

Date: Wed, 27 Feb 2002 14:17:04 -0600
From: Thomas Ray <tray>
To: shura@netcom.com
Subject: some questions
Cc: tray@nhn.ou.edu

Sasha:

I am writing to ask your help with a report that I must complete by March 25. I have received a grant of five million yen from the Human Information Sciences Laboratory (HIS) in Kyoto, for a seven-week project titled: "Investigation of Bioinformatic Approach to the Human Mind"...

Effectively, the report amounts to a proposal for future research, which HIS wants to fund. I plan to propose a study of phenethylamine mechanisms of action. The central motivation for the study is to understand how different materials produce qualitatively different effects, and from this knowledge to develop an understanding of the architecture of the human mind. To make my case for the validity of this approach, I present evidence that different materials have different effects. To make this understandable, I am preparing a simple list of distinctive materials and their effects:

MDMA	empathy, insight
DOET	cognitive creativity
2C-E	fantasy
2C-B	gustatory, tactile, sexual experience
Aleph	inflation, paranoia, selfishness
TMA	anger, hostility, megalomania
????	aesthetic sensibility
????	satori, oceanic experience

I want to ask you to help me in the preparation of this list. I have the following specific questions:

1) The Japanese have a special interest in the oceanic experience, which they call satori. I would like to include satori in the list, so could you help me to associate a material with it? I realize that there is probably no material that reliably produces oceanic experience, but what material(s) do you associate with the oceanic experience? If you wanted to help someone to have the oceanic experience, what material(s) would you think of?

2) Effectively, I want to ask the same question about the deep appreciation of beauty that often occurs, the aesthetic sensibility. What material(s) do you associate with the deep appreciation of beauty? If you wanted to help someone to experience the deep appreciation of beauty, what material(s) would you think of?

3) At this point my list is very short. I would like to lengthen it quite a bit. Nobody knows the diversity of the phenethylamines like you. Could you add to the list for me?

4) Please share with me, any thoughts you have about both the specific list that I show above, and the whole concept of such a list (the concept that specific experiences are associated with specific materials).

Thank you very much for your time.

Tom Ray

Date: Tue, 12 Mar 2002 01:25:14 -0800 (PST)
From: "Alexander T. Shulgin" <shura@well.com>
To: tray@nhn.ou.edu
Subject: phenethylamines

Hi Tom:

Congratulations on getting a nicely funded grant from the HIS in Kyoto. The "Bioinformatic Approach to the Human Mind" sounds like quite a topic, but it has the feel of something that you would be well qualified to do.

...

Thanks for confirming on the phone that the grant you are going for should be on the phenethylamines - this excludes some of the areas that are unique to the tryptamines. You had sent the following outline:

MDMA	empathy, insight
DOET	cognitive creativity
2C-E	fantasy
2C-B	gustatory, tactile, sexual experience
Aleph	inflation, paranoia, selfishness
TMA	anger, hostility, megalomania
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????	satori, oceanic experience

The MDMA entries are excellent. An interesting added detail is that it is not a psychedelic but almost more of a stimulant. The energy is there, the total recall of the friendly personal interaction not only with another person, but also with the inner person (the unconscious) with which there is rarely easy communication. This is its value in psychotherapy. But no visual goings-on, no sensory distortions.

With DOET, I don't recall the creativity thing... An unusual property is its extremely long duration, very much like the halide counterparts DOB and DOI.

With 2C-E, yes, there is fantasy, and retrospection and, to a certain degree, the pace of the mental synthesis is taken over by the drug. With LSD, you are bombarded with serious, important, personal questions, and you can wallow around with them. With 2C-E, you aren't given question #6 until you have answered question #5. There is no social interacting. Stay by yourself, address the questions as they come and, maybe sometime later, you may be allowed to have dinner and talk to others.

2C-B is right on the money. Tactile, sexual, touchy and feely. A remarkable compound to include with this one is the iodine counterpart 2C-I. It is a pretty much even split -- about half of the experimenters prefer 2C-I to 2C-B, and half the other way about. Be aware that 2C-I has recently become commercially available (largely underground) in Japan, but they do not allow any exportation...

Let me take the TMA before the ALEPH, as there are multiple things with the latter. TMA did indeed have the overlay of hostility, and some of the early subjects (largely interviewed by Claudio Naranjo) were rather aggressive and somewhat angry under its influence. Such a total difference from the warm and peaceful homologue, mescaline.

