -at- mailsnare.net](mailto:microgram-2007-at-mailsnare.net) (and) [microgram_editor -at- mailsnare.net](mailto:microgram_editor-at-mailsnare.net)) be automatically filtered (blocked) after January 1st, 2008. They will no longer be used by *Microgram* after this date; therefore, any subsequent emails from these addresses will be spam - note that the *Microgram* email addresses are already routinely "hijacked" and used to send spam, and this fraudulent use will continue and likely will increase in future years (it is not possible for the *Microgram* Editor to prevent or control this problem).

All subscribers should notify their IT security personnel of all the above changes.

Information and Instructions for *Microgram Bulletin*

[Editor's Preface: The following information and instructions are derived from the *Microgram* website < <http://www.dea.gov/programs/forensicsci/microgram/index.html> >, and are provided here for the convenience of those subscribers who are only receiving printed "circulation" copies of *Microgram Bulletin* at their Offices.]

General Information

Microgram Bulletin is a monthly newsletter published by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Office of Forensic Sciences, and is primarily intended to assist and serve forensic scientists concerned with the detection and analyses of suspected controlled substances for forensic/law enforcement purposes.

Access to *Microgram Bulletin*

Microgram Bulletin is unclassified (as of the January 2003 issue), and is published on the DEA public access website (see the above URL). At this time, *Microgram Bulletin* is available only electronically, and requires Internet access. Professional scientific and law enforcement personnel may request email notifications when new issues are posted (such notifications are not available to private citizens). The publications themselves are never sent electronically (that is, as attachments).

Requests to be added to the email notification list should preferably be submitted via email to the *Microgram* Editor at: DEA-Microgram-2008-at-mailsnare.net Requests can also be mailed to: DEA Headquarters; Attn: Office of Forensic Sciences/Microgram Editor; 8701 Morrisette Drive; Springfield, VA 22152. All requests to be added to the *Microgram* email notification list should include the following **Standard Contact Information**:

- * The Full Name and Mailing Address of Submitting Laboratory or Office;
- * The Full Name, Title (Laboratory Director, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Librarian, etc.), Phone Number, FAX Number, and Preferred email Address of the Submitting Individual (Note that (when possible) email notifications are mailed to titles, not names, in order to avoid problems arising from future personnel changes);
- * If available, the generic email address for the Submitting Laboratory or Office;
- * If a generic email address is not available, **one** stable email address for a long-term employee, who will be responsible for forwarding *Microgram* information to all of the other employees in the requestor's Office (**Note that only one email address per Office will be honored**).

Requests to be removed from the *Microgram* email notification list, or to change an existing email address, should also be sent to the *Microgram* Editor. Such requests should include all of the pertinent Standard Contact Information detailed above, and also should provide both the previous and the new email addresses.

Email notification requests/changes are usually implemented within six weeks.

Email Notifications (Additional Comments)

As noted above, the email notification indicates which issue has been posted, provides the *Microgram* URL, and additional information as appropriate. Note that *Microgram* e-notices will NEVER include any attachments, or any hyperlink other than the *Microgram* URL. **This is important, because the Microgram email address is routinely hijacked and used to send spam, very commonly including malicious attachments.** For this reason, all subscribers are urged to have current anti-viral, anti-spyware, and firewall programs in operation. However, in order to ensure that the email notifications are not filtered as spam, the [DEA-Microgram-2008 -at- mailsnare](mailto:DEA-Microgram-2008-at-mailsnare) email address must be “whitelisted” by the Office’s ISP.

Costs

Access to *Microgram Bulletin* is free.

Submissions to Microgram Bulletin

Microgram Bulletin includes Intelligence Alerts, Intelligence Briefs, Safety Alerts, Selected Intelligence Briefs, Selected Literature References, Meeting Announcements, Employment Opportunities, pertinent sections from the Code of Federal Regulations, Columns of topical importance, and similar material of interest to the counter-drug community. Explanatory details for most of the above types of submission are detailed below, and typical examples are published in most issues of *Microgram Bulletin*.

