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Speakers: Kit Chapman, Science Historian and Writer / Wendy Queen, Materials Chemist, EPFL (École Polyrechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) / Darryl Boyd, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory and Science Made Simple Moderator: Laura Howes, *Chemical & Engineering News* 

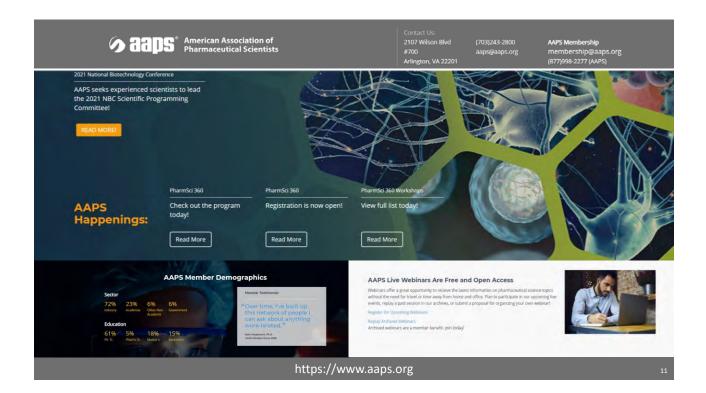


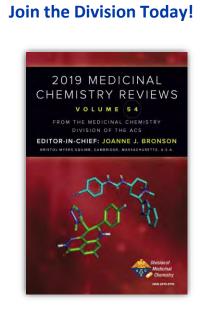
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- Who are our front-runners for this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry and why
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Join Research Fellow Li Di of Pfizer as she discusses why design principles that increase passive permeability are effective approaches to increase oral bioavailability, enhance brain penetration, and reduce renal clearance. https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars/drug-discovery/passive-permeability.html

Join Douglas Kell, Research Chair in Systems Biology at the University of Liverpool to discover how drugs pass through cell membrane solely by hitchhiking on membrane transporters and why so-called "passive diffusion" through any bilayer in real cells is negligible. https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars/drug-discovery/so-lute-carriers.html



THIS ACS WEBINAR WILL BEGIN SHORTLY...

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Mitragyna Speciosa: What Science is Telling Us about Kratom



Presentation slides are available now! Edited recordings are an exclusive ACS member benefit. www.acs.org/acswebinars

This ACS Webinar is co-produced with ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, and ACS Publications.



Christopher R. McCurdy, PhD, FAAPS Professor of Medicinal Chemistry College of Pharmacy University of Florida



# Mitragyna Speciosa

- FAMILY: Rubiaceae
- GENIUS: Mitragyna
- SPECIES: speciosa
- Tree found in tropical Southeast Asia, particularly Thailand and Malaysia
- Referred to as **"Kratom"** in Thailand and **"Biak Biak"** or **"Ketum"** in Malaysia
- Contains over 40 alkaloids that have been isolated to date<sup>1</sup>





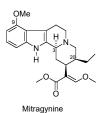


<sup>1</sup>Adkins, J.E.; Boyer, E.W.; McCurdy, C.R. Curr. Topics Med. Chem., **11**, 1165-75 (2011)

# Kratom and Mitragynine

- Kratom tea is used by field workers to relieve pain, as a stimulant to improve work capacity, and to reduce opioid withdrawal<sup>1</sup>
- Recently, polydrug users (METH) are using kratom to reduce use<sup>2</sup>
- The predominant active agent in Kratom is mitragynine (MG)





<sup>1</sup> Jansen K.L.R., Prast C.J. *J. Ethnopharmacology.* **23**, 115-119 (1988) <sup>2</sup> Singh, D. et al. *J. Ethnopharmacology.* **249**, 112462 (2020)



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# Audience Survey Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT

# According to the American Kratom Association, how many people does this suggest that use Kratom in the U.S.?

- ~500,000
- ~1 million
- ~5 million
- ~15 million
- ~50 million

# Kratom Use in USA

- · Widely available across the internet and smoke/vape shops
- June 2019\*: American Kratom Association reported 1950 metric tons exported to US every month
- Typical dose 3-5g<sup>#</sup> suggesting >15 million users





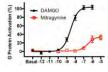


# Kratom and Mitragynine



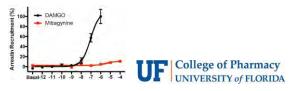
Case Reports: Few deaths are attributable to kratom alone

- Mitragynine is a partial mu opioid agonist
  - · 40% maximal effect in G Protein activation



- Mitragynine is a "biased agonist" with no  $\beta$ -arrestin recruitment
  - such molecules are under investigation and development as opioids with low respiratory depressive and constipation effects.





# **Therapeutic Potential of Kratom**

- Opioid Detoxification: Kratom has potential to replace several medications used during detoxification (opioid, adrenergic, analgesic and anxiolytic). This would improve medication adherence and chances of completing detoxification.
- Lack of opioid-like overdoses: Possibly due to MOA and multiple targets that kratom alkaloids interact with.
- **Medication Assisted Therapy:** Kratom is informally used to reduce opioid use. Kratom withdrawal is mild (<9 on SOWS scale). Polydrug users report Kratom also reduces methamphetamine use.
- THE LACK OF A STANDARDIZED PRODUCT HAS PREVENTED RIGOROUS CLINICAL TRIALS TO EVALUATE THESE CLAIMS



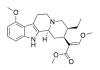




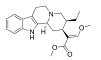
11/06/2019



# Isolation of kratom alkaloids



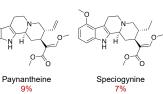
Mitragynine 66%

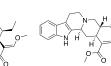


Corynantheidine <1%



Corynoxine A <1%





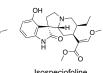
0

9-Hydroxycorynantheidine <1%

Corynoxine B

<1%

Ajmalicine <1%



Isospeciofoline <1%



Speciociliatine ~1%



Mitragynine N-oxide <1%



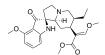
Mitragynine oxindole B <1%



7< -hydroxymitragynine ~2%



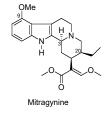
7α-hydroxypaynantheine



Mitragynine pseudoindoxyl College of Pharmacy UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

# Mitragynine Eurofins screen at 82 CNS drug targets

Assay	100 nM (1.0E-07 M)	10000 nM (1.0E-05 M)
5-HT <sub>IA</sub> (h) (agonist radioligand)		x
5-HT <sub>28</sub> (h) (agonist radioligand)		x
α <sub>1A</sub> (h) (antagonist radioligand)		x
α <sub>1D</sub> (h) (antagonist radioligand)		x
β <sub>2</sub> (h) (antagonist radioligand)		x
D <sub>1</sub> (h) (antagonist radioligand)		x
D <sub>2S</sub> (h) (agonist radioligand)		x
D <sub>3</sub> (h) (antagonist radioligand)		x
к (KOP) (agonist radioligand)		x
μ (MOP) (h) (agonist radioligand)		x
Na <sup>+</sup> channel (site 2) (antagonist radioligand)		x
Potassium Channel hERG (human)- [3H] Dofetilide		x



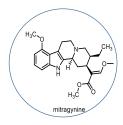


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# Binding and functional effects of mitragynine

- Mitragynine has partial agonist effects at the  $\mu$  opioid,  $\alpha_{1A}$  and  $\alpha_{1D}$  adrenergic receptors
- Poison Control <u>Centers:</u> Kratom overdoses resemble stimulants (not opioids)

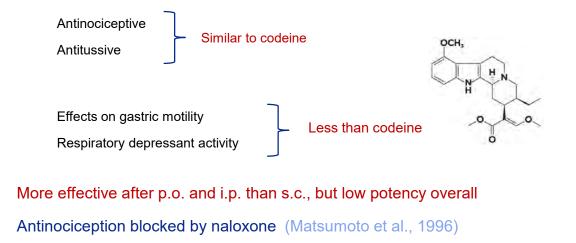
Target	Ki (nM)	Agonist/ Antagonist
μ	136.0	Partial agonist
к	157	Antagonist
δ		Antagonist
α <sub>1Α</sub>	1,660	Partial agonist
α <sub>1B</sub>	2,490	Antagonist
α <sub>1D</sub>	4,610	Partial agonist
α <sub>2A</sub>	3,590	ND
α <sub>2B</sub>	9,190	ND
α <sub>2C</sub>	1,400	ND



Obeng, Samuel, et al. J Med Chem. 63 (2019). 433-439.



