**Pharmacology**

While ayahuasca usually contains DMT, they are not equivalent to each other. There are significant and important differences in pharmacology. Modern ayahuasca practices and traditional use DMT in different contexts. The effects of DMT are different, making them significant. Importantly, their cultural histories and contexts of use.

### What is in ayahuasca*

- **Yage** (the name for ayahuasca in some parts of Colombia)
- **Hoasca** a plant hallucinogen
- **Chacruna** leaves rather than chacruna.
- **Anadenanthera peregrina** (chaliponga/chaconia)
- **Anadenanthera harmala** harmala-alkaloid containing vine, visionary experience
- **Anadenanthera acutangula**
- **Banisteriopsis caapi** leaves of chacruna.

A recent study investigating DMT synthetic or extracted DMT from these plants. The INCB has confirmed that “no plant or concoction containing DMT produces effects as intense as the effects of ayahuasca at equivalent doses.”

### How does ayahuasca work in the body?

**Synthetic DMT** is a Schedule 1 controlled substance. The effects of DMT are different, making them significant. Importantly, their cultural histories and contexts of use.

### Does ayahuasca contain DMT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Ayahuasca</strong></th>
<th><strong>DMT</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plant</strong></td>
<td><strong>Root</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DMT</strong></td>
<td><strong>Beta-carbolines</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reference

- **Strassman & Qualls, 1994**
- **Riba et al., 2015**
- **Katchborian-Neto et al., 2020**
- **Grob et al., 1996**
- **Dos Santos, 2011**
- **Barker et al., 2012**
- **Kaasik et al., 2020**
- **Shulgin & Shulgin, 1997**
- **Dos Santos, 2011**
- **Barker et al., 2012**
- **Kaasik et al., 2020**
- **Shulgin & Shulgin, 1997**
- **Dos Santos, 2011**
- **Barker et al., 2012**
- **Kaasik et al., 2020**
- **Strassman & Qualls, 1994**

### Resources

- **Fact Sheet Ayahuasca Pharmacology**
- **About Pharmacology**
- **Does ayahuasca contain DMT?**
- **References & Resources**

### Bibliography

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