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20° Congresso Nazionale

Società Italiana di Tossicologia

**Sostanze
di origine naturale:
farmaci, veleni o entrambi**

BOLOGNA 25-26-27 Ottobre 2021

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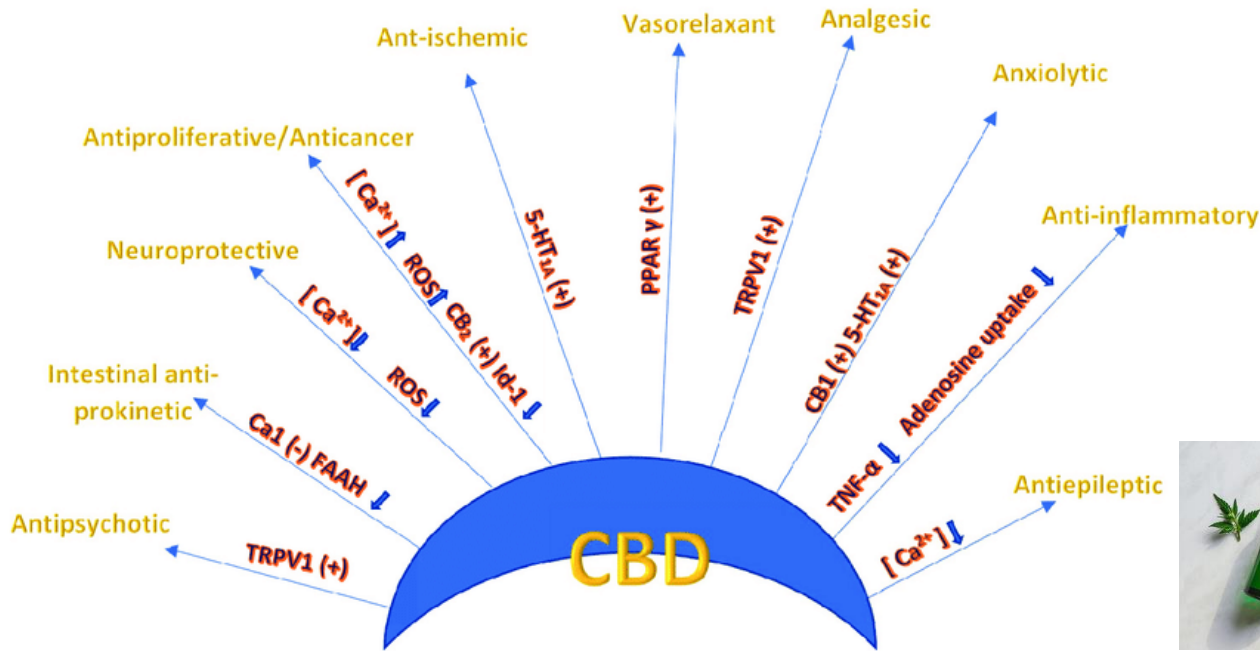
Cannabidiolo (CBD): sostanza realmente sotto controllo? L'origine fa la differenza

Cinzia Citti

cinzia.citti@nanotec.cnr.it

Istituto di Nanotecnologia del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – CNR NANOTEC Lecce

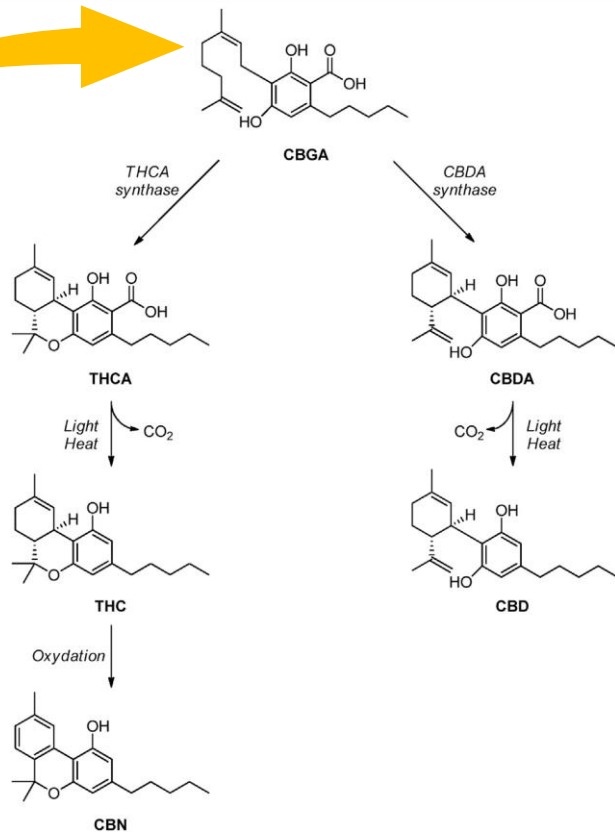
CBD pharmacological properties



CBD in nutraceutica

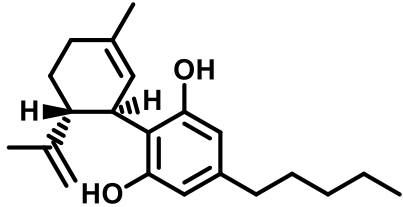


Biosynthesis of phytocannabinoids in *Cannabis sativa* L.



