An overview of illicit tablets seized in Slovenia in the period 2007-2009

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1. Introduction

In the year 1994 the first officially seizure of synthetic drugs in Slovenia was confirmed. Since then synthetic drugs in form of tablets as well as in powder have become popular and widely used.

Forensic Research Centre has been collecting illicit tablets containing synthetic drugs since 1994. Data of the tablets are available via Police Intranet site to all the police officers.

2. Methods

• Identification of synthetic drugs and other active compounds in illicit tablets was performed on an Agilent 6890-5975 GC-MS instrument.

• Determination of amount of synthetic drugs in illicit tablets was performed on an Agilent 1100 HPLC instrument with diode array detector. Amphetamine, metamphetamine, MDMA, caffeine, phenacetin, creatine and mCPP were quantified.

3. Results

All the illicit tablets, seized in the period 2007-2009, are listed in Table 1. MDMA was detected in 41 types of tablets, from which 27 were quantified, whereas amphetamine with or without mCPP was detected in 29 types of tablets, 12 were quantified. Venlafaxine as a single drug was detected in a single case of illicit tablets. Methamphetamine was identified in 4 cases in the year 2007 from which 3 were quantified. See Fig. 1.

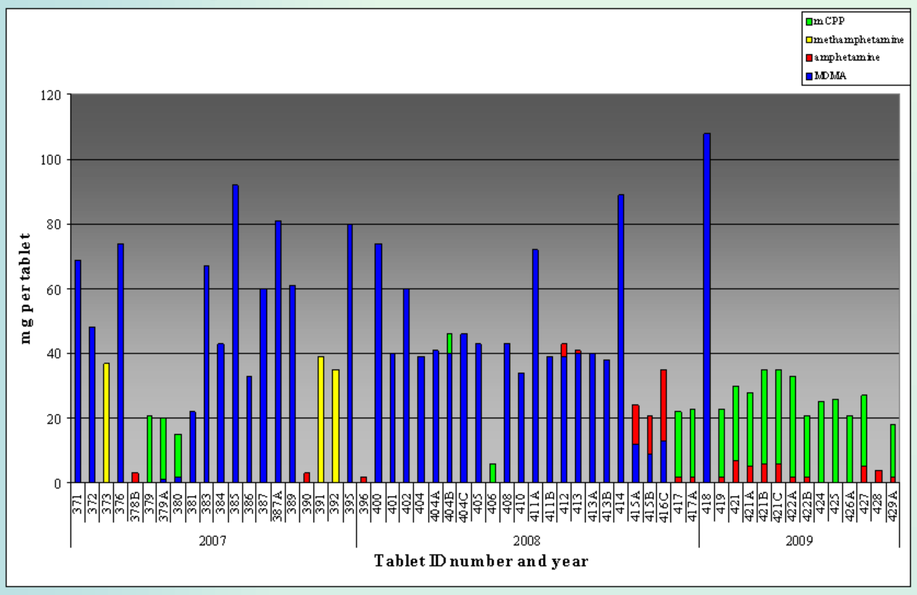

Figure 1: The amounts of active components in illicit tablets

Average of MDMA per tablet has been decreased from 46,2 mg in the year 2007 to 36,1 mg per tablet in the year 2009. A trend of increased average amount of mCPP was observed. See Fig. 2.

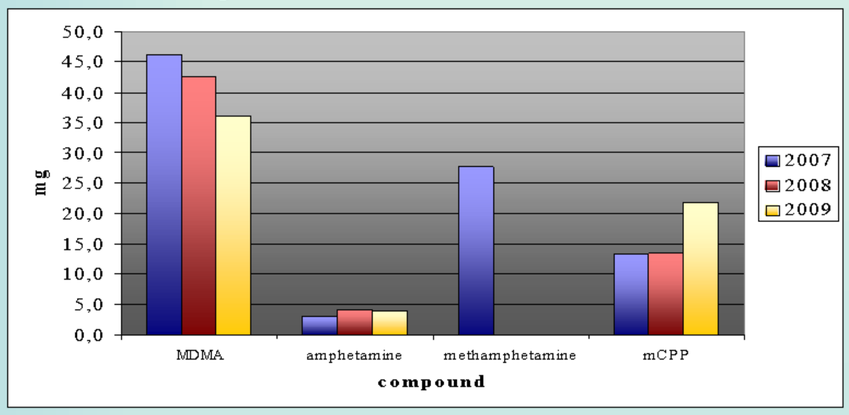

Figure 2: Average amount of compounds per tablet

Most of the tablets from the year 2007 contained single drug. Two or more drugs were detected in the year 2008. MDMA with 108 mg per tablet was determined in only one single type of illicit tablets in the year 2009. mCPP in combination with amphetamine was prevalent drug in the year 2009, mostly in tablets with Rolex logo which may have the same origin. See Fig. 3.