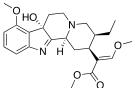
# Macko et al. (1972) SK&F 12711 (mitragynine)



Macko et al. Arch. Int. Pharmacodyn. 198, 145-161 (1972).



# Binding and function of 7-hydroxymitragynine



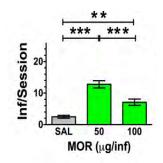
Target	Ki (nM)	Potency (nM)	Efficacy (% agonist response)	Agonist/ Antagonist
μ	6.2	7.6	96.8%	Agonist
к	52.7	No agonist effect	98.4% inhibition of agonist response	Antagonist
δ	228.2	No agonist effect	81.5% inhibition of agonist response	Antagonist

#### 7-Hydroxymitragynine has agonist effects at the MOP

Obeng, Samuel, et al. J Med Chem. 63 (2019). 433-439.



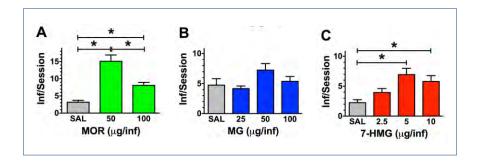
# Substitution of MG and 7-HMG for morphine



Hemby SE, et al. Addict Biol. 2018 June 27.



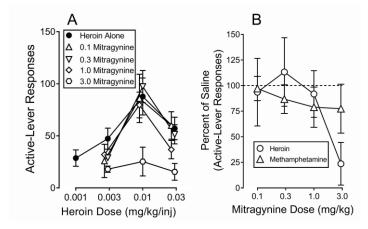
# Drug naïve rats acquire IVSA of 7-HMG but not MG



Hemby SE, et al. Addict Biol. 2018 June 27.



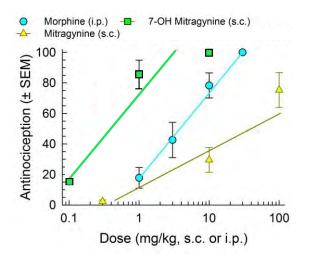
## MG administration reduced heroin self-administration



Yue K, Kopajtic TA, Katz JL. Psychopharmacology (Berl) 2018 Oct; 235(10):2823-2829



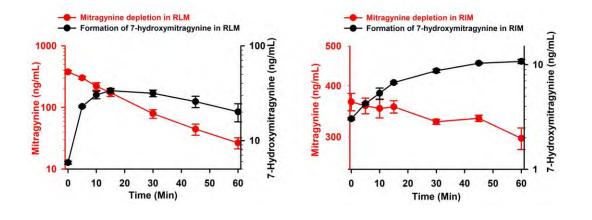
# 55°C mouse warm water tail-withdrawal test



McLaughlin et al. (unpublished data)



# **Metabolism of mitragynine in rat liver** (RLM) **and intestinal microsomes** (RIM)



UF College of Pharmacy UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

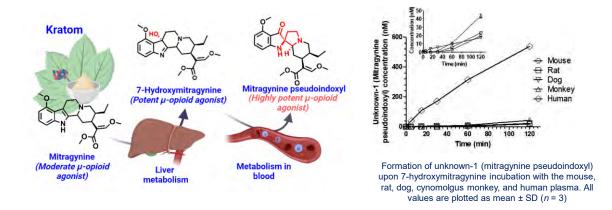
Pharmacokinetic parameters of mitragynine and 7-hydroxy mitragynine after single oral (20 mg/kg) and intravenous (5 mg/kg) administration of mitragynine in female *Sprague Dawley* rats (N=6)

