

# 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

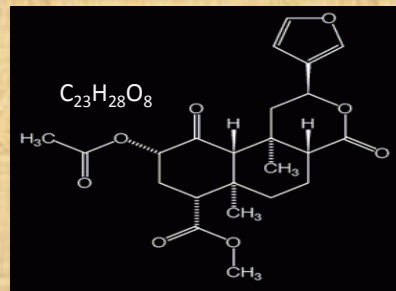


- Perennial herb, mostly 1-1,5 m tall
- Grows at 300-1800m in a primary or secondary rainforest.
- Produces neclerodane diterpens acumulated in glandular trichomes.

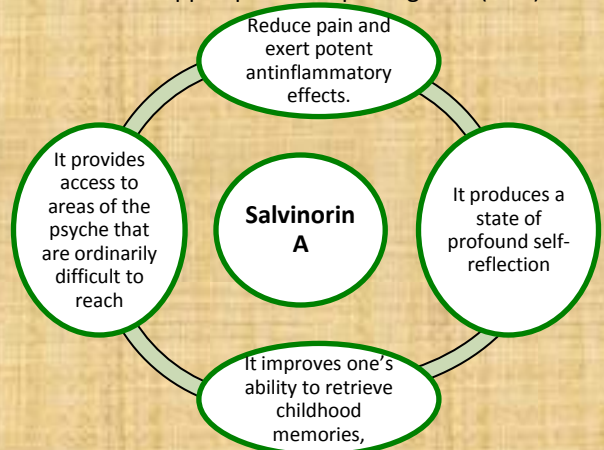
### 4.Conclusion

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.
- Siebert, Daniel J. 2004. The history of the first *Salvia divinorum* plants cultivated outside of Mexico . *The Entheogen Review*. 12(4): 117–118.