



This isolation approach consists of adding 100 ml of a solution containing 20% potassium iodine and 10% iodine per 10 liters of alkaloid-base bearing solution, while stirring. The precipitate is then collected by filtration. The alkaloid is regenerated by dissolving in one liter of chloroform and shaking with 500 ml of a solution of 5% sodium hydroxide and 10% sodium thiosulfate. The chloroform is then separated, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and the solvent removed under reduced pressure. Efficiency for the use of this process to recover lysergic acid amide as a crystallizing residue was reported to be 65% from a fermentation broth containing 1.5 micrograms per ml.

This was reported to reduce the volume of solvents used in the process, and therefore the overall volume of liquids required, by *several orders of magnitude*. It is also implied that it would work for any indole alkaloid, suggesting that the assorted forms of readily available biomass containing trace amounts of interesting indole alkaloids such as ibogaine or DMT might become more functional plant sources. For further details, see RICHTER GIDEON 1972. "Process for the isolation of indole alkaloids," BRITISH PATENT #1374343.  
— K. TROUT

## RIP-OFF FROM ER ADVERTISER?

*The Entheogen Review* has received three complaints about the vendor "ERIC" first mentioned in the Vernal Equinox 2003 "Sources" column as offering Brazilian *Mimosa hostilis* root-bark. "ERIC" subsequently took out a couple of advertisements in later 2003 issues of *ER*, which also presented Brazilian *Anadenanthera peregrina* seeds for sale. The subscribers complaining wrote to ERIC to resolve the issue, but received no response. We had previously heard a complaint about this business, intervened, and the problem was resolved to the customer's satisfaction. More recently, we have received no response in our attempts to contact ERIC. One of the *ER* subscribers who complained pointed out that ERIC mentioned planning to set up a web site business under the name SOUTH AMERICAN BOTANICALS. *Caveat emptor!*

## KRATOM COMBOS

My recent obsession with *kratom* (*Mitragyna speciosa*) over the last ten weeks or so has revealed to me some interesting properties of the plant, when taken in combination with

other entheogens. I discovered that *kratom* is very effective when used with tobacco. *Kratom* is also great in combination with a kava kava (*Piper methysticum*) extract. My favorite combination is *kratom*, kava, and *Cannabis*. This produces the most narcotic and euphoric ten hours I have ever experienced. Strangely, *kratom* and *Cannabis* together (without the kava) takes me "nowhere" and seems to be a useless combination. I also found the combination of *kratom* and opium to be rather uninteresting. It appears as though the worst combinations with *kratom* are those that add an additional depressant quality without also adding some sort of stimulant into the mix.

I did several experiments mixing *kratom* with *Psilocybe cubensis*. We have all-night dances up in the mountains at various places around Taos, New Mexico. My friend brings the peyote and mushrooms, and I bring everything else. I took two grams of very potent mushrooms along with friends. At the point when we were all coming down, feeling burned out and exhausted, I handed out the dried, powdered *kratom* leaves. We took 1.5–2 teaspoons each. The effect on everyone was remarkable. We all felt totally refreshed and rejuvenated, in addition to simply feeling very good. A friend who had taken peyote that night commented that it combined much better with the peyote comedown than with a previous experiment while on mushrooms. That is consistent with my belief that *kratom* combines best with stimulants, since peyote is more stimulating than mushrooms.

The third time I combined it with mushrooms, I took the *kratom* (2 teaspoons powdered) while I was at the peak of my trip. When it started coming on, the closed-eye visuals doubled in intensity and the nature and quality of the trip took on entirely different characteristics. I have rarely had such intense, 3-dimensional visuals. Indeed, these were images the likes of which I had never seen before. These effects went on for about 30 minutes, until the *kratom* kicked in completely and actually overtook the mushroom effects. This caused all of my visuals to disappear entirely, leaving me in a high-energy condition that sustained me until dawn. If I had taken less *kratom*, I wonder if the heightened visuals might have gone on much longer, without causing the "suppression" effect? I predict that *kratom* will go very well with LSD, and probably pretty poorly with ayahuasca (which has a more sedative effect).

THE BASEMENT SHAMAN sent me a gorgeous *kratom* plant, packaged with great care, which arrived in perfect condition. I planted it and saw new growth appearing in only four days.





