

## “Spice” Smokable legal marijuana



**Contains: JWH 018,  
CP 47497, and HU 210.**

- Illinois high school student has drug panic attack
- Legal herbs laced with synthetic cannabinoids.
- Made in China sold in Europe over Internet.
- No state law at this time, no urine drug test.
- U.S. import ban 2009.
- Report encounters to DEA Office of Drug Evaluation

©2010 Bruce R. Talbot Associates Inc.

In 2008, a public high school, located in the north shore suburbs of Chicago, reported the first Illinois school drug overdose involving “Spice”. The student related the drug was purchased over the Internet and smoked just before the start of school. The student experienced a marijuana-like high, which developed into a severe anxiety/panic attack. Local police and school officials were unfamiliar with the substance which claimed on the package to be herbal extracts of Blue Lotus flowers, Bay Bean, Dwarf Skullcap, Lion’s Tail, and others—all legal. The student was taken to the hospital and kept overnight under observation, but no drugs were detected in a hospital urine drug test.

Research in Germany shows the dried herbs in Spice were laced with three synthetic cannabinoids: JWH 018 discovered by chemistry professor John Hoffman of Clemson University, CP 47,497 invented by the Charles Pfizer pharmaceutical company, and HU 210 developed at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. These compounds mimic the effects of marijuana by triggering the cannabinoid receptors in the brain. These synthetics are more potent than natural marijuana, and may remain in the body much longer. Professor Huffman was quoted recently as saying the compounds are very easy to make out of readily available raw materials in a simple two-step process. “A good chemistry undergraduate could do it,” says Huffman.\* US Customs is now banning the importation of Spice despite its legal status.\*\* In late 2009, the DEA requested any police agency encountering Spice report it to the Drug & Chemical Evaluation Section at (202) 307-7183.

\*“The story of Spice” *The Financial Times of London*, Feb. 13, 2009

\*\*“Synthetic drug seized at DHL hub” *Dayton Daily News*, Jan. 15, 2009

## “K-2 Summit” synthetic cannabinoid

- Marijuana-like intoxication
- Undetectable in urine drug tests
- HU-210 not a controlled substance in Illinois
- 720 ILCS 685/4(a) sale of “smoking herbs” to minors is criminal offense
- 11-503(a-3) DUI-intoxicating compound



©2010 Bruce R. Talbot Associates Inc.

When, the U.S. Custom Service placed a ban on the importation of Spice from Europe, another product quickly appeared in Illinois smoke shops: “K-2”. Reportedly manufactured in China, the product is a “fluffy looking” mixture of legal dried herbs, which have been reportedly sprayed with the synthetic cannabinoid JWH-018 and JWH-073. Tests on the product by the Missouri Highway Patrol crime lab confirmed the presence of these two synthetic cannabinoids.\*

Although there currently are no criminal controls on these synthetic marijuana mimics, Illinois police officers do have a couple of tools available. The “Tobacco Accessories and Smoking Herbs Act” 720 ILCS 685/4 makes it a misdemeanor to sell “smoking herbs” (defined as all non-tobacco substances of plant origin and their derivatives intended for smoking) to anyone under 18 years of age. In addition, merchants of these products must display a sign on white card stock with bold red letters stating: “SALE OF TOBACCO ACCESSORIES AND SMOKING HERBS TO PERSONS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR THE MISREPRESENTATION OF AGE TO PROCURE SUCH A SALE IS PROHIBITED BY LAW”. Police officers may wish to consider using a controlled buy with a 17-year old police special agent to enforce the age restrictions on these products.

Persons driving under the influence of these products may be prosecuted under 625 ILCS 11-501(a3) “Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicating Compound.” Keep in mind there is currently no urine tests available to detect synthetic cannabinoids.

\*“K2 Mirrors Marijuana; on the rise in St. Louis area” St. Louis Post Dispatch, Feb. 2, 2010

## “Red Dragon Smoke” / “Zohai”



©2010 Bruce R. Talbot Associates Inc.

### DEA: Suspected Chemicals:

- HU-210: 100-800 x > THC  
Schedule I Controlled Sub
- HU-211: mirror image, not  
controlled substance
- CP 47,497: not controlled
- JWH-018: not controlled
- JWH-073: not controlled

“Red Dragon Smoke” and similar products like “Zohai” (pronounced “so high”) are being sold throughout Illinois and are suspected to contain synthetic cannabinoids. . One way to check if a particular product, such as “Serenity Now”, “Sence”, or “Genie” contain synthetic cannabinoids, is to do a search on the product name in an underground pro-drug web site such as Drugs-Forum.com or Erowid.org. Drug users will post “experience reports” describing the intoxicating effect of the named product, often with a photograph of the package.

Seth Charles a clerk at a the Chicago head shop Adam & Eve claimed: “lots of sailors and Marines coming in, asking for it,” Charles said, “They want it because they can smoke it and still pass drug tests.”\*

It is suspected by the DEA that these herbal products contain synthetic cannabinoid research chemicals including: HU-210, which is structurally similar to THC and is a schedule I controlled substance under federal law, HU-211 which is a mirror-image to HU-210 and is not a controlled substance. These compounds are estimated to be 100 to 800 times more potent than THC found in natural marijuana! Other suspected chemicals include CP47,497, a research chemical that activates the brain’s cannabis receptors but is not structurally similar to THC, and JWH-018 and JWH-073, which are chemically related to CP47,497. Keep in mind there are many other possible analogues and homologues of these research chemicals that can be present and produce extreme cannabis/hallucinogenic effects.

\*“Marijuana substitute, K2, readily available in Chicago” *The Chicago SunTimes*, Feb. 20. 2010

## Overdose Effects

- Unpleasant hallucinations
- Panic attack, comma
- High blood pressure, heart rate, seizures
- Pale skin, vomiting
- Symptoms present with negative tox screen

by Linda Russell, KY3 News



14-year-old Tyler Hartman  
unconscious for 5 hours in ICU

©2010 Bruce R. Talbot Associates Inc.

On March 2, 2010, Dr. Anthony Scalzo, M.D., professor of toxicology at Saint Louis University, issued a press release describing nearly 30 incidents of hospitalizations from adverse reactions to K2. Users reported disturbing hallucinations and panic attacks. Emergency room doctors reported seeing severe agitation, elevated heart rate, high blood pressure, vomiting, pale skin, tremors and, in a few cases, seizures. The symptoms imply K2 is affecting the cardiovascular system and the central nervous system.\* Poison control centers from other states, including Oklahoma, Kansas, and Virginia, are reporting hospitalizations from these synthetic cannabinoids.\*\*

One such victim was 14-year old Tyler Hartman of Fair Play, Missouri. His friends told him about K2 and he purchased a package at the local liquor store. He smoked it at a friend's house and began to vomit, went into seizures, and passed out. Tyler was rushed to the hospital and was unconscious in Intensive Care for five hours.\*\*\*

The problem for medical staff is the lack of toxicology screening tests for synthetic cannabinoids. Many users exploit this to avoid workplace or court-ordered drug tests. One user wrote: *"I passed a hospital drug screen having smoked a jwh-018 fortified herbal blend daily for about a week before the test. JWH-018 will not cause you to fail a drug test."*\*\*\*\*

\*Report available on-line at: <http://slu.edu/x35328.xml>

\*\*"Fake Weed "K2" Can Cause Hallucinations" CBS News, March 4, 2010

\*\*\*<http://www.k3.com/news/local/77997492.html>

\*\*\*\*<http://www.synchronium.net/2002/02/21/jwh-018-toxicology/>