All submissions must be in English. Because *Microgram Bulletin* is unclassified, **case sensitive information should not be submitted!** All submissions should, whenever possible, be submitted electronically, as straight email or as an IBM® PC-compatible Corel WordPerfect® or Microsoft Word® attachment, to: [DEA-Microgram-2008 -at- mailsnare.net](mailto:DEA-Microgram-2008-at-mailsnare.net) Current versions of Corel WordPerfect® or Microsoft Word® (defined as having release dates less than 5 years old) should be utilized. If email submission is not possible, submissions may be mailed to: DEA Headquarters; Attn: Office of Forensic Sciences/Microgram Editor; 8701 Morrisette Drive; Springfield, VA 22152. Hard copy mailings should be accompanied by an electronic version on either a 3 ½ inch IBM® PC-compatible diskette or a standard CD-R. **Note that diskettes should be mailed in an irradiation-proof protective sleeve, and the mailing envelope should be marked: “Warning - Contains Electronic Media - Do Not Irradiate”.** Note also that mailed submissions may be subject to lengthy handling delays beyond the control of the Office of Forensic Sciences, and electronic media sent through the mail may be destroyed en route by sanitizing procedures, despite protective measures and written warnings. All submissions should include the following **Contact Information:** The Full Name and Address of Submitting Laboratory or Office, and the Full Name, Phone Number, FAX Number, and Preferred email Address of the Submitting Individual.

Intelligence Alerts and Briefs are concise synopses of the physical and chemical characteristics of novel and/or interesting exhibits submitted to law enforcement laboratories involved in the detection and analyses of suspected controlled substances for forensic/law enforcement purposes. Alerts have some unusual aspect, such as a novel drug, an atypical formulation, or a new smuggling technique, whereas Briefs are reports of routine analyses (that is, that confirmed what was suspected/expected). Both Alerts and Briefs should include descriptive details adhering to (as appropriate) the following outline:

What laboratory did the analysis? (Full Name)

Where is the laboratory located?

What agency seized the exhibit?

Where was the exhibit seized? (If an obscure locale, give distance and direction from the nearest city)

Were there any interesting (but non-sensitive) aspects of the seizure (traffic stop, unusual smuggling technique, at a “Rave,” etc.)

What controlled substance was suspected upon submission?
Detailed physical description (appearance, dimensions, logos, odor, packaging, etc.)
Quantities (numbers of tablets, packages or bricks, average mass, total net mass, etc.)
Photos (see additional information, below)
What techniques were used to analyze the exhibit?
Actual composition of the exhibit?
Quantitation data? (if not quantitated, provide a qualitative approximation if possible)
Adulterants and diluents? (if identified, especially if unusual)
First seizure of this type? (if not, provide brief details of previous examples)
Editorial comments? (if any)
Literature references for unusual submissions? (if needed)

In order to avoid confusion, if uncommon controlled substances are identified, the description should use the full chemical name(s) of the identified substances (if desired, acronyms or street terminology (e.g., "Foxy-Methoxy", "Nexus", or "STP") can be included in parentheses after the full chemical name).

Photographs should be provided as ATTACHMENTS, not as embedded images in documents. Jpeg images are preferred. Photographs should be of reasonable size - 150 - 250 kbytes per photograph. Unless the scale is obvious, photographs of subject exhibit(s) should include either a metric ruled scale or a coin or bill (U.S. currency) to place the exhibit's size in context.

Safety Alerts are urgent communiques to the *Microgram Bulletin* readership which give notice of a specific safety issue of particular interest to forensic or crime laboratory personnel, or to law enforcement personnel dealing with controlled substances. They should include a concise synopsis of the incident(s), recommendations (if any), pertinent literature citations (if any are known), and a mechanism for providing feedback (if appropriate).

Selected Intelligence Briefs are reprinted (with permission) unclassified intelligence briefs of presumed interest to the *Microgram Bulletin* readership that have been previously published in restricted or non-restricted publications or websites that are also dedicated to the detection and analyses of suspected controlled substances for forensic/law enforcement purposes. Selected Intelligence Briefs must be unclassified, and should be a minimum of 1 page and a maximum of 10 pages in length (single spaced at 11 pitch Times New Roman font, including photos, tables, charts, etc.) All *Microgram Bulletin* subscribers are invited to submit such material, which must include the author's and publisher's contact information.

