Drug Status Report

Drug: Salvia root

Drug Name Status: Radix *Salvia miltiorrhiza* is the proper name.

Other Names: Red Sage; Chinese Sage

Radix *Salvia miltiorrhiza* is the root of *Salvia miltiorrhiza*, a perennial flowering plant native to China and Japan. The substance is widely used in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) where it is commonly known as Dan Sheng for the treatment of blood circulatory disorders and cardiovascular diseases\(^1\). Dan Sheng has also been shown to display anti-inflammatory effects and efficacious in treatment of acute pancreatitis\(^2\).

A wide range of phenolic and diterpenoids have been identified as the bioactive components of Radix *Salvia miltiorrhiza*, for example danshensu, salvianolic acids and tanshinquinone, and their analogues. These bioactive compounds are not similar to any of those listed in the schedules to the CDSA. Furthermore, the psychoactive compound salvinorin A which is present in *Salvia divinorum* has not be reported in *Salvia miltiorrhiza*.

\[ \text{Danshensu: } R_1=\text{OH}; R_2=\text{OH} \]
\[ \text{Danshensu methyl ester: } R_1=\text{OCH}_3; R_2=\text{OH} \]
\[ \text{Caffeic acid: } R_1=\text{OH}; R_2=\text{H}, \Delta_7,8 \]
\[ \text{Caffeic acid methyl ester: } R_1=\text{OCH}_3; R_2=\text{H}, \Delta_7,8 \]

\[ \text{Salvianolic acid A} \]

\[ \text{Tanshinone IIA: } R_1=\text{CH}_3; R_2=\text{CH}_3; R_3=\text{H}; R_4=\text{CH}_3; \Delta_{15,16} \]
\[ \text{Tanshinone IIB: } R_1=\beta-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}; R_2=\alpha-\text{CH}_3; R_3=\text{H}; R_4=\text{CH}_3; \Delta_{15,16} \]
\[ \text{Cryptotanshinone: } R_1=\text{CH}_3; R_2=\text{CH}_3; R_3=\text{H}; R_4=\beta-\text{CH}_3 \]

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Canadian Status: Radix *Salvia miltiorrhizae* is not specifically listed in the CDSA and does not contain any substances that are similar to those listed in the Schedules to the CDSA.

Recommendation: Radix *Salvia miltiorrhizae* is not included in any of the Schedules to the CDSA and is not considered a controlled substance.

May 12th 2010.