



ACS Local Section
Southern Nevada

ACS Symposium hosted by UNLV
Friday, November 1, 2019,
5:30-6:00 PM Refreshments
6:00-7:00 PM Seminar
Chemistry Building, Room 101

The Chemistry of Marijuana

Dr. Joe Vinson

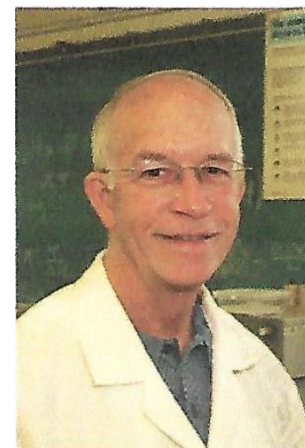
*Professor of Chemistry,
University of Scranton, PA*

Abstract

Marijuana is smoked, eaten, or drunk by more than 200 million people all over the world. Yet, it remains one of the least understood drugs. In this presentation, we will attempt to provide some insights into the chemistry of marijuana. As a background to begin our discussion, we will review the history of marijuana, which is thousands of years old. Next, we will look at the chemical composition of the cannabis plant, the pharmacology of marijuana in humans and the physiological effects of marijuana. A brief review of the analysis of marijuana in physiological fluids will then be presented. The recent advances in the use of marijuana in medicine will conclude the presentation.

Biosketch

Dr. Joe Vinson was born in Arkansas and grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. He attended college at the University of California at Berkeley where he received his B.S. in Chemistry in 1963. He received a joint PhD in Physical Organic Chemistry and Analytical Chemistry (two theses) in 1967 at Iowa State University. After a stint in industry at J.T. Baker Chemical Company, he is now Professor of Chemistry at the University of Scranton in Northeast Pennsylvania. His research interests include drug analysis in physiological fluids, and the effect of foods, vitamins, and antioxidants on nutrition and health. His research has been featured in USA Today, New York Times, Washington Post and magazines such as Prevention, Psychology Today, Consumer Reports, American Association of Retired Persons, Chronicle of Higher Education, Cosmopolitan, Marie Claire, Modern Bride, Tufts Health & Nutrition Newsletter, USNews&World Report and he was lampooned in a cartoon in Time magazine. He has appeared on national TVs Good Morning America Sunday on national public radio NPR's All Things Considered and The Peoples' Pharmacy and as well being mentioned by Jay Leno on TV and Rush Limbaugh on radio. Dr. Vinson is the author of over 100 publications and his proudest achievement besides his students is being a National Tour Speaker for the American Chemical Society for over 30 years with topics ranging from chocolate and health to marijuana and coffee.



Parking

Enter UNLV campus from the north (Flamingo Rd or Maryland Pkwy) or from the west (Harmon Rd).

We recommend parking in Lot O by White Hall or Lot I by the Lied Library. Additional parking is available in Lot N.



From Flamingo Road: Turn onto Claymont Street and take a right at the T-intersection with Cottage Grove Ave. Continue on Cottage Grove Ave until you reach a stop sign, and turn left into Lot O.

From Maryland Parkway: Turn onto Cottage Grove Avenue. Continue straight until you reach a stop sign, and turn left into Lot O.

From Harmon Road: From Swenson Street, follow Harmon Road into campus. It will terminate in Lot I.