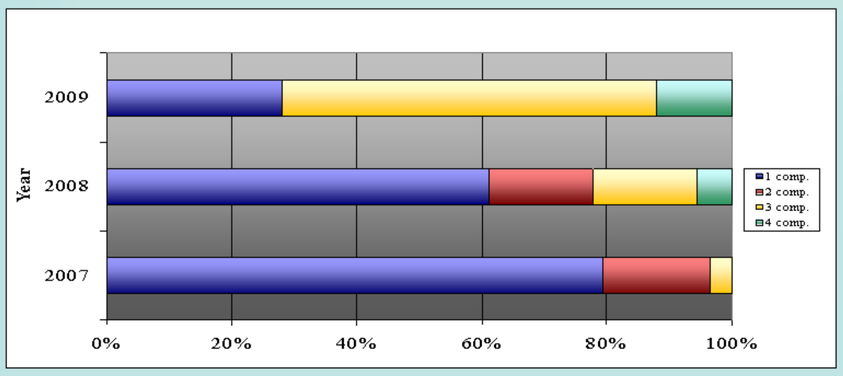

Figure 3: Single and multi-drug composition of synthetic drug tablets

No other legal synthetic drugs such as p-fluoroamphetamine, mephedrone, buthylone, other cathinones or piperazines except mCPP were detected in the tablets.

3. Conclusions

▸ MDMA was the dominant drug within illicit tablets in 2007 and 2008. Few types of tablets contained other compounds (such as amphetamine, methamphetamine, mCPP, venlafaxine etc.)

▸ In most of MDMA containing tablets no other illicit drugs were identified.

▸ In the year 2009 only one type of illicit tablets contained MDMA.

▸ All the other type of illicit tablets seized in 2009 contained mCPP as a major drug, in most of cases in combination with amphetamine and caffeine. Most of the tablets containing mCPP had Rolex logo imprinted.

Table 1: An overview of the illicit tablets with physical and chemical data. Tablet photographing was not standardized.

371 Batman violet/pink 7,2 X 4,0 mm; 210 mg round, flat, bevelled 69 mg MDMA	372 Coco Chanel brown 8,3 X 3,0-3,5 mm; 244 mg round, flat 48 mg MDMA	373 none off-white 8,15 X 3,9-4,3 mm; 238 mg round, flat, bevelled, scored 37 mg methamphetamine	374 tulip orange 7,1 X 4,3 mm; 0,19 g round, flat, scored MDMA (n.qt.)	375 Mitsubishi white 8,3 X 3,0-3,5 mm; 277 mg round, flat 48 mg MDMA	376 Mitsubishi white 8,3 X 3,0-3,5 mm; 300 mg round, flat, scored 48 mg MDMA
377 dolphin violet 8,3 X 3,0-3,5 mm; 172 mg round, flat, scored 48 mg MDMA	378 heart yellow 8,3 X 3,0-3,5 mm; 200 mg round, flat 3-6 mg amphetamine	379 heart white 8,2 X 8,2 X 3,7-3,9 mm;181 mg heart, flat 21 mg mCPP	380 heart white 8,2 X 8,2 X 3,8-4,0mm; 159 mg heart, flat 13 mg mCPP, 2 mg MDMA	381 Pink Panther pink-white speckled 9,2 X 4,1-4,7 mm; 329 mg round, flat, bevelled 22 mg MDMA	382 heart orange 8,3 X 3,0-3,5 mm; 295 mg round, flat 48 mg MDMA
383 Motorola white 8,1 X 4,1 mm; 232 mg round, biconvex, scored 67 mg MDMA	384 dollar off-white 8,1 X 3,9 mm; 215 mg round, flat/convex 43 mg MDMA	385 pentagram off-white 9,2 X 5,5-5,8 mm; 304 mg round, domed mg MDMA	386 none white 7,25 X 3,8-4,2 mm; 188 mg round, flat, scored 33 mg MDMA	387 Apple cream 8,1 X 3,5-3,7 mm; 217 mg round, flat, scored 60-81 mg MDMA	388 question mark blue 7,1 X 5,6mm; 276 mg round, flat, scored MDMA (n.qt.)
389 arrow blue 8,2 X 3,6-4,0 mm; 255 mg round, flat 61 mg MDMA	390 smiley off-white 8,0 X 3,4-4,0 mm; 160 mg round, flat 3 mg amphetamine	391 none off-white 8,1 X 4,3-4,5 mm; 245 mg round, flat, scored 39 mg methamphetamine	392 none off-white 8,1 X 4,1-4,3 mm; 160 mg round, flat 35 mg methamphetamine, MDMA traces	393 smiley green 8,1 X ? mm; ? round, flat, scored 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid	394 arrow green 8,1 X 3,7 mm; 0,19 g round, flat MDMA (n.qt.)
395 pentagon white 9,2 X 5,5-5,6 mm; 280 mg round, domed 80 mg MDMA	396 Chinese logo red 7,1 X 5,0 mm; 248 mg round, biconvex Caffeine, amphetamine (traces)	397 wind mill off-white 6,1 X 4,5 mm; ~0,20 g round, flat/convex MDMA (n.qt.)	398 Maltese cross blue 7,2 X 4,2-4,3 mm; 0,19 g round, flat MDMA (n.qt.)	399 question mark violet 7,1 X 5,2-5,3 mm; 0,25 g round, flat, scored MDMA (n.qt.)	400 big T brown 8,1 X 3,9 mm; 313 mg round, flat 74 mg MDMA
401 puma cream 7,1 X 4,4-4,7 mm; 194 mg round, flat, scored 40 mg MDMA	402 Motorola reