

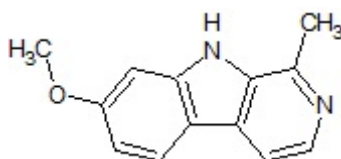
Drug Status Report

Drug: Banisteriopsis caapi

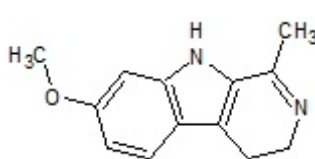
Drug Name Status: Banisteriopsis caapi is the botanical name.

Relevant Ingredients: Harmine, harmaline, and tetrahydroharmine^{1,2,3}.

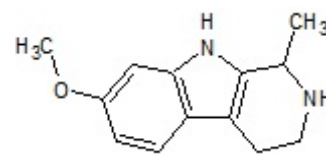
Chemical structure:



Harmine



Harmaline



Tetrahydroharmine

Molecular Formula: Harmine - C₁₃H₁₂N₂O

Harmaline - C₁₃H₁₄N₂O

Tetrahydroharmine - C₁₃H₁₆N₂O

Pharmacological class / Application: monoamine oxidase inhibitors

International status:

US: Harmine, harmaline, and tetrahydroharmine are not listed on the schedules to the US Controlled Substances Act.

United Nations: Harmine, harmaline, and tetrahydroharmine are not listed on the Yellow List - List of Narcotic Drugs under International Control nor the Green List - List of Psychotropic Substances under International Control.

Canadian Status: Banisteriopsis caapi is a South American plant that is an ingredient in ayahuasca, a decoction also containing Psychotria viridis, a plant that contains dimethyltryptamine (DMT). The monoamine oxidase inhibitor activity of the harmine related

¹ Yritia M, Riba J, Ortuño J, Ramirez A, Castillo A, Alfaro Y, de la Torre R, Barbanoj MJ. J Chromatogr B Analyt Technol Biomed Life Sci. 2002 Nov 5;779(2):271-81.

² Riba J, Valle M, Urbano G, Yritia M, Morte A, Barbanoj MJ., J Pharmacol Exp Ther. 2003 Jul;306(1):73-83.

³ http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugs_concern/dmt/dmt.htm

components intensify the activity of orally administered DMT. One of these components, harmaline, is item 9 of Schedule III. According to paragraph 2(2)(a) of the CDSA, “For the purposes of this Act, (a) a reference to a controlled substance includes a reference to any substance that contains a controlled substance”. Plants and other substances containing harmaline are therefore controlled substances.

Recommendation: *Banisteriopsis caapi*, when it contains harmaline, is included in item 9 of Schedule III to the CDSA and is a controlled substance.

November 29, 2008