Drug Status Report

**Drug:** Voacamine

**Drug Name Status:** Voacamine is the common name.

**Chemical Name:** 12-methoxy-13-((3α)-17-methoxy-17-oxovobasan-3-yl)ibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester

**Chemical structure:**

![Chemical structures of voacangine and ibogaine]

**Molecular Formula:** $C_{43}H_{52}N_{4}O_{5}$

**CAS RN:** 3371-85-5

**Pharmacological class / Application:** Bisindole alkaloid

**International status:**

US: The substance is not currently listed on the US Controlled Substances Act and is not mentioned on the DEA website.

United Nations: The substance is 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: Voacamine is a bisindole alkaloid found in a number of plants such as *Voacanga africana*¹² and *Psechiera fuchsiaefolia*³. Reports in the scientific literature suggest that

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voacamine displays *in vivo* antiplasmodial activity, useful in the treatment of malaria⁴, and enhances the cytotoxic effects of chemotherapeutic agents on multi-drug resistant tumor cells by inducing autophagy⁵.

Voacamine is not currently listed in the Schedules to the CDSA and is not similar to any of the substances listed in the Schedules to the CDSA. It is noteworthy that the acidic cleavage of voacamine produces voacangine, which is similar in structure to ibogaine. Ibogaine is reported to display hallucinogenic properties and is also found in *Voacanga africana*. Ibogaine is a controlled substance in the US and is listed under Schedule I to CSA. However, in Canada, ibogaine is not considered to be a controlled substance.

Recommendation: Voacamine is not included in the Schedules to the CDSA and is not a controlled substance.

June 23rd 2010