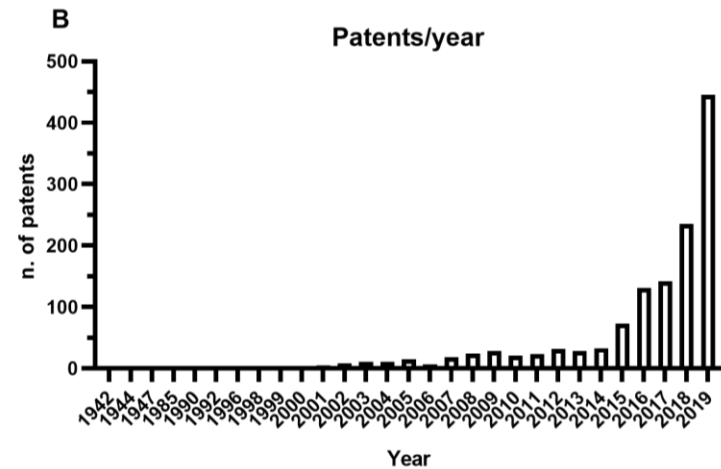
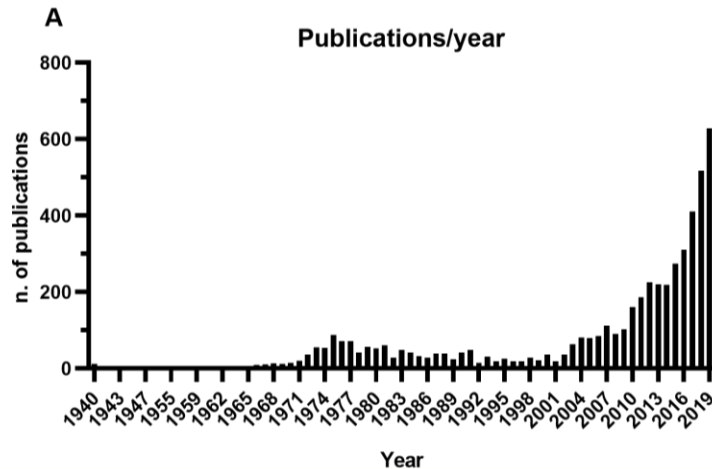
- ✓ The plant **ONLY** biosynthesizes the **carboxylated** forms of **cannabinoids** in the glandular trichomes of female inflorescences (CBGA, THCA, CBDA, etc.)
- ✓ **ONLY** a **chemical reaction** triggered by heat and/or light converts the acidic precursors into the corresponding decarboxylated counterparts (CBG, THC, CBD, etc.)

Scientific and industrial interest for CBD



EPIDIOLEX® (CBD 100 mg/mL)

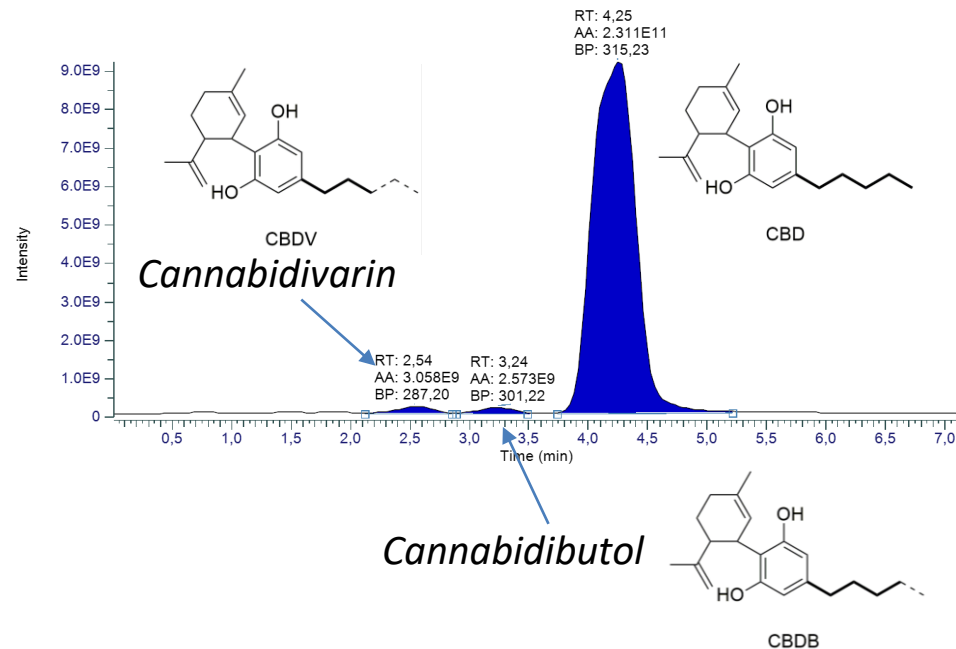
Dravet syndrome, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome,
Tuberous Sclerosis Complex, and Infantile Spasms



Extracted and synthetic CBD: where is the difference?

