



Review

Pharmacological activity of Salvinorin A, the major component of *Salvia divinorum*

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Abstract:

The hallucinogenic plant *Salvia divinorum* (i.e., “magic mint”) is a member of the Sage family that has been historically used for divination and shamanism by the Mazatecs. Today, *S. divinorum* has become increasingly popular as a recreational drug for its hallucinogenic effects. The non-nitrogenous diterpene, salvinorin A, the major active component of *S. divinorum*, is responsible for the hallucinogenic effect of this plant. Here, we described the behavioral effects of salvinorin A in animals including the addictive, antinociception and antidepressant properties of the drug. The present paper also demonstrates the not well recognized (or unclear) mechanisms of action of salvinorin A. The last part of the paper presents information about the legal status of *S. divinorum* and its derivatives. Taking into account the increasing popularity and consumption of salvinorin A and *S. divinorum* today, it is important to collect all data on the pharmacological profile of this plant and its products.

Key words:

Salvia divinorum, Salvinorin A