Parameter		Oral		Intravenous	
		Mitragynine	7-Hydroxymitragynine	Mitragynine	7-Hydroxymitragynine
C <sub>max</sub>	1	794.1 ± 83.0	77.5 ± 11.5	-	22.6 ± 5.8
(µg/L)	2	955.4 ± 110.5	-	-	-
T <sub>max</sub> (h)	1	$0.6 \pm 0.1$	$0.8 \pm 0.1$	-	$0.4 \pm 0.1$
	2	$2.0 \pm 0.0$	-	-	-
AUC (h*µg	/L)	8202.7 ± 889.9	737.5 ± 130.7	2132 ± 146.9	72.1 ± 10.7
CL (L/h/kg)		2.7 (18.5%)	-	2.4 (7.7%)	-
V <sub>d</sub> (L/kg) K <sub>met</sub> (1/h)		18.3 (8.2%)	-	3.1 (7.1%)	-
		-	-	0.02 (9.8%)	-
%AUC <sub>70Hmi</sub>	tra	-	9.1±0.3	-	3.3±0.3

Each values are mean  $\pm$  SEM or fixed effect parameters, (%Relative standard error provided by NLME) Abbreviations: AUC = area under the plasma concentration-time curve,  $C_{max}$  = peak plasma concentration,  $T_{max}$  = time to reach  $C_{max}$ ,  $K_{met}$  = conversion coefficient of parent to metabolite, CLz clearance and  $V_d$  = volume of distribution

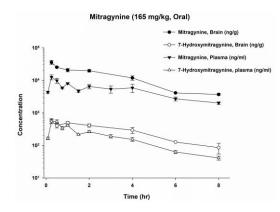


## Metabolism of 7-hydroxymitragynine in human plasma



Kamble, Shyam, et al. ACS Pharmacology & Translational Science (2020). DOI: 10.1021/acsptsci.0c00075





Mean plasma and brain concentration-time profile after oral dose of mitragynine in male C57BL/6J mice

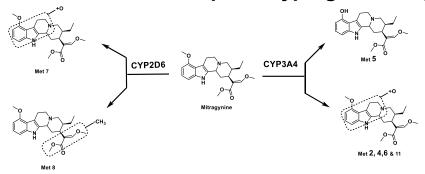
 $\frac{AUC\_BrainMitragynine}{AUC\_Plasma_{_{Mitragynine}}} = 2.44$ 

AUC\_Brain<sub>7-OH-mitragynine</sub>= 1.65 AUC\_Plasma<sub>7-OH-mitragynine</sub>=

Sharma et al, unpublished data



## Cytochrome P450 reaction phenotyping of mitragynine



- CYP3A4 plays predominant role in mitragynine metabolism with minor contributions by CYP2D6 and CYP2C19
- The metabolic clearance of mitragynine was found to be mediated by CYP3A4
- Met 2 = 7-hydroxymitragynine
- · Total of 12 metabolites identified in microsomes and 31 in hepatocytes



#### Prediction of CYP450 mediated kratom alkaloid-drug interaction 120 CYP450s Alkaloids sqns ititu CY P2D6 CYP2D6 Kratom Log conc. (µM) Time Liver icrosomes IC50 (µM) CYP450s Mitragynine 7-OH-mitragynine CYP1A2 >45 >45 CYP2C8 33.5 >45 CYP2C9 >45 >45 CYP2C19 10.5 27.7 CYP2D6 2.2 >45 CYP3A4/5 11.4 >45 CYP3A4/5 >45 >45 >45 >45 >45 >45

CYP P450 inhibition mediated drug-drug interaction potential

Data are expressed as the mean of triplicate determinations. The IC<sub>50</sub>values obtained for positive control inhibitors used for CYP450 inhibition were as follows:CYP1A2,α-naphthoflavone (0.016μM); CYP2C8, montelukast (0.083μM); CYP2C9, sulfaphenazole (0.431µM); CYP2C19, (+)-N-3-Benzylnirvanol (0.217µM);CYP2D6, quinidine (0.056µM); CYP3A4/5 midazolam and testosterone, ketoconazole (0.022 and 0.036µM)