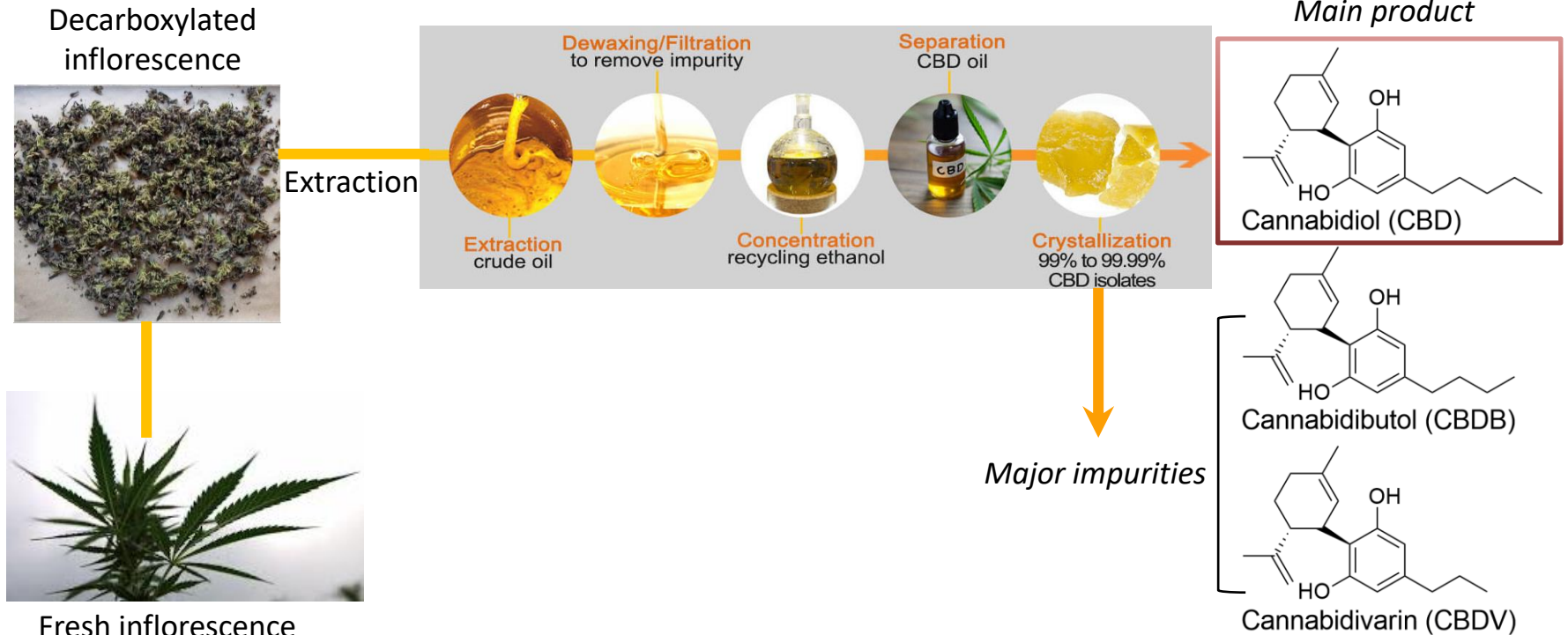
Synthetic CBD

Extracted CBD



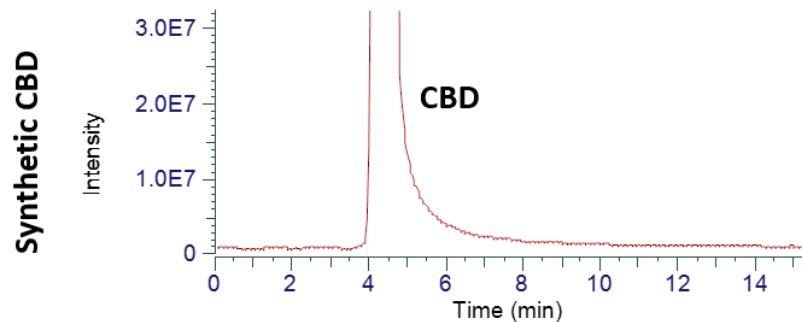
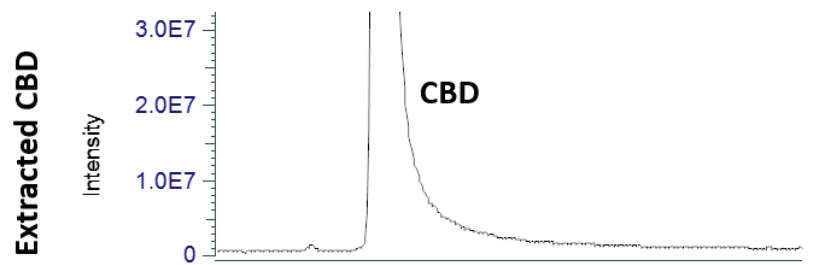
No trace of impurities