They claim that their clone is a good one. I ate two medium-sized leaves from it and got a small but definite effect, which was encouraging. *Kratom* stands in a class of its own, and I predict its popularity will sky-rocket over the next few years. This is an incredible narcotic. I encourage everyone to grow the plant; get one before they schedule it! — B. GREEN, NM

## PLANT-ROOTING GIZMO

It's late July in Arizona as I write this, and the ambient air temperature is in the mid-80° F range. It is very difficult to root softwood cuttings using the usual methods in this climate. However, I have come across a product I like very much, since it seems to be the only thing that works under these conditions. It is called the GEL PROPAGATOR, and it's available from CHARLEY'S GREENHOUSE ([www.charleysgreenhouse.com](http://www.charleysgreenhouse.com)). The six-cell propagator comes with a clear plastic top to maintain moisture and allow light in. The cells are filled with what looks like agar and rooting hormone. To use, you simply punch a hole in the foil covering the cells, and insert a cutting. The translucent cells allow one to observe root formation. This thing simply works. I was even able to get a *Mitragyna speciosa* cutting to root (although it later died).

I am sure that readers of *The Entheogen Review* would be interested in this item. — J.E., AZ

## FERTILIZATION PROGRAM

I have been growing *Salvia divinorum*, various *Phalaris* grasses, *Trichocereus* cactus, and other plants in my greenhouse for the past twelve years. When I started "reterraforming" my gardens over a year ago with organic fish-flakes and soil bacteria inoculations, the following happened:

- 1) The DMT content in my *Phalaris stenoptera* increased by three times, and the plant itself is growing twice as fast. The blades are a much darker green.
- 2) My *kratom* is growing very rapidly and is in perfect health, with no leaves dying or dropping off.
- 3) My *Banisteriopsis caapi* plant is growing twice as fast (or more), producing abundant biomass.
- 4) All plant pests disappeared, and have been gone for a year. This includes spider mites and aphids.

I also treated part of a friend's *Cannabis* garden. The plants were all seedlings, and they grew three times faster and were healthier than the ones which had been treated with only a nitrogen fertilizer.

I've been using the MEN IN GREEN program for my soil work. They can be reached at Box 773, Taos, NM, 87571, (505) 737-0899. Or check them out on the web to learn more about their products: [www.meningreenintl.com](http://www.meningreenintl.com). — B. GREEN, NM

## VAPORIZERS & TRYPTAMINES

I have started using an AROMACARE vaporizer (the kind with the big glass dome) for ingestion of the low-grade tryptamine extracts I created so much of a few years back. A friend of mine who uses a vaporizer for *Cannabis* said that he thinks the AROMACARE is not very efficient, but for my purposes it seems to work pretty well. I wasn't happy with running lighters for extended periods of time, dealing with the hot metal and wondering whether I was sucking in butane fumes. Could you assemble a vaporizer review slanted toward tryptamine use? Or has something of this sort already run in *High Times*? (I only very rarely read *High Times*.) Regards and best wishes for the coming year. — M.H, TN

As far as we are aware, there has been no systematic review to determine which commercial vaporizers are most useful when vaporizing tryptamines. Your friend commented that the AROMACARE is not very efficient; presumably this remark was made with regard to its use with *Cannabis*. It is true that, overall, the units that operate via a heated surface—such as the glass "dome" style units—seem to be less efficient than those that operate by drawing variable temperature hot air over the herb (once one has the temperature adjusted correctly). One can make the dome units more effective by using a thin layer of well crushed or powdered *Cannabis*, to make it possible for the material to be evenly and completely heated. However, it is also true that the dome units are not terribly efficient for use with tryptamines, because of desensitization to the tryptamine effect, due to not being able to inhale a big enough hit all at once. The domes on these units are generally pretty large, and the challenge when using them with tryptamines has to do with the air/volume ratio. When you take a hit from these vaporizers, air rushes into the dome to displace the vapor-filled air that is currently in the dome. The larger the dome is, the more air that needs to enter in order to displace all of the vapor. Add to this the fact that the vapor which remains in the dome is becoming diluted with each hit that is taken. Each new hit is displacing the same amount of air (and vapor) from the dome, but the vapor remaining inside the dome is getting progressively "thinner" and less potent with each hit. With some dome-style vaporizers, it can take seven or more hits to clear the dome entirely of vapor, and the last couple hits are very weak.

