

SALVIA DIVINORUM

“ Medicinal or drug plant ? ”

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Introduction

The hallucinogenic plant *Salvia Divinorum* is a member of the Sage family that has been historically used for divination and shamanism by the Mazatecs. There are approximately one thousand species of *Salvia* worldwide. *Salvia Divinorum* is just one of the many species that are recognized for their useful medicinal properties. Today, *Salvia Divinorum* has become popular as a recreational drug for its hallucinogenic effects.

1. History

Salvia Divinorum was first discovered in Oaxaca, Mexico. It was used by the natives, known as the **Mazatec Indians**. The first new world researcher was Jean B. Johnson. Salvia was unheard of modern culture in the United States until 1953. It was not until the 1990s that the psychoactive mechanism was identified by a team led by Daniel Siebert



2. Botany

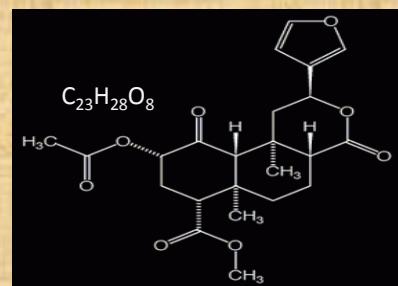


- Perennial herb, mostly 1-1,5 m tall
- Grows at 300-1800m in a primary or secondary rainforest.
- Produces neclerodane diterpenes accumulated in glandular trichomes.

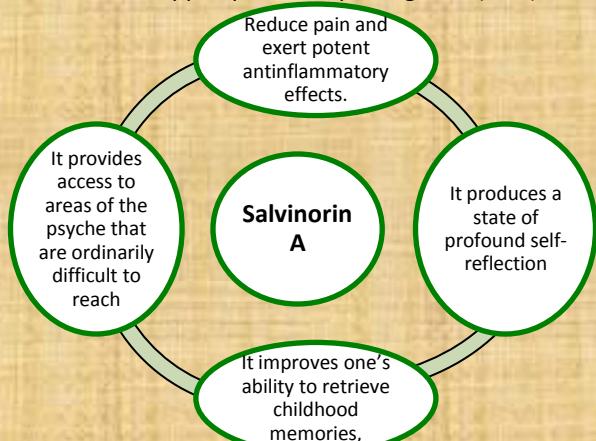
4. Conclusion

In conclusion, *Salvia Divinorum* is a valuable medicinal herb because it possesses a widespread pharmacological activity. Moreover, as much evidence has confirmed, this herb is relatively safe and has a low potential for addiction. Undoubtedly, possessing and selling *S. Divinorum* should be regulated, especially among the youth, but the plant should also be accessible for future scientific experiments and, in special cases, for use in psychotherapies

3. Healing properties



Salvinorin A. The main active psychotropic of the plant. It acts as a kappa opioid receptor agonist (KOR).



5. Bibliography

Siebert, Daniel J. 2004. Localization of salvinorin A and related compounds in glandular trichomes of the psychoactive sage, *Salvia divinorum*. *Annals of Botany*. 93(6): 763-771.

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