

Drug Status Report

Drug: Sceletium (also known as Kanna or Kauwgoed)

Major alkaloids¹ present in the plant: mesembrine; joubertiamine; O-methyljoubertiamine; and dihydrojoubertiamine

Drug Name Status:

I - Mesembrine is the common name

II - Joubertiamine is the common name

III - O-Methyljoubertiamine is the common name

IV - Dihydrojoubertiamine is the common name

Chemical Name:

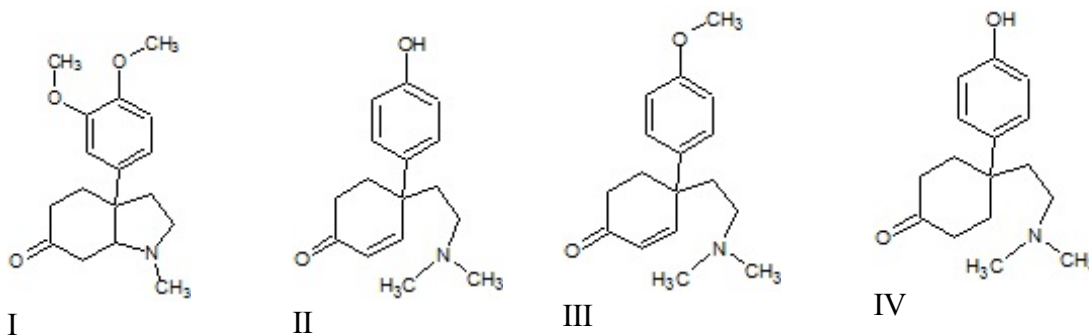
I - 3a-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)octahydro-1-methyl-6H-indol-6-one

II - 4-(2-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-cyclohexen-1-one

III - 4-(2-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-cyclohexen-1-one

IV - 4-(2-Dimethylaminoethyl)-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-cyclohexan-1-one

Chemical structure:



Molecular Formula:

I - $C_{17}H_{23}NO_3$

II - $C_{16}H_{21}NO_2$

III - $C_{17}H_{23}NO_2$

IV - $C_{16}H_{23}NO_2$

Pharmacological class / Application: alkaloid

¹ Patnala S, Kanfer I. J Pharm Biomed Anal. 2008 Jan 9.; Stevens RV, Lai JT. J Org Chem. 1972 Jun 30;37(13):2138-40.

International status:

US: Sceletium and its alkaloids are not listed on the schedules to the US Controlled Substances Act and are not mentioned on the DEA website.

United Nations: Sceletium and its alkaloids are not listed on the Yellow List - List of Narcotic Drugs under International Control. The plant and its alkaloids are not listed on the Green List - List of Psychotropic Substances under International Control.

Canadian Status: The alkaloids of Sceletium are not structurally similar to any group of drugs controlled by the CDSA.

Recommendation: Sceletium and its alkaloids are not included in the schedules to the CDSA and are not controlled substances.

May 16, 2008