Extracted CBD: where do the impurities come from?



Extracted CBD: where do the impurities come from?

What about potential THC traces in CBD?



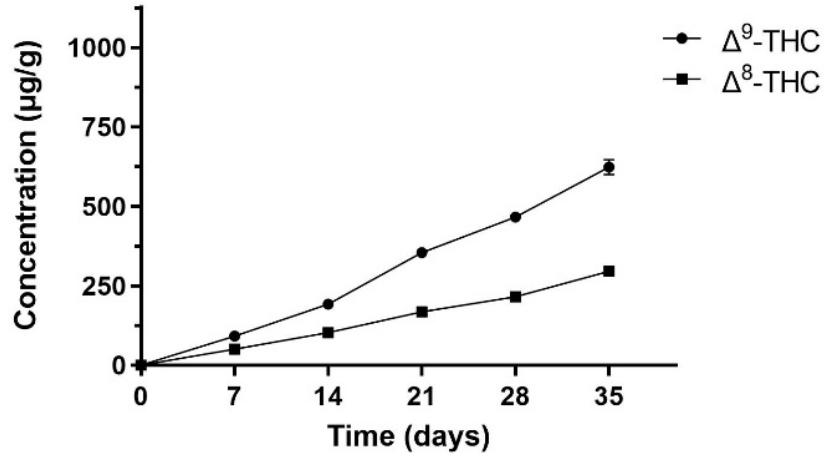
CBD Δ^8 -THC
 Δ^9 -THC

CBD Δ^8 -THC **<0.1%**
 Δ^9 -THC

3 months at room temperature in the dark

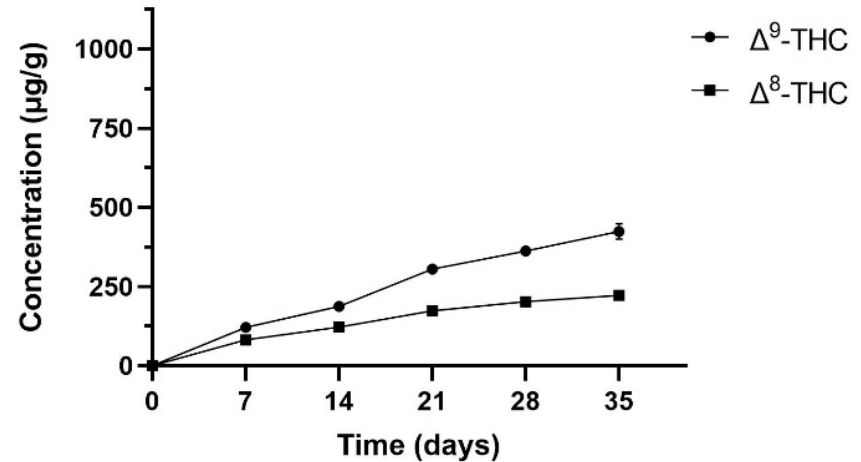
What causes CBD conversion into THC?