# Take home message about mitragynine

- Atypical opioid with additional non-opioid pharmacology
- Shares some but not all effects with  $\mu$  opioid agonists
- Low potency, with low μ efficacy

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- Less tolerance than morphine (at equianalgesic doses)
- Less dependence than morphine (at equianalgesic doses)
- Discriminative stimulus effects different from morphine
- Less tolerance, abuse, and dependence liability than other opioid analgesics
- Does not appear to have abuse or addiction potential and reduces morphine intake in rats desired characteristics of candidate pharmacotherapies for opiate addiction and withdrawal

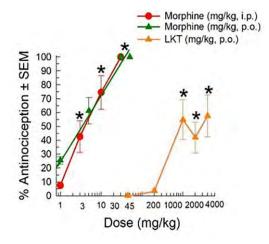


# Take home message about 7-hydroxymitragynine

- Should be considered a kratom constituent with high abuse potential that may also increase the intake of other opiates
- Very selective opioid ligand (doesn't bind any other targets at 10 micromolar concentration)
- The extent that MG is converted to 7-HMG in vivo remains to be understood in terms of the pharmacological ramifications



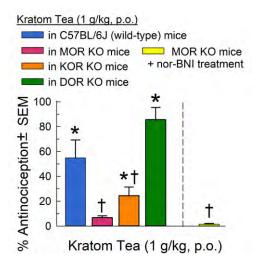
# **Antinociception with LKT**



Wilson, L.L. et al, Drug and Alcohol Dependence, 2020 (Accepted)

**College of Pharmacy** UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

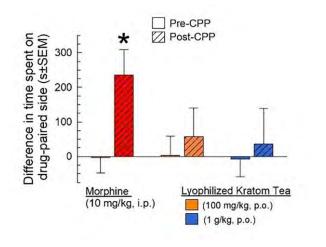
# LKT analgesia is mediated through MOR & KOR



Wilson, L.L. et al, Drug and Alcohol Dependence, 2020 (Accepted)

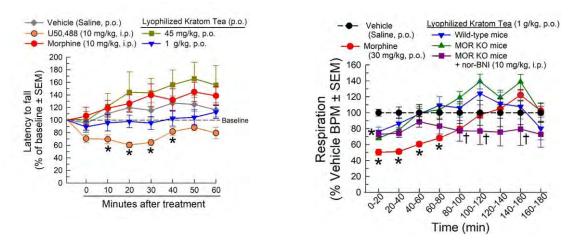


## LKT lacks a Conditioned Place Preference



Wilson, L.L. et al, Drug and Alcohol Dependence, 2020 (Accepted) UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

## **Measured Liabilities with LKT**

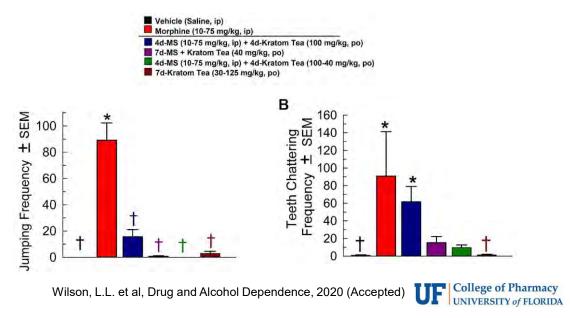


Wilson, L.L. et al, Drug and Alcohol Dependence, 2020 (Accepted)

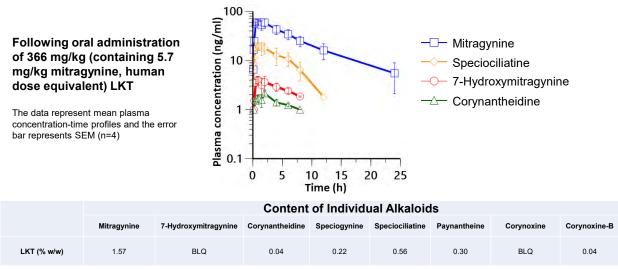
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# **Reduction of Naloxone PPT Withdrawal**



