



PharmChem

# Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 1

1972

PharmChem Laboratories, incorporated in 1970 by people concerned about the increasing non-medical use of drugs, is a licensed laboratory that specializes exclusively in the analysis of illicit drugs. In less than two years the company has established itself as a reliable, professional testing service for analyzing and identifying substances for the presence or absence of abused drugs. Through the use of modern analytical techniques, over one hundred commonly abused drugs are readily identified in either urine or solid ("street") samples.

Clients of PharmChem Laboratories include: individuals, health professionals, school districts, methadone maintenance programs, drug treatment clinics, hospitals, and other agencies that are involved in the treatment of drug abusers or the control of illicit drugs.

One of the services PharmChem Laboratories intends to offer to interested agencies or individuals concerned with the "drug problem" is a monthly newsletter. Topics will include detailed reports on specific drugs, trends in illicit drug trafficking, and a report on "street" drug samples that the laboratory analyzes. Many of the "street samples analyzed and identified by the laboratory are obtained through ANALYSIS ANONYMOUS<sup>®</sup>, a new, confidential testing service that determines the presence or absence of abused drugs in substances submitted for analysis. This service is available to *anyone*; contact PharmChem Laboratories for further information.

## on the street



Almost all the street samples analyzed during this reporting period originated in suburban counties in the San Francisco Bay area. Identified drugs represented in these samples include: hypnotics, tranquilizers, stimulants, and hallucinogens. Over half of the thirty samples tested contained LSD; of these, three also contained PCP.

As is often the case in the illicit drug market, many of the drugs alleged to be mescaline, psilocybin, or THC actually contained LSD. One apparent reason for this misrepresentation is that it is more profitable to sell LSD (\$.50 – \$1.50/dose) under the name of mescaline or psilocybin (\$2.50 – \$5.00/dose). There is widespread interest among drug users in trying these more exotic psychedelic drugs; however, these drugs are rarely seen today on the illicit market. Consequently, drug dealers can readily increase their sales

by mislabeling their product as "mescaline" or "psilocybin".

The alleged content of all street samples tested corresponded to the true content in only 30% of the drugs analyzed. In other words, there is a 70% chance that what someone buys actually contains some other substance. It is also interesting to note that frequently the laboratory analyzes what appears to be two identical street samples; it is later discovered that the samples contain two or more entirely different substances.

"Temple Balls" is the street name of one sample analyzed during this reporting period. It was identified as hashish in combination with another unidentifiable substance. This sample was received from Orange County in Southern California.

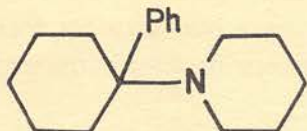


One exotic street sample identified in the laboratory during December, 1971, is a drug known as Ibogaine, an extract of the shrub *Tabernanthe iboga*. According to one reference, iboga extracts are used by African natives while stalking game to enable them to remain motionless for up to 48 hours while retaining mental alertness. Two samples of this drug were received; one from San Mateo County and the other from Marin County.

On the following page is a tabulation of the street drugs referred to above. A report on PCP (phencyclidine), a drug currently available on the illicit market, is the subject of the newsletter this month.

### PHENCYCLIDINE (PCP)

PharmChem Laboratory has recently seen an increase of PCP on the illicit market. The following information is presented in the interest of familiarizing you with this drug.



Phencyclidine is an animal anesthetic legitimately available for veterinary use. It was originally developed and marketed as Sernyl<sup>®</sup> by Parke Davis and Co. The drug is now marketed by Bio-Ceutics Laboratories. It is known "on the street" under the names of "angel dust", "hog", "mint weed", and "peace pill". It is sometimes misrepresented on the illicit market as being mescaline, psilocybin, or THC; today it is a common ingredient in psychedelic preparations. The physical appearance of street sample of PCP include a capsule, tablet, or a light colored powder. It is taken orally, sniffed, or inhaled by smoking (the drug is sprinkled on marijuana, mint or parsley leaves for smoking) and sometimes intravenously.

There is some disagreement among pharmacologists concerning the classification of this drug; however, it is generally considered to be a psychotomimetic. PCP first appeared on the illicit market in the United States in 1967. In 1968 its use became widespread on the east and west coasts (primarily in New York and California) and since then it has become a commonly abused drug.