50 °C, 75% RH



0.09%

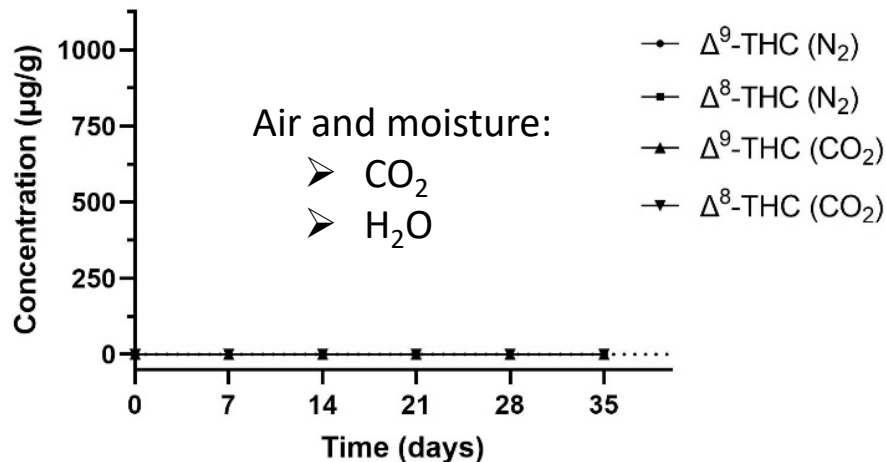
50 °C, 55% RH



0.06%

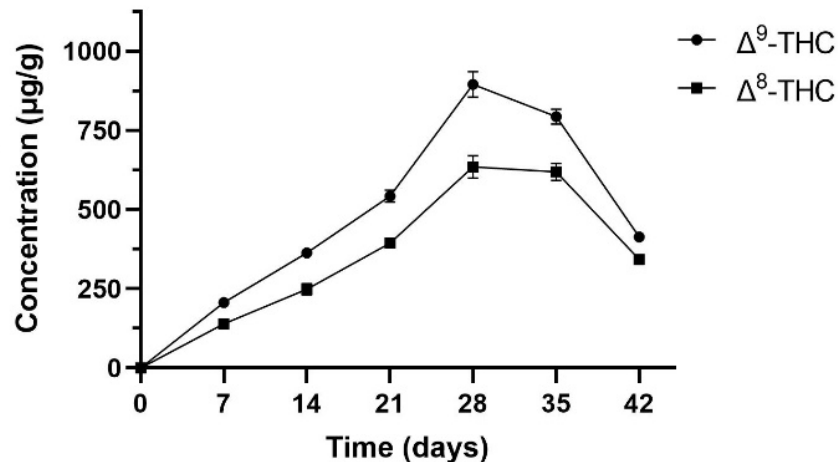
What causes CBD conversion into THC?

50 °C, 0% RH



0%

60 °C, 25% RH



0.15%

High temperatures
accelerate the process

CBD conversion into THC *in vivo*

Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research
Volume 1.1, 2016
DOI: 10.1089/can.2015.0004

**Cannabis and
Cannabinoid Research**

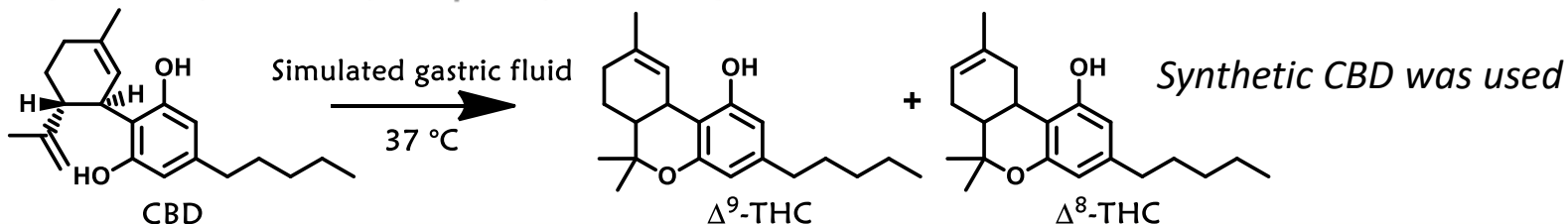
Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.  publishers

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Open Access

Identification of Psychoactive Degradants of Cannabidiol in Simulated Gastric and Physiological Fluid

John Merrick,¹ Brian Lane,¹ Terri Sebree,^{2,*} Tony Yaksh,³ Carol O'Neill,² and Stan L. Banks²



CBD conversion into THC *in vivo*

European Neuropsychopharmacology (2017) 27, 1223-1237



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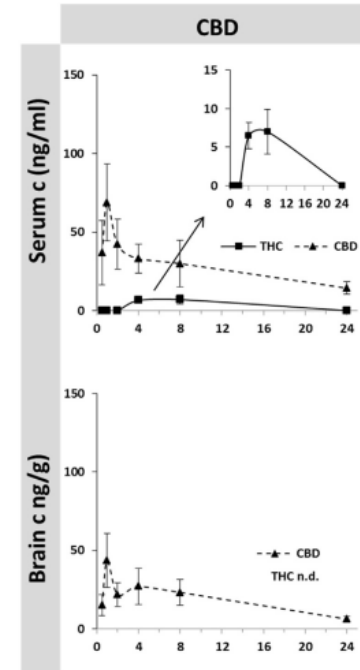
www.elsevier.com/locate/euroneuro



Pharmacokinetic and behavioural profile of THC, CBD, and THC + CBD combination after pulmonary, oral, and subcutaneous administration in rats and confirmation of conversion *in vivo* of CBD to THC

Tomáš Hložek^{a,b}, Libor Uttl^{c,d}, Lukáš Kadeřábek^c, Marie Balíková^a,
Eva Lhotková^c, Rachel R. Horsley^c, Pavlína Nováková^c,
Klára Šichová^c, Kristýna Štefková^c, Filip Tylš^c, Martin Kuchař^{c,e},
Tomáš Páleníček^{c,f,*}