With ALEPH, there are two of them that deserve inclusion in your grant, but they are very different.

Let me zip back to your comments regarding the oceanic state or, in the Japanese culture, the satori state. This is what I relate to, as the plus four state. You are everywhere. You are all-powerful. The world out there is totally under your control. You are in control of all things in all places. My first awareness of this possibility was with ALEPH-1 which is discussed a bit in Chapter 14 of PIHKAL. But the mind-blowing exposure to this state of consciousness was with 2C-T-4 in which I described the total control of the world about me in Chapter 41. Exciting, and frightening at the same time. I enjoyed the experience, but I certainly didn't want to stay there in bliss, and began looking forward to getting out of it all. It was a true pleasure to be aware of the beginning of the drop-off of the drug's effects. Ann and I repeated the experience some time later. and neither of us had this oceanic experience, even though we used the same dosage as before.

I had had a second satori exposure, with 2C-T-4, and some of the wet details of this are in Chapter 41, in PIHKAL. Dramatic, exciting, and again not wanted to be repeated.

A most important drug, a phenethylamine, that is not touched upon in this collection, is mescaline. This simple compound brings together the properties of the intense appreciation of color (made complex by the fine definitions of many unexpected shades and variations) and the love and tenderness of things that appear to be magically beautiful, whether they are or are not in real life. If you see them that way, then they are that way regardless of any objective, sober disagreement.

These are my thoughts. I hope that they are of use to you.

Sasha

Annote: I just HAVE to add to all the above -- and also referring to your letter, Tom -- that it must be understood that such events as a plus-four experience (or satori or bliss-state or samadhi) cannot be properly tied to ANY specific drug, or for that matter, to any drug at all. And my experience of a plus-four is different from Sasha's, and from everyone else's, of course. And 2C-B is as cosmic as it is sensual. Depends what you want -- and need -- from the experience. Only one drug can be relied upon, in 98% of sessions, to give insight without self-rejection, and that is MDMA. The rule to remember is that, ALWAYS, the experience comes not from the drug, but from the person taking it...

Blessings -- Annski

Date: Tue, 12 Mar 2002 09:57:17 -0600

From: Thomas Ray <tray>

To: shura@netcom.com

Subject: various

Cc: tray@nhn.ou.edu

Sasha and Ann:

Thank you for taking the time to respond to my questions.

Sasha, I want to invite you to add tryptamines to the little list. If the list could be significantly expanded with their inclusion, that would motivate me to include them in my study.

Also, my list included:

???? aesthetic sensibility

Could I conclude from your comments on mescaline, that it could replace the ??????:

> A most important drug, a phenethylamine, that is not touched upon
> in this collection, is mescaline. This simple compound brings
> together the properties of the intense appreciation of color
> (made complex by the fine definitions of many unexpected shades
> and variations) and the love and tenderness of things that appear
> to be magically beautiful, whether they are or are not in real
> life. If you see them that way, then they are that way
> regardless of any objective, sober disagreement.

Or, taking it another way, what one or two word description would you attach to mescaline, in order to be able to include it in the little list?

Also:

> With ALEPH, there are two of them that deserve inclusion in your
> grant, but they are very different.
>
> Let me zip back to your comments regarding the oceanic state or

You never finished what you were going to say about the ALEPHs. Which two were you referring two?
Please share your thoughts on them.

My comments on cognitive creativity with DOET are based on Snyder's papers. Perhaps I am making too liberal or "pop" of an interpretation, but that is what I concluded from the papers...

Tom Ray

Date: Sat, 16 Mar 2002 11:26:01 -0800 (PST)
From: "Alexander T. Shulgin" <shura@well.com>
Message-Id: <200203161926.LAA23140@well.com>
To: tray@nhn.ou.edu
Subject: Alephs, etc.

Hi Tom:

You are absolutely right! Something happened half way through my last letter to you (a car came? the phone rang?) and I never finished the Aleph thing.

One of them is Aleph 1, which was one of my two ++++ experiences. You were speaking of the oceanic experience, the satori phenomenon, which I feel pretty much equals my ++++ definition. You are on top of the world. You are in complete control of everything. You are in a total bliss state and immune to everything external. Beautiful and quite scary if you were able to be scared. And surprisingly, rather happy to get out of it and have it behind you. This was written up in Chapter 14 of Pihkal, on page 80. Also, check the Chapter 41 in Pihkal, page 428, on 2C-T-4. This was the other ++++ experience, written out in some detail.

