

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2317

2007 SENATE JUDICIARY

SB 2317

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. **SB 2317**

Senate **Judiciary Committee**

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 31, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 2432

Committee Clerk Signature

Moira L. Halber

Minutes: Relating to including salvia divinorum as a schedule I controlled substance.

Senator David Nething, Chairman called the Judiciary committee to order. All Senators were present. The hearing opened with the following testimony:

Testimony In Support of Bill:

Sen. Nething welcomed the students from Hazen.

Sen. Oehlke, Dist. #15 introduced the bill. I was not aware that this was a problem until I was approached by Sen. Christmann. Spoke of Att. #1 page 3 of 12. He reviewed 5 of 12 and some of the background of the drugs. This plant can be bought from many web sites.

Sen. Fiebiger asked if this plant in moderate doses could be regarded as a "spiritual" plant, like peyote. This is not something we will run into with this bill.

Sen. Randy Christmann, Dist. #33 (meter 6:30) Thanked all who were involved with bill. This bill is to be proactive to a potential problem. He spoke of a school supervisor approaching him on "concerning" activity at the school. Sen. Christmann spoke of the internet "advertising" the kids are looking at.

Justin Ingles, Social Studies Teacher, Hazen High School (meter 9:50) stated that when I was approached by my school superintendent in regards to this bill, I saw it as a two fold opportunity to my students. First, this would be a good example; how in our form of

government, all are welcomed in the ND legislature to speak. Second, upon research of this plant, I found out the dangers of this plant and how easy it was for a person to obtain.

Sen. Olafson was curious on how prevalent this is in ND? Most students have only "heard" about this. I do not think many would admit to anything out of concern.

Testimony in Opposition of the Bill:

None

Testimony Neutral to the Bill:

Howard Anderson, Board of Pharmacy – Referred to 5th page copy (marked 131) of ND Law. – Att #2 Discussed plants in the plant groups. Spoke of Aztec Indians usage and plant cultivation. This plant has no addictive qualities (like Meth) and would be compared to L.S.D.

Sen. Nelson had questions on other state laws and how its scientific name was chosen (meter 18:17) He recommended it be addressed as Salvia A.

Chief Jeff White (meter 19:47) gave further explanation of the science of the plant. If you pass this law we will enforce it as any other law

Sen. Nething asked Chief White his preference of listing the plant (meter 20:00) and **Sen. Lyson** asked how wide spread was he aware of a problem with the plant. One sample has been sent to the crime lab.

The committee discussed the amendment (meter 22:58) pertaining to the wording of the drug.

Senator David Nething, Chairman closed the hearing.

Sen. Nelson made the motion to Do Pass the amendment and **Sen. Marcellais** seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion passes.

Sen. Olafson made the motion to Do Pass as amended SB 2317 and **Sen. Lyson** seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion passes.

Carrier: **Sen. Nelson**

Senator David Nething, Chairman closed the hearing.

Date: 1-31-07

Roll Call Vote # 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2317

Senate _____ Judiciary _____ Committee _____

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Amendment for name of Plant

Motion Made By Sen. Nelson Seconded By Sen. Marcellais

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Sen. Nething	/		Sen. Fiebiger	/	
Sen. Lyson			Sen. Marcellais		
Sen. Olafson			Sen. Nelson		

Total Yes 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 1-31-07

Roll Call Vote # 2

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2317

Senate _____ Judiciary _____ Committee _____

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass As Amended

Motion Made By Sen. Olafson Seconded By Sen. Lyson

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Sen. Nething	✓		Sen. Fiebiger	✓	
Sen. Lyson	✓		Sen. Marcellais	✓	
Sen. Olafson	✓		Sen. Nelson	✓	

Total Yes 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Nelson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2317: Judiciary Committee (Sen. Nething, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2317 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 7, after "divinorum" insert ", salvinorin A, or any of the active ingredients of salvia divinorum"

Renumber accordingly

2007 HOUSE JUDICIARY

SB 2317

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2317

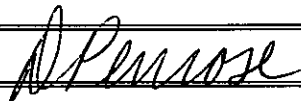
House Judiciary Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3/12/07

Recorder Job Number: 4829

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman DeKrey: We will open the hearing on SB 2317.

Sen. Dave Oehlke: Sponsor (see attached User's Guide). We are asking that salvia divinorum be placed on the controlled substance list. I didn't know much about salvia divinorum until I was asked to be a sponsor on this and I went on the internet to do some research. You'd be amazed. All you have to do is put in those two little words and if you spell them correctly, you're going to be hit with some amazing websites. This particular user guide, that I made copies of for you, is that this is not a recreational drug. On page 3-24 you will notice that at the very bottom where it has an arrow, it says never, ever attempt to drive under the influence of salvia. This seems like a simple and innocuous plant and believe me I've had emails from people saying this is not a problem but, if you just read this user guide, you will notice it is. I would point out that salvia divinorum is not habit forming, but then as you get down to page 5, it says that you never use this in a public environment because people often become immersed in dream-like inner visionary state of awareness. You should always have a sober sitter present when you are using strong doses, and then it goes through and explains how to use this, you can chew the leaves or make a tea out of it, smoke it, or if you know the proper website, you can find concentrated elements in pill form and tobacco form that you can

order on line and pay good money for rather than grow your own plant. But the long and the short of it is, this probably should be on the controlled substance list. Down on page 13 and 14, it talks about the role of the sitter. I thought that was very interesting, because the sitter is supposed to keep the person safe from falls, head banging, sharp objects, walking into walls, etc., to speak softly and gently to them and keep dangerous objects away from them. When I testified on this over in Senate Judiciary, there was a superintendent from one of the schools in the state, along with some students that were in the room and they did testify that this is available and has been used in the way people will use it, not for a medicinal purpose at all.

Rep. Delmore: Does anyone use this for legitimate reasons, is it sold in any of our nature stores, or do you have to order it online.

Sen. Dave Oehlke: I'm not aware that it is sold in any nature stores. It can be ordered online and I understand that there are studies done by somebody, whether they were doctors or not I don't know, to help maybe for medicinal purposes to get people off other more harmful drugs, perhaps, or to trade this experience for something else. That's all I know about that.

Rep. Delmore: If it is sold online, how effective do you think we can be in outlawing it.

Sen. Dave Oehlke: The beauty of this, the way it is written is, it isn't just the plant, there happens to be a pharmacist at the Judiciary testimony in the Senate and he got up and testified that by having the generic name in there and the drug related name, so that the salvia and its ingredients helps solve that problem, because it would make it illegal to possess it in any form.

Rep. Kretschmar: Do you know if this drug is on the federal controlled substance list.

Sen. Dave Oehlke: I don't know that for sure. There may be someone here that can testify to that.

Rep. Griffin: How many other states currently ban this substance, are there any other states.

Sen. Dave Oehlke: There are states that control it, at this point, I don't have the name in front of me that information was on the website as well. But there are some that do control it, Wisconsin is one that I know for sure banned it.

Rep. Charging: Is this raised in ND, can we see a sample. I don't know what you are talking about.

Sen. Dave Oehlke: It is a plant, it is called a mint or something, and it doesn't look like anything too exciting. It is indigenous more to the Southwest area and in the Mexico area, which is where it originated from. I don't think it is a typical houseplant, but it can be. It looks fairly harmless.

Rep. Charging: How did you find out about it.

Sen. Dave Oehlke: I was contacted by another Senator, Sen. Christmann, and there were some folks in his area that were very concerned about it.

Rep. Charging: There are several varieties of sage and in my background, when we talk about sage and/or derivatives of sage, we use them in Native American uses and practices.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. Further testimony in support.

Sen. Randy Christmann: Sponsor (see attached information from Wikopedia). The handout is from a webpage, but there are many web pages on the internet. On page 9, it mentions Missouri, Louisiana, Tennessee and Delaware where it has been regulated. The bill came from a school principal in my district who contacted me. It is a problem that is starting to develop and these plants are kind of a decorative houseplant that you can probably buy or at least order through a greenhouse and could be grown in your own home even. People are now figuring out how it can be used as a drug and is being used. We want to stop this before it becomes a big fad and someone will get hurt. It apparently has some sort of LSD type effect

on people; especially if they use it and are out driving, etc. We thought this was no real good reason or need for this plant, and we want to take care of it before it becomes a big fad.

Rep. Delmore: Are these plants grown in North Dakota, or is there a greenhouse here in Bismarck, where we could go over and look at one.

Sen. Randy Christmann: I don't know, apparently they are getting it somewhere.

Rep. Charging: I understand it is grown in Nevada and everywhere you go you see where sage is used. I am just curious is it grown here.

Sen. Randy Christmann: That is why I went through and printed out this attachment. I was trying to find out whether it was used in any centuries old traditions in the state here, and I never found any reference to that, so I really don't think that's an issue. It just seems like it is a houseplant that they figured out works as a drug.

Rep. Charging: I am not an expert, but sage is practically used daily in the Native American culture.

Sen. Randy Christmann: I realize that, that's why I checked into that. I never saw any reference to this. It mentions a lot of information on it but I never found a connection to any Native American cultures.

Rep. Koppelman: What would be the effect of adding this to the schedule 1, as a controlled substance, would it be illegal to possess, what would be the effect.

Sen. Randy Christmann: It would be illegal to use or possess.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. Further testimony in support. Testimony in opposition or neutral.

Howard Anderson, Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy: We are neutral. We have the responsibility for the controlled substances act and this scheduling is not our idea and we aren't for or against it. We did suggest some amendments in the Senate side in order to

include the active ingredients if you want it on the schedule. When you asked some questions about what states and so forth, there is a schedule. There are some other states that schedule it. The federal government uses this statement right now, "Salvia divinorum, salvinorin A, and divinorum A, are not listed in the controlled substances act. If sold for human consumption, salvia may be subject to control under the analog statutes, because if it is functional for chronological similarities to other seeds, hallucinogens like tetrahydrocannabiviolin". It isn't scheduled federally in the US yet, in a few states, there are actually a few states that have scheduled it and have exempted it if it is grown in your house or as a houseplant. I'm not sure that is necessary. The plant is really a cultural, that is, the shamans from the old Aztec religion have been cultivating it for hundred, maybe thousands of years. There are very few wild areas where it grows; southern Mexico is one of the places where the literature says they think they may be able to find some wild plants, but most of it has been cultivated over the years and propagated by the people that use it for their medicinal purposes. So it is available, because people grow it. I think BCI indicated on the Senate side, that they had one sample at the state lab.

Rep. Kretschmar: Is it recognized by modern medicine that it has some benefit for certain diseases.

Howard Anderson: No, as far as modern medicine, I think the shaman use it in some of their ritualistic practices. I would be awfully surprised if it grows anywhere in the US, maybe in Mexico.

Rep. Delmore: Why is it in schedule 1, there are five schedules.

Howard Anderson: Schedule 1 is those that have no accepted medical use in the United States. This would fall into that category. Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 5 are drugs with various addiction potential but have some use in medicine in the United States.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2317

House Judiciary Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3/14/07

Recorder Job Number: 5023

Committee Clerk Signature

Penrose

Minutes:

Chairman DeKrey: We will take a look at SB 2317. What are the committee's wishes.

Rep. Griffin: I move a Do Pass.

Rep. Koppelman: Second.

13 YES 0 NO 1 ABSENT

DO PASS

CARRIER: Rep. Heller

Date: 3/14/07
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2317

House JUDICIARY Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Rep. Muffin Seconded By Rep. Koppelman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman DeKrey	✓		Rep. Delmore	✓	
Rep. Klemin	✓		Rep. Griffin	✓	
Rep. Boehning	✓		Rep. Meyer	✓	
Rep. Charging			Rep. Onstad	✓	
Rep. Dahl	✓		Rep. Wolf	✓	
Rep. Heller	✓				
Rep. Kingsbury	✓				
Rep. Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Kretschmar	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Heller

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2317, as engrossed: Judiciary Committee (Rep. DeKrey, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2317 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

SB 2317

H# # 1

1-31-07

Salvia divinorum

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Salvia divinorum, also known as **Diviner's Sage**^[2], **Magic Mint**^[2], **ska María Pastora**^[3], **Sally D**, or simply **Salvia** (although the genus name is shared among many plants), is a powerful psychoactive plant, a member of the sage genus and the Lamiaceae (mint) family^[4]. It has long been used as an entheogen by the indigenous Mazatec shamans for healing during spirit journeys^[1]. The plant is found in isolated, shaded and moist plots in Oaxaca, Mexico^[1]. It is thought to be a cultigen^[5].