**Drug History:** Phencyclidine was developed in the 1950's as a therapeutic drug for human use. It was originally used as an intravenous surgical anesthetic, a pre- and post-operative analgesic, and in the investigational treatment of mental disorders. The useful-

ness of the drug as a general anesthetic for humans was eventually discontinued because of the harmful side effects (agitation, psychotic reactions, and sensory disturbances) that it created. Numerous research studies have indicated that PCP produces disorders in thought processes similar to chronic schizophrenia (schizophrenomimetic). Consequently, research on psychiatric disorders where PCP is used to induce a model psychosis is continuing.

**Physiological Effects:** The effects of phencyclidine on the central nervous system vary markedly with dose. At low doses (5 mg.) given to normal human volunteers, feelings of anxiety, depression or fear together with difficulty in thinking and concentration were reported. However, more than 1,000 humans have received PCP without developing any *acute psychotic reactions or permanently ill effects*. Higher doses (7.5–10 mg.) can result in delusional and hallucinatory experiences and a sensation of apathy and isolation. Larger doses can produce convulsions or a comatose state.

Neurologically, generalized numbness, rapid eye movement, blurred vision, muscular incoordination, and dizziness can occur when large doses (10 mg.+) are administered. These symptoms normally disappear within a few days. Peripheral indications of PCP include flushing and profuse sweating, but pupil size is unaffected. The cardiovascular effects include an increase in blood pressure and abnormal rapidity of heart action.

**Psychological Effects:** Studies on the effects of phencyclidine indicate that it produces psychological disturbances which resemble the primary symptoms of schizophrenia—primary thought disorder and aberrations of attention and perception. Schizophrenic subjects are quite sensitive to PCP and become more agitated in contrast to their behavior after taking either LSD or mescaline. In one investigational study, normal adult human volunteers ingested a 5 mg. PCP tablet. Subjects reported poor concentration, difficulty in muscular coordination, and inability to accurately estimate the passage of time. Volunteers also indicated that they felt remote from everyone ("I am not 'there' really, you know.") and they become generally apathetic ("I feel as if I couldn't care less, really somehow."). Numerous studies have hypothesized that individuals who already feel a degree of social or emotional isolation are most likely to experiment with drugs that offer a new form of psychological "holiday". Research indicates that PCP



apparently intensifies feelings of apathy and isolation. Its potential for causing serious psychological consequences in some people is a relatively serious consideration.

**Metabolic Fate:** It has been reported that 60% of the drug is excreted in the urine within 12 hours of intravenous administration. Traces are apparent up to 8 days after dosage even though the subjective effects last only 4 to 5 hours.

The major urinary metabolite is a conjugated, non-phenolic, dihydroxy phencyclidine derivative. There is approximately 1-2% fecal recovery.

**PRECAUTIONS:** Finally it has been satisfactorily demonstrated by qualified investigators that phencyclidine passes readily through the placental barrier with profound effects on the fetus. It can be categorically stated that women in the second and third trimesters of pregnancy should be discouraged from experimenting with this potent drug. There have been no reports in the literature of teratogenic effects however. When PCP is smoked, particularly with marijuana, the effects are unpredictable. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of consciousness are frequently experienced.

Bibliography available upon request.