The other Aleph entry that you might be able to use in your grant application, is Aleph-4. Some hints of the negative are given on pages 468-469 in Pihkal. A strange, emotionless, state. I remember one of my early trials where I simply sat and tried to reason out just why I could feel neither pleasure nor anger at anything or towards anyone. The compound is a strange one, inconsistent in effects, and perhaps how you act out from it might depend on where you were, going into it. I don't know how you might choose to classify it for the Japanese!

And, yes. Mescaline would serve very well as a aesthetic enhancer...

Good luck with your application!

Sasha

Date: Mon, 18 Mar 2002 00:17:11 -0800 (PST)
From: "Alexander T. Shulgin" <shura@well.com>
Message-Id: <200203180817.AAA22784@well.com>
To: tray@nhn.ou.edu
Subject: tryptamines

Hi Tom:

This is going to be a fast communication, written pretty much off the top of my head. I know you are facing a deadline, but then I am taking off at 7 AM tomorrow morning... So this has to be sent out to you tonight.

Tryptamine. I trust you want to include them into you grant. The original text was all phenethylamines, and this a whole new ring system. Is it a second half? Do you hope to integrate structural aspects of the PEA's and the T's into a single argument? As you well know it is quite a different world, and knitting them to together might be a challenge. Let me assume that the combination is what you want, and bounce off of you some things that come immediately to mind. I will emphasize tryptamines that stand out with unusual properties.

DMT. Check out Strassman's book on the spiritual molecule, for the intense experience his subjects had with this compound. It is not orally active and it is very fact it is best experienced by being smoked. Strassman did all of his by injection.

5-MeO-DMT. This is also not orally active, but is even faster in onset. It's unusual property is the speed of onset. You take one hit and you are out of communication with the outside world almost immediately.

DPT. This is the tryptamine that the Temple of the True Inner Light used in its religious ceremonies for communication with God (or was it Jesus?). The Fed's couldn't prosecute them under the analogue law since there was no Schedule I drug that allowed communication with God, and so it did not have the properties of a Schedule I drug.

DIPT. This is the compound that completely distorts the harmonic integrity of the music being listened to. It is not the slowing down of everything (proportional integrity by just with lower pitch) but a true subtraction of cycles from a note, leading to a harmonic chaos. An oboe does not sound like an oboe. This has been independently confirmed by a separate study using a sine wave generator as the signal source and perfect pitch musicians and the experimental subjects.

5-MeO-DIPT. This is the orgasm enhancer. At full dosages, it is a weird and not widely acceptable psychedelic, but at mini-doses (such as 6 milligrams, where there is little if any mental effects) there is an extreme enhance of orgasm (in the male, but not the female). There is no enhancement in getting there, but once there it is remarkable. And if co-administered with small additions of Viagra (15 milligram) there is an unexpected synergy that reduced the needed 5-MeO-DIPT to about 4 milligrams.

4-HO-DIPT versus 4-Acetoxy-DIPT. These two compounds should have been identical in their action if, and only if, the acetoxy ester is hydrolyzed to the free phenol before entering the brain. But, the acetoxy is fasted acting, and more potent, thus it is reasonable that it is uptaken directly into the brain as the acetyl ester. This plays a tight game with psilocybin, an ester, and psilocin, the free phenol, both being active. But which is the actual active compound? With psilocybin I suspect it is the free phenol; with 4-OH-DIPT I suspect it is the acetate ester.

5-MeO-pyr-T Another compound totally out of order with its companion analogues. Almost all of the N,N-disubstituted tryptamine are active up there in the area of a dozen or so milligrams, but this pyrrole causes intense poisoning at the 1 to 2 milligram level. And psychological complications also down at that level. That structural twist added an unexpected property. The suspected psychedelic response has had a toxicity response superimposed upon it at a much lower level.

And do remember, if you are bringing the phenethylamines and the tryptamines into the same arena, that LSD is both a phenethylamine and a tryptamine. All in the same molecule. I am sure that there are other tryptamine weirdos, but right now I have to get by back-pack packed and be ready to get out of here at 7:AM in the morning.

I hope this helps. No. Maybe this will provoke, instead!

Sasha