Drug Status Report

Drug: (-)-Norephedrine

Drug Name Status: (-)-Norephedrine is the common name.

Chemical Name: (R-(R*,S*))-alpha-(1-Aminoethyl)-benzenemethanol

Chemical structure:

Molecular Formula: C₉H₁₃NO

Pharmacological class / Application: fine chemical

International status:

US: The substance is not listed on the schedules to the US Controlled Substances Act.

United Nations: The substance is not listed on the Yellow List - List of Narcotic Drugs under International Control nor on the Green List - List of Psychotropic Substances under International Control

Canadian Status: (-)-Norephedrine is similar to cathine, one of the alkaloids¹ found in khat. Cathine is listed as subitem 19(1) of Schedule IV to the CDSA as, "Cathine (d-threo-2-Amino-1-hydroxy-1-phenylpropane)". This listing denotes only the (S,S) isomer structure above.

Recommendation: (-)-Norephedrine is not included in the schedules to the CDSA and is not a controlled substance.

September 23, 2009

¹ MJ LeBelle, G Lauriault and A Lavoie, Forensic Science International, 61, 53-64 (1993).