



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

Drug Trend Bulletin – Issue 2 July 2015

Pink and yellow colour ‘crack’ cocaine recovered in the Greenock area.

Please see attached photos of pink and yellow colour crack cocaine. They are from separate seizures in the Greenock area this year (2015). It is assessed that food dye is used to turn the rock this colour as a marketing ploy to identify a common source of the drug and a perception of better quality in order to increase repeat business.



Device for nitrous oxide canisters.

The device shown below is commercially produced and sold to facilitate the ‘cracking’ open of nitrous oxide canisters to allow the gas to be expelled into a balloon and then inhaled.



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LSD tabs recovered in the Glasgow area.

The Marilyn Monroe logo blotter art shown in the picture is perforated to mark out 8 individual doses. This article has been examined by the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) drugs laboratory who confirmed the presence of LSD. The 8 individual tabs would normally sell for £5 - £10 each.



New type of cannabis plant – Frisian Duck.

A strain of cannabis called 'Frisian Duck' has been identified in Europe. As can be seen from the photograph the leaf shape is different and there is very little smell from the plant. For these reasons many plants go undetected during the early stages of growth. There are no known recoveries in Scotland.



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Update on 'Shatter'.

This unusual form of cannabis featured in Issue 1 of the Drug Trend Bulletin. Because of its unusual form there was some dubiety regarding what type of cannabis it actually is i.e. cannabis resin or cannabis. Thanks to Mr Peter Cain of the Laboratory of the Government Chemist who reports the substance is purified cannabis resin because it no longer has the microscopic features of cannabis.

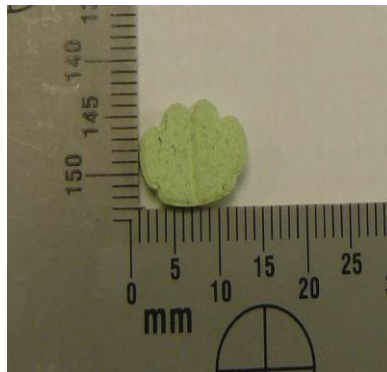


Heroin purity.

There are reports of better quality heroin in circulation. It's not uncommon for heroin to be adulterated with diazepam however the most common adulterant is a brown colour powder containing a mixture of paracetamol and caffeine. Currently heroin purity does appear to be on the increase.

Ecstasy tablet – 'Knuckle-duster' logo.

The tablet shown has been tested by the SPA drugs laboratory and found to contain MDMA (ecstasy). There has been some debate regarding the logo paw print v knuckle-duster, the consensus is knuckle-duster.



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Synthetic cannabis - Sweet Leaf Obliteration

In July 2015, Police Scotland identified the synthetic cannabis 'Sweet Leaf Obliteration' was allegedly the cause of a user having an adverse reaction. The incident occurred in the Glasgow area and the person made a full recovery. It has been confirmed the 'Sweet Leaf Obliteration' package shown below is the same as the one involved in the Glasgow incident.

In June 2015, Wedinos circulated an alert regarding 'Sweet Leaf Obliteration' and other branded synthetic cannabinoids. Wedinos is a Welsh based government funded project managed by Public Health Wales. Their alert has been reproduced with permission as follows:

I am writing to inform you of the hospitalisation of a young male in North Wales on 15th June 2015 following the consumption of the synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist MMB-CHMINACA (MDMD-CHMICA). This substance has been associated with six deaths and several non-fatal intoxications across Europe since September 2014.

The details of the Welsh case are as follows:

On 15th June 2015 a young male from the North Wales area was hospitalised overnight having experienced serious adverse effects following inhaling two or three times from a rolled cigarette / joint containing an unknown substance. The adverse effects included dizziness, nausea, shortness of breath, chest pains, irregular heart beat and convulsions.

The remains of the rolled cigarette / joint were submitted by North Wales Police to WEDINOS as a sample for analysis. The sample was received by WEDINOS on 25th June 2015. On visual inspection the sample contained plant matter and a white powder substance. Following analysis the sample was found to contain nicotine and the synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist MMB-CHMINACA (also known as MDMB-CHMICA).

Previous case reported from European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) early warning system alerts re. MDMB-CHMICA (methyl-2-(1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1 H-indol-3-ylcarbonylamino)-3,3-dimethylbutanoate)

- 25th April 2015 - 2 deaths and 3 non-fatal intoxications in Germany which occurred between September 2014 and January 2015. In all five cases samples recovered from the scene or from the patient were analysed and found to contain MDMB-CHMICA.
- 19th December 2014 - 4 deaths and 6 non-fatal intoxications in Sweden associated with MDMB-CHMICA
- 16th December 2014 - 7 non-fatal intoxications in Austria associated with the use of a 'herbal mixture' product called 'Bonzai citrus' and/or 'Bonzai Winter Boost'. Analysis of the sample that was used by one of the patients identified MDMB-CHMICA.

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WEDINOS samples

To date WEDINOS has received and analysed 17 samples (14 from Wales, 3 from England) containing MMB-CHMINACA/MDMB-CHMICA. Samples were submitted either as plant matter or white powders. Reported adverse effects from those submitting samples include: irregular heartbeat, nausea, paranoia, confusion, agitation, vomiting, breathlessness, auditory hallucination, panic attack.

MMB-CHMINACA has been profiled by WEDINOS in the following branded products:

- Sweet Leaf Obliteration
- SKYHIGH
- Vertex Pirate Edition



Toxicological Information

Currently there is limited information relating to the physiological, psychological and toxicological effects of this substance, both acute and chronic. For further information please see Appendix 1.

Implications

This alert is to inform emergency department clinicians, police and all other individuals working with those using synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists and other New Psychoactive Substances. If an individual does present experiencing adverse effects as a result of consuming a substance, please ensure that appropriate medical attention is sought immediately and a sample of the substance is sent to WEDINOS for analysis along with a record of observed adverse effects. For further details visit www.wedinos.org or contact admin@wedinos.org or phone 02920 402523.

European ecstasy alert - Superman logo tablet - PMMA.

The EMCDDA have issued a further alert regarding the orange colour Superman logo shield type ecstasy tablet. It is requested you notify the STOP Unit of any recoveries of this tablet.



Tablets recovered in Poland in July 2015 have been found to contain only PMMA and connected to 3 deaths. There have been previous alerts in the UK regarding this particular type of pill.

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MDMA (ecstasy) tablet recoveries July 2015.

The following pictures are of tablets recovered in the Police Scotland area during July 2015. The tablets shown were presumptively tested and gave a positive result for MDMA. Presumptive test only identifies MDMA and its possible there were other drugs present. Some of the crystal material shown was found to contain MDMA and further analysis identified the presence of alpha PVP a Class 'B' controlled drug.

Dom Perignon



Facebook



Chupa Chups



Paul Frank



\$100 bill



Grenades



Gold bars



White skull



Red Devil Logo



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Party mask- Bentley



**TESLA logo
(various colours)**



Super Mario – Toad



**Capsules containing MDMA and
Alpha-PVP crystal.**



UFO



Acknowledgements

- Scottish Police Authority - Drugs Lab - Karen Clarke, Sarah Collins and Emma Thurley.
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- Police Scotland STOP Units
- EMCDDA

Produced by:

Mr Kenny Simpson
Police Scotland Statement of Opinion (STOP) Unit Coordinator

Telephone: 0141 800 4517
Email: kenny.simpson@scotland.pnn.police.uk