Synthetic CBD was used



CBD conversion into THC *in vivo*



ELSEVIER

Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical
Analysis

Available online 28 November 2017

In Press, Accepted Manuscript — Note to users



Development of a simple and sensitive liquid chromatography triple quadrupole mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) method for the determination of cannabidiol (CBD), Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and its metabolites in rat whole blood after oral administration of a single high dose of CBD

Federica Palazzoli^a, Cinzia Citti^{b, c}, Manuela Licata^{a, d, e}, Antonietta Vilella^d, Letizia Manca^d, Michele Zoli^d, Maria Angela Vandelli^e, Flavio Forni^e, Giuseppe Cannazza^{c, e}

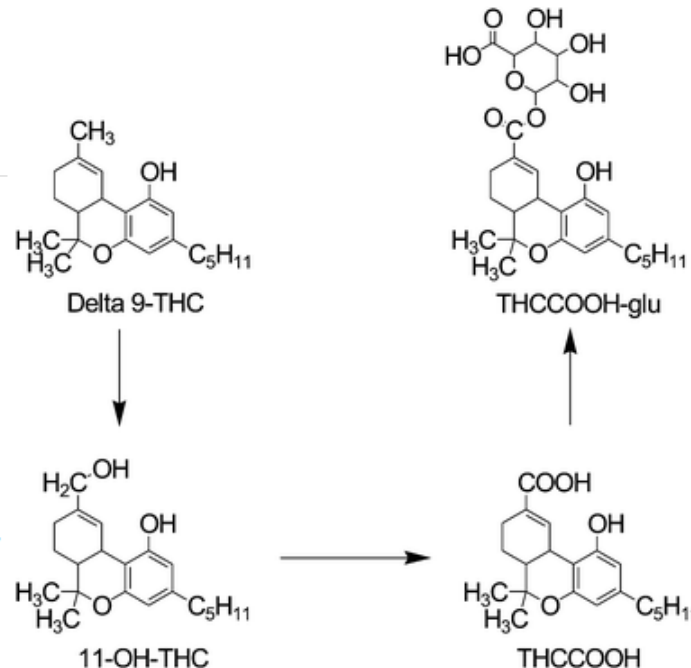
^a Dipartimento di Medicina Diagnostica, Clinica e di Sanità Pubblica, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Largo del pozzo 71, 41125 Modena, Italy

^b Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Biologiche ed Ambientali, Università del Salento, Via per Monteroni, 73100 Lecce, Italy

^c CNR NANOTEC, Campus Ecotecnico dell'Università del Salento, Via per Monteroni, 73100 Lecce, Italy

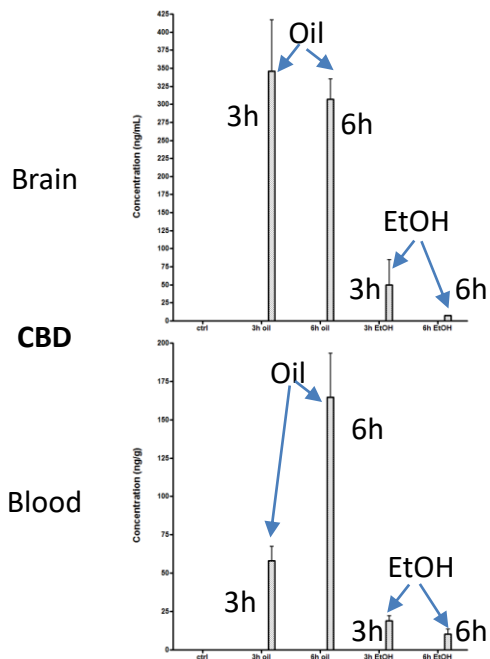
^d Dipartimento di Scienze Biomediche, Metaboliche e Neuroscienze, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Via Campi 287, 41125 Modena, Italy

^e Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Via Campi 103, 41125 Modena, Italy