# The pharmacokinetic profiles of kratom alkaloids



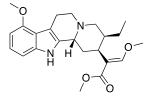
BLQ: below the lower limit of quantification (0.02% w/w for LKT)

Kamble, S.H. et al, 2020 (Submitted)

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## Binding and function of speciociliatine at opioid receptors

Target	Ki (nM)	Potency (nM)	Efficacy (% agonist response)	Agonist/ Antagonist
μ	39.8	39.2	73.6	Agonist
к	98.1	No agonist effect	No agonist effect	No agonist or antagonist effects

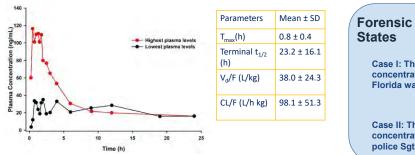


#### Speciociliatine has a partial agonist effect at the MOP

Obeng, Samuel, et al. J Med Chem. 63 (2019). 433-439.



# Clinical Pharmacokinetics of Mitragynine (Thailand Study)



Forensic Analysis in the United States Case I: The measured mitragynine plasma concentration in a deceased individual from Florida was found to be 1,800 ng/mL

Case II: The measured mitragynine plasma concentration in a deceased Tupper Lake police Sgt was found to be 3,500 ng/mL

Satariya Trakulsrichai et al., Drug Des Devel Ther. 2015; 9: 2421.

Chrostowski L. Report of diagnosis and autopsy of Christopher Waldron. Medical Examiner Department. Hillsborough County, FL, USA [22 August 2017] <u>http://speciosa.org/analysis-of-two-deaths-reportedly-associated-with-kratom/</u>





Measured mitragynine plasma concentration in the deceased Americans were found to be 17.1- to 189-times higher than the peak plasma concentrations ( $C_{max}$ ) (18.5 – 105.0 ng/mL) measured in regular kratom users.

E MenisHealth sex health weightloss style get summer body ready subscribe newsletter

This Healthy 27-Year-Old Bodybuilder Died After Using a Common Supplement Natthew Dana was taking kration, and now people are calling for a total ban on the substance



# Take Home – The Two Faces of Kratom

- · Long history of safe use in the traditional manner from SE Asia
- · Associated with a range of adverse events in the Western World
- Alkaloids are structurally different from opiates, and therefore may have different pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties
- Products in the USA are not the same, as the traditionally utilized "fresh leaf" tea preparations
- · Gaps in the science around this plant exist
- · A possible solution to the opioid epidemic could be from nature



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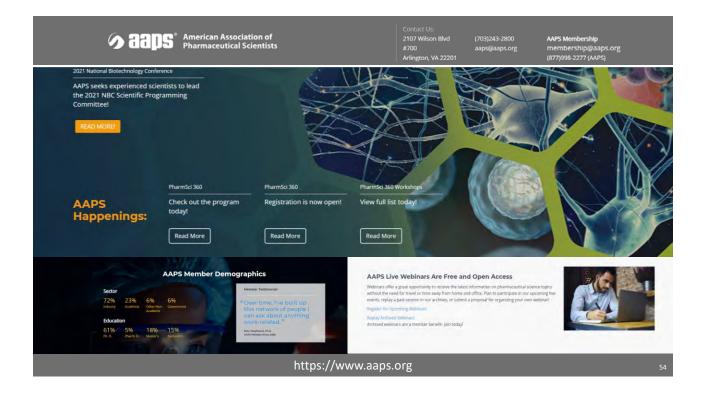
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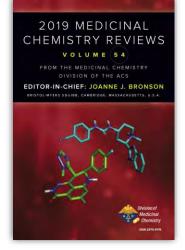
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