Selected Literature References is a monthly compilation of reference citations of presumed interest to the *Microgram Bulletin* readership, derived from approximately 7,500 scientific periodicals. The focus of the Selected Literature References is the detection and analysis of suspected controlled substances for forensic/law enforcement purposes. References from clinical and toxicological journals are included only if the material is considered to be of high interest to forensic chemists (for example, contains the mass spectra of an unusual substance that is not known to be published elsewhere). Note that citations from obscure periodicals may be missed, and all *Microgram Bulletin* subscribers are invited to submit citations of interest if they do not appear in *Microgram Bulletin* within three months of their publication. Of particular interest are articles from regional forensic science associations that are unlikely to be noted by any abstracting service. Citations should include a summary sentence and the primary author's contact information.

Meeting Announcements list upcoming meetings of presumed interest to the *Microgram Bulletin* readership. **In general, only meetings which are dedicated to forensic chemistry/forensic drug analysis or include a subsection so dedicated will be publicized in *Microgram Bulletin*.** Meeting Announcements should include the Formal Title, Sponsoring Organization, Inclusive Dates, Location

(City, State, and specific locale), Registration Deadline, Recommended Hotel (include details on special rates and deadlines where applicable), and Contact Individual's Name, Phone Number, and email Address. If available, the URL for the meeting website should also be included in the Announcement. Meeting Announcements will be posted for a maximum of three consecutive months, or (alternately) three times every other month over a five month period, but not past the registration deadline.

Employment Opportunities lists job announcements of presumed interest to the *Microgram Bulletin* readership. **In general, only jobs with a forensic chemistry/forensic drug analysis focus for Federal, State, or Local Crime Laboratories or Offices will be publicized in *Microgram Bulletin*.** Exceptions may be requested and will be considered on a case-by-case basis (for example, an academic position in a Forensic Chemistry Department). Employment Opportunity announcements should include the Formal Title of the Organization, Formal Title of the Laboratory or Office, Position Title, Laboratory or Office Location (City and State), Salary Range, Opening and Closing Dates, Duties, General Requirements, Specialized Requirements (if any), Application Procedures, and the Contact Individual's Name, Phone Number, email Address, and Mailing Address. If available, the URL for the agency's website, and (if available) the specific URL for the job posting should also be included in the Announcement. Employment Opportunities will be posted for a maximum of 3 consecutive months, but not past the application deadline.

The Journal/Textbook Collection Exchange

If any subscriber is interested in donating any forensic or analytical chemistry journal and/or textbook collection to a fellow subscriber or library, *Microgram Bulletin* is willing to list the offered materials and the associated contact information in a future issue (currently January, April, July, and October). The general format should follow the example in the January 2003 issue, and should be sent via email to the *Microgram* Editor at: [DEA-Microgram-2008 -at- mailsnare.net](mailto:DEA-Microgram-2008-at-mailsnare.net) Only items for donation (not for sale) will be considered for publication, and donations to libraries should adhere to journal restrictions and/or time limits (if any) on such offers.

Requests for *Microgram* and/or *Microgram Bulletin* Archives, 1967 - 2002

All issues of *Microgram* (November 1967 - March 2002) and the first nine issues of its successor *Microgram Bulletin* (April - December 2002) were and continue to be **Law Enforcement Restricted** publications, and are therefore (permanently) unavailable to the general public. [Note that this restriction includes requests made under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act.]

However, the entire collection, individual issues, or individual sections of issues (e.g., specific articles) are available to law enforcement affiliated offices and laboratories. Requests from such offices and laboratories **must be made on official letterhead** and mailed to:

DEA Headquarters
Attn: Office of Forensic Sciences/*Microgram* Editor
8701 Morrissette Drive
Springfield, VA 22152.

Requests will be sent either by CD or in hard copy (photocopy), as appropriate.

Note that requests made via email will not be honored.

DISCLAIMERS

1) All material published in *Microgram Bulletin* is reviewed prior to publication. However, **the reliability and accuracy of all published information are the responsibility of the respective contributors, and publication in *Microgram Bulletin* implies no endorsement by the United States Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration.**

2) Due to the ease of scanning, copying, electronic manipulating, and/or reprinting, **only the posted copies of *Microgram Bulletin* (on www.dea.gov) are absolutely valid.** All other copies, whether electronic or hard, are necessarily suspect unless verified against the posted versions.

3) **WARNING!:** Due to the often lengthy time delays between the actual dates of seizures and their subsequent reporting in *Microgram Bulletin*, and also because of the often wide variety of seizure types with superficially similar physical attributes, published material cannot be utilized to visually identify controlled substances currently circulating in clandestine markets. **The United States Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Administration assume no liability for the use or misuse of the information published in *Microgram Bulletin*.**

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