Extracted CBD was used

No conversion of CBD into THC *in vivo*



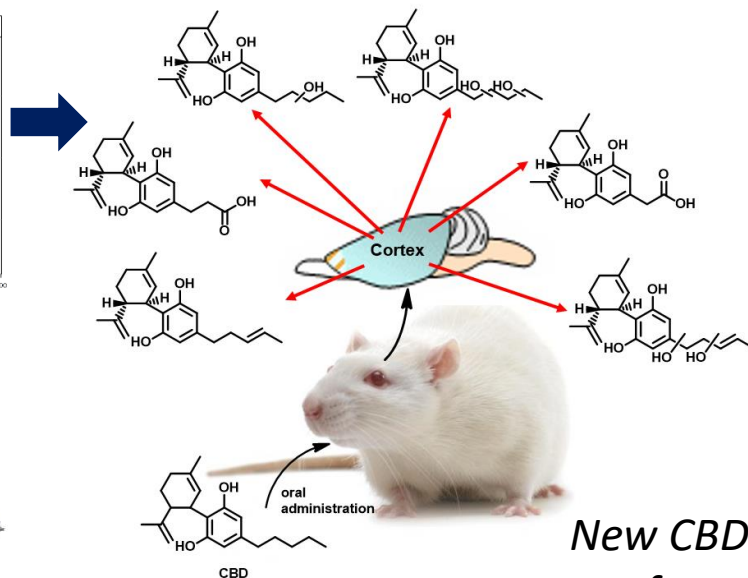
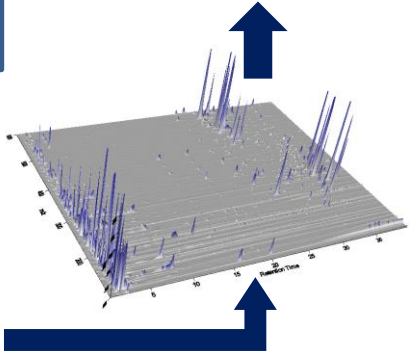
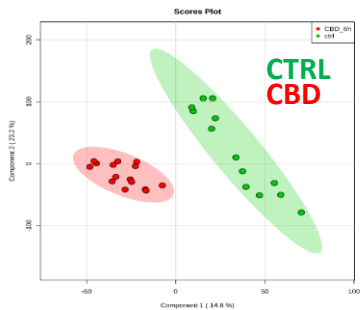
- ❑ Neither THC nor its metabolites were observed in blood or brain
- ❑ CBD blood and brain levels were higher when administered in olive oil than in EtOH
- ❑ Oral administration of CBD in EtOH may cause precipitation of the drug and poor bioavailability
- ❑ Olive oil may act as a shield from gastric fluids

Beyond plant variability: *in vivo* pharmacometabolomics



CTRL
Olive oil

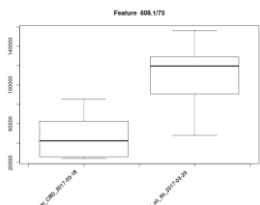
CBD
50 mg/Kg
6h



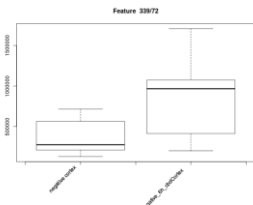
New CBD metabolites are found in the brain

Citti *et al.*, J. Pharm. Biomed. Anal. 2018, 161, 1-11

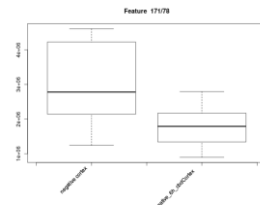
Dys-regulated endogenous substances after oral administration of a single high dose of CBD (50 mg/kg)



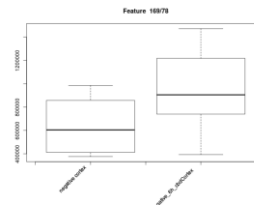
Uridine diphosphate-N-acetylglucosamine



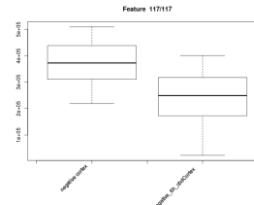
Fructose 1,6-diphosphate



Glycerol 3-phosphate



Dihydroxyacetone phosphate

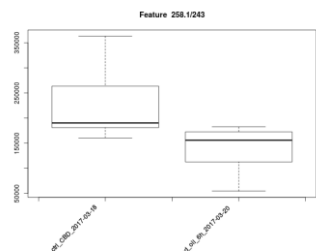


Succinic acid

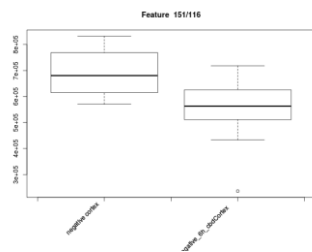
GLUCOSE
consumption

Hypoglycemic
activity

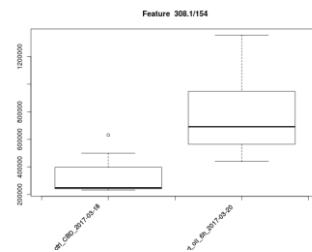
Dys-regulated endogenous substances after oral administration of a single high dose of CBD (50 mg/kg)



