

Mescaline Encyclopedia Article

Mescaline

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Mescaline

This is a naturally occurring HALLUCINOGEN, one of the oldest PSYCHEDELIC substances known. It was first obtained from the PEYOTE cactus (*Lophophora williamsii* or *Anhalonium lewinii*), which grows in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Peyote buttons, the dried tops of the peyote cactus, were originally used by pre-Columbian Native Americans in those regions as an antispasmodic as well as for highly structured religious rituals; the button was eaten or was steeped to make a drink. It continues to be used in ritual by the Native American Church.

Figure 1 Mescaline

Mescaline is a member of the phenethylamine-type family of hallucinogens, which includes DOM, MDA, and MDMA. The overall behavior effects of mescaline are very similar to those produced by LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE (LSD); however, it is approximately 100 to 1,000 times less potent than LSD, although the effects of mescaline last from 10 to 12 hours.

See Also

Psilocybin; Religion and Drug Use)

Bibliography

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