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### ON THE STREET

<u>ALLEGED CONTENT</u>	<u>ACTUAL CONTENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ORIGIN</u>	<u>STREET PRICE</u>
1. psilocybin	LSD	orange powder wrapped in paper	San Francisco County	—
2. psilocybin	LSD	orange-brown powder wrapped in paper	San Mateo County	—
3. mescaline	LSD	orange powder in clear capsule	Santa Clara County	\$3.00
4. LSD	LSD	pink tablet	San Mateo County	\$1.00
5. mescaline	LSD	yellow-brown powder in clear capsule	San Mateo County	\$2.50
6. LSD	LSD	bright orange pellet; street name "sunshine"	San Mateo County	\$2.00
7. N.A. (not available)	LSD	dark blue tablet	Santa Clara County	\$1.50
8. mescaline	LSD	white tablet aspirin size with "P" marking	Marin County	—
9. LSD	LSD	white tablet aspirin size	Santa Clara County	—
10. psilocybin	LSD	brown powder in clear capsule	San Mateo County	—
11. LSD	LSD	white tablet aspirin size	San Mateo County	—
12. mescaline	LSD	white tablet aspirin size	Monterey County	—
13. LSD	LSD, PCP (phencyclidine)	light blue tablet	San Mateo County	\$2.00
14. N.A.	LSD, PCP	light green tablet	Marin County	—
15. mescaline, LSD, PCP	LSD, PCP	white tablet, aspirin size; street name "Harvey Wallbanger"	Monterey County	—
16. N.A.	LSD, secobarbital	white tablet, aspirin size with "V" marking	Marin County	—
17. mescaline	mescaline	white tablet, flat	San Mateo County	\$2.50
18. THC	PCP	white powder	San Francisco County	—
19. THC	PCP	pink powder wrapped in paper	San Francisco County	—
20. N.A.	non-barbiturate sedative	½ green, ½ clear capsule with green and white beads	Marin County	—
21. N.A.	chlordiazepoxide (librium)	½ green, ½ black capsule	Marin County	—
22. N.A.	chlordiazepoxide (librium)	white tablet	Marin County	—
23. methamphetamine	amphetamine	white tablet with cross score	San Mateo County	—
24. secobarbital with amobarbital	pentobarbital	blue and red capsule	Monterey County	—
25. N.A.	ibogaine	brown powder in clear capsule	San Mateo County	—
26. N.A.	ibogaine	brown powder wrapped in paper	Marin County	—
27. N.A.	MDA (methylene dioxyamphetamine)	white powder in clear capsule	Sacramento County	—
28. marijuana, PCP	marijuana, PCP	marijuana cigarette	Monterey County	—
29. marijuana, PCP	marijuana, THC	marijuana cigarette	Monterey County	—
30. N.A.	hashish	dark brown sticky substance; street name "Temple Balls"	Orange County	—

# *Newsletter*

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# NEWSLETTER



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## STREET SAMPLE ANALYSIS

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More than 1,000 humans have received PCP without developing any acute psychotic reactions or permanently ill effects. The drug appears to be relatively non-toxic.

Psychological Effects: Studies on the effects of phencyclidine indicate that it produces psychological disturbances which resemble the primary symptoms of schizophrenia—primary thought disorder and aberrations of attention and perception. Schizophrenic subjects are quite sensitive to PCP and become more agitated in contrast to their behavior after taking either LSD or mescaline. In one investigational study, normal adult human volunteers ingested a 5 mg. PCP tablet. Subjects reported poor concentration, difficulty in muscular coordination, and inability to accurately estimate the passage of time. Volunteers also indicated that they felt remote from everyone ("I am not 'there' really, you know.") and they become generally apathetic ("I feel as if I couldn't care less, really somehow."). Numerous studies have hypothesized that individuals who already feel a degree of social or emotional isolation are most likely to experiment with drugs that offer a new form of psychological "holiday". Research indicates that PCP apparently intensifies feelings of apathy and isolation. Its potential for causing serious psychological consequences in some people is a relatively serious consideration.



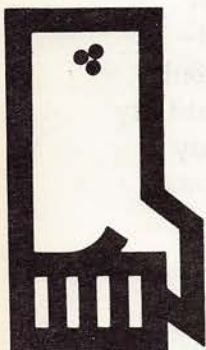
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This is PharmChem Laboratories' first attempt at writing a newsletter. WE SOLICIT YOUR COMMENTS AND CRITICISMS.



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## STREET SAMPLE ANALYSIS

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2. psilocybin	LSD	orange-brown powder wrapped in paper	San Mateo County	-
3. mescaline	LSD	orange powder in clear capsule	Santa Clara County	\$3.00
4. LSD	LSD	pink tablet	San Mateo County	\$1.00
5. mescaline	LSD	yellow-brown powder in clear capsule	San Mateo County	\$2.50
6. LSD	LSD	bright orange pellet; street name "sunshine"	San Mateo County	\$2.00
7. N.A. (not available)	LSD	dark blue tablet	Santa Clara County	\$1.50
8. mescaline	LSD	white tablet aspirin size with "P" marking	Marin County	-
9. LSD	LSD	white tablet aspirin size	Santa Clara County	-
10. psilocybin	LSD	brown powder in clear capsule	San Mateo County	-
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