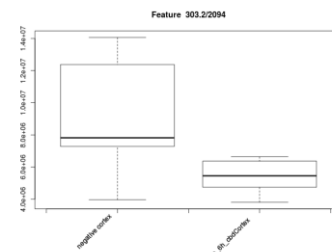
5-methylcytidine



Xanthine



Glutathione



Arachidonic acid

Antioxidant activity

Anti-inflammatory activity

Available resources on CBD conversion into THC

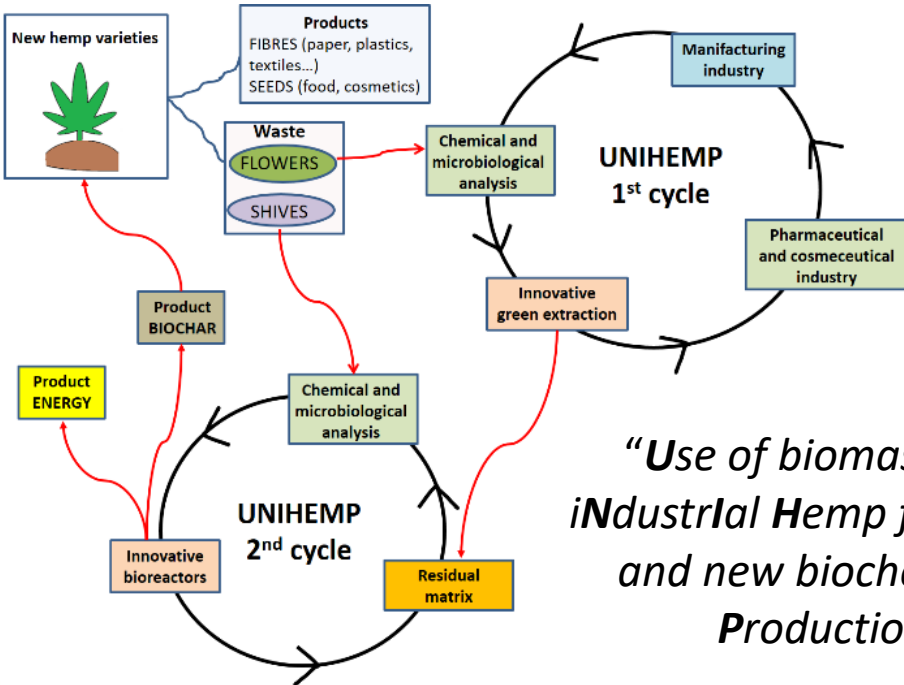
1. J. Merrick et al. **Identification of Psychoactive Degradants of Cannabidiol in Simulated Gastric and Physiological Fluid**, *Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research* 1 (2016) 102-112.
2. T. Hložek et al. **Pharmacokinetic and behavioural profile of THC, CBD, and THC+CBD combination after pulmonary, oral, and subcutaneous administration in rats and confirmation of conversion *in vivo* of CBD to THC**, *Eur. Neuropsychopharmacol.* 27 (2017) 102-112.
3. G. Nahler et al. **A Conversion of Oral Cannabidiol to Delta9-Tetrahydrocannabinol Seems Not to Occur in Humans**, *Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research* 2 (2017) 81-86.
4. L. Wray et al. **Cannabidiol Does Not Convert to Δ 9-Tetrahydrocannabinol in an In Vivo Animal Model**, *Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research* 2 (2017) 282-287.
5. F. Palazzoli et al. **Development of a simple and sensitive liquid chromatography triple quadrupole mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) method for the determination of cannabidiol (CBD), Δ 9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and its metabolites in rat whole blood after oral administration of a single high dose of CBD**, *J. Pharm. Biomed. Anal.* 161 (2018) 1-11.
6. J. A. S. Crippa et al. **Oral Cannabidiol Does Not Convert to Δ 8-THC or Δ 9-THC in Humans: A Pharmacokinetic Study in Healthy Subjects**, *Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research* 5 (2020) 89-98.
7. P. Golombek et al. **Conversion of Cannabidiol (CBD) into Psychotropic Cannabinoids Including Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC): A Controversy in the Scientific Literature**, *Toxics* 8 (2020) 41, <https://doi.org/10.3390/toxics8020041>.



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Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale



UNIHEMP Project 2019-2022



*“Use of biomass from
iNdustrIal Hemp for Energy
and new biocheMicals
Production”*

Partners

- Dhitech Scarl, CNR NANOTEC
- Avantech Group Srl
- Ekuberg Pharma Srl
- CREA (Council for Agricultural Research and Economics)
- Manifatture Sigaro Toscano
- University of Modena e Reggio Emilia

Aknowledgements

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Francesco Tolomeo (HPLC-HRMS analysis, CNR NANOTEC)

Pasquale Linciano (Synthesis of new phytocannabinoids, University of Pavia)

Livio Luongo (*In vivo* pharmacological activity of cannabinoids, University of Campania)

Aldo Laganà (Cannabinoids database, University of Rome)

Roberta Paris (Hemp biomass, CREA-CI – Research Centre of Cereals and Industrial Crops)



Thank you for the attention