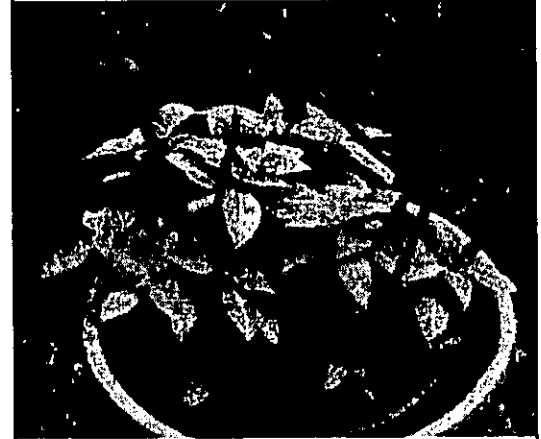
The Latin name *Salvia divinorum* literally translates to "Sage of the seers".^[6] The genus name *Salvia* is derived from the Latin *salvare*, meaning "to heal" or "to save".^[7]

The primary psychoactive constituent is a diterpenoid known as *salvinorin A*.^{[8][9]}

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Diviner's sage



Three well established *Salvia divinorum* plants.

Scientific classification

Kingdom: Plantae
 Division: Magnoliophyta
 Class: Magnoliopsida
 Order: Lamiales
 Family: Lamiaceae
 Genus: *Salvia*
 Species: *S. divinorum*

Binomial name

Salvia divinorum
 Epling & Játiva^[1]

History

Salvia divinorum was first recorded in print by Jean Basset Johnson in 1939 as he was studying Mazatec shamanism^[10]. R. Gordon Wasson later documented its usage and reported its effects through personal testimonials^[11]. It was not until the 1990s that the psychoactive mechanism was identified by a team led by Daniel Siebert^[12].

The history of the plant is not known, but there are three possibilities as to its origin. Since it is found in one, small area and only one indigeneous group use it, it is either native to this area, is a cultigen of the Mazatecs or is a cultigen of another indigenous group.^[6] Wasson theorized that this plant was the mythological pipilzintzintli, the "Noble Prince" of the Aztec codices.^[3] However, this theory is not without dispute. The Aztecs were extremely knowledgeable in plant identification, and their records report that *pipilzintzintli* has both male and female varieties. *Salvia divinorum*, however, is monoecious, meaning it produces flowers of both sexes on a single plant. Skeptics of this theory report that the Aztecs would have known the difference between male and female flowers. Wasson gains validity, however, as a number of Aztec historical accounts classify plants as male or female in a metaphorical, rather than botanically anatomical manner.



Flowering *Salvia divinorum*

Botany

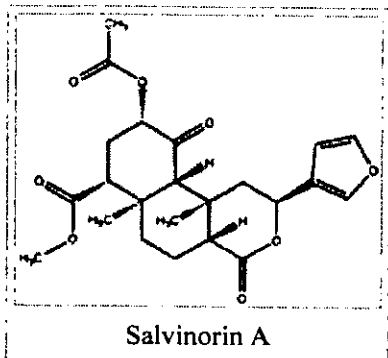
Unlike other species of salvia, *Salvia divinorum* produces few seeds, and those seldom germinate. For an unknown reason, pollen fertility is reduced. There is no active pollen tube inhibition within the style, but some event or process after the pollen tube reaches the ovary is aberrant^[13]. Partial sterility is often suggestive of a hybrid origin, although no species have been recognized as possible parent species. The ability to grow indistinguishable plants from seeds produced by self pollination also weakens the hybrid theory of origin, instead implying inbreeding depression, or an undiscovered incompatibility mechanism. The plant is mainly propagated by cuttings or layering. Although isolated strands of *S. divinorum* exist, these are thought to have been purposely created and tended by the Mazatec people. For this reason, it is considered a true cultigen, not occurring in a wild state.^[5]

All known specimens are clones from a small number of collected plants. Two strains are in major circulation: the Wasson/Hofmann strain, obtained upon request from a Mazatec shaman in Oaxaca in 1962, and the Blosser ('Palatable') strain, obtained around 1980. The 'Palatable' strain is said to have a more acceptable taste than the Wasson/Hofmann strain, although most reports suggest that there is little difference.

Additional 'commercial' strains are in circulation, but all seem to be similar in potency, effect, and growth. The numerous different names that can be found have more to do with marketing than with the formal identification of botanically distinct strains.

Chemistry

For more details on this topic, see *Salvinorin A*.



The active constituent is a *trans*-neoclerodane diterpenoid known as **Salvinorin A**, chemical formula $C_{23}H_{28}O_8$ ^[14]. Unlike other known opioid-receptor ligands, salvinorin A is not an alkaloid — it does not contain a basic nitrogen atom^[15].

Salvinorin A is the most potent naturally-occurring psychoactive compound known.^[16] It is active at doses as low as 200 μg .^{[12][14]} Recent research has shown that salvinorin A is a potent and selective κ (kappa) opioid receptor agonist.^[14] It has been reported that the effects of salvinorin A in mice are blocked by kappa opioid receptor antagonists^[17]. This makes it unlikely that another mechanism contributes independently to the compound's effects.

Salvinorin A is unique in that it is the only naturally occurring substance known to induce a visionary state via this mode of action. Salvinorin A has no actions at the 5-HT_{2A} serotonin receptor, the principal molecular target responsible for the actions of classical hallucinogens.^[18]

Salvinorin's potency should not be confused with toxicity. Rodents chronically exposed to dosages many times greater than those to which humans are exposed did not show signs of organ damage.^[19]

Many other terpenoids have been isolated from *S. divinorum*, including other salvinorins and related compounds named divinatorins and salvinicins. None of these compounds has shown significant (sub-micromolar) affinity at the kappa opioid receptor, and there is no evidence that they contribute to the plant's psychoactivity.

Ingestion

Traditional methods

Mazatec shamans use two methods of ingestion. Often they simply eat the fresh leaves by chewing and swallowing them. Sometimes they crush the leaves to extract the leaf juices, which they then drink (usually mixed with water). Reportedly, dosages vary from as few as 6 leaves to as many as 120 when using these methods.

Modern methods

Dry leaves can be smoked in a pipe but most users prefer the use of a water pipe to cool the smoke. The temperature required to release salvinorin A from the plant material is quite high (about 240°C). A regular flame will work, but the direct application of something more intense, such as the flame produced from a butane torch lighter, is often preferred.

Many people find that smoking the unprocessed dried *Salvia* leaf produces only light or unnoticeable effects, perhaps due to the large volume of plant material that must be smoked to produce psychoactive effects. However, responses vary widely. A concentrated preparation of *Salvia* leaf called *Salvia* extract, with relative strength suggested by terms such as 5x, 10x, 15x, 20x, 40x, etc, may be smoked in place of natural strength leaves; this reduces the total amount of smoke inhaled for a given dosage of salvinorin overall, and facilitates more powerful experiences.

Sublingually ingested tinctures constitute another form of prepared Salvia. The effects ramp up over a period of 10-20 minutes, and die down after about 50-60 minutes, contrasted with the relatively short duration of smoked Salvia.

The traditional Mazatec method may also be employed. However, salvinorin A is generally considered to be inactive when simply ingested as the chemical is effectively deactivated by the gastrointestinal system [1] (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=7526076&dopt=Citation). Therefore, the 'quid' of leaves is held in the mouth as long as possible in order to facilitate absorption of the active constituents through the oral mucosa. Chewing consumes more of the plant than smoking, and also produces a longer-lasting experience.

Some choose to tincture or use a quid, and then smoke leaves or extract after the first sensations are felt, typically around the 15-20 minute mark. This produces an experience resembling the oft overwhelming quality of smoked extract, while also stretching the intense sudden nature of smoked Salvia to the duration of a tincture or quid, around 50-60 minutes. This is not recommended for inexperienced users of Salvia, as if the effects are unpleasant or frightening, they are not over shortly, as they would be for a smoked method of administration.

Attainment of effect

Some types of people seem to be particularly resistant to the effects even after repeated attempts. Others find their sensitivity quite variable from one experience to the next. Regardless of sensitivity which may be established in the longer term, many people fail to achieve significant effects with their initial attempts. Anecdotal reports suggest for some the possibility of increasingly stronger effects with repeated use of similar amounts of Salvia. This could be attributable to the practice and learning of more efficient ingestion techniques. Some suggest however that 'reverse tolerance' or increased sensitisation may otherwise be a phenomenon of the active principle.

Onset of the effects may be subtle and not immediately noticeable. There is often a few seconds of preceding latency. In any case, caution is advised if considering further ingestion before time has been allowed for prior amounts to clear the system.

Duration of effect

If Salvia is smoked the main effects are experienced quickly. The most intense 'peak' is reached within a minute or so and lasts for about 1-5 minutes, followed by a gradual tapering back. At 5-10 minutes, less intense yet still appreciable effects typically persist, but giving way to a returning sense of the more everyday and familiar until back to recognisable baseline after about 15-20 minutes. [2] (http://www.erowid.org/plants/salvia/salvia_effects.shtml)

Chewing the leaf makes the effects come on more slowly, over a period of 10-15 minutes, the experience then lasting for about 40-50 minutes but produce much milder and lighter effects than other methods of dosing. The bitter taste of the leaf is usually so objectionable most individuals will not chew the leaf long enough to obtain any kind of psychedelic effect.

Experience

Psychedelic experiences, in relating by definition to realms of mind, are necessarily somewhat subjective. Individual variations in reported effects are to be expected. However, from the many experience accounts posted to the Internet (Erowid has almost 700 entries (http://www.erowid.org/experiences/subs/exp_Salvia_divinorum.shtml)) some general trends can be vouched.

Most people find that the effects of salvinorin are not conducive to socializing, thus those with any experience with the plant emphasize that Salvia is not a 'party drug'. External stimuli can be distracting. The experience can be disorienting and dissociative. Motor-control is negatively affected. It is advisable to have a sober trip sitter present, particularly for initial experiences, prior to possible assessment of individual sensitivity.

The effects of Salvia are regarded by many to be highly spiritual. Many find Salvia useful for meditation. Consciousness is retained until the highest doses, but body control, awareness of the external environment, and individual personality may be affected with even modest amounts. Even those experienced with the use of other psychoactive substances may feel confused and out of control.

At lower doses spontaneous laughter, mild closed-eye visuals, stuttering or strobing visual effects, changes in depth perception, and a heightened sense of color and texture may be experienced.

Moderate doses appear trance-like. Time distortion and open-eye visuals become increasingly apparent. Fractal patterns and geometric shapes may be noticeable with eyes open, and can be confusing. Many people experience sensations of falling, similar to, but more pronounced than what is occasionally felt at the onset of sleep. The user may experience fully formed visions of other places, people, and events, especially with eyes closed.

At high doses the effects become more powerful and may additionally include reports of perceptions of dimensional distortion, vertigo, feelings of intense exhilaration and/or panic, sensations of wind or physical pressure, hearing voices, flanging of sound, significant open and closed-eye visuals, loss of speech, life changing experiences, dissociation and various hallucinations of experiencing alternate realities, out-of-body experiences, visiting parallel universes, dissolution of one's ego, as well as perceived contact with beings or entities. Many users report twisting or splitting feelings. Ordinary objects appear to morph into powerful visually animated creatures. It is also not unusual that, while experiencing the effects, a person will not remember that they have taken Salvia, which can cause the user to panic. A strong feeling of déjà vu is commonly reported as an effect of large doses of Salvia.

The experience is quite different from that of most other psychoactives and may be overwhelming, even with a conducive, reassuring and comfortable set and setting. Most Salvia practitioners recommend darkness and silence as the best environment; however, minimal, ambient or relaxing music can be helpful.

According to experience reports at Erowid (http://www.erowid.org/experiences/subs/exp_Salvia_divinorum.shtml) and elsewhere, Salvia seems to produce visions which have a somewhat higher level of consistency than other substances. Reports of contact with an entity supposedly associated with the plant, ("the Shepherdess/Salvia Goddess") again with fairly consistent characteristics, are also common.

Many Salvia users, during high-dose out-of-body experiences, may suddenly 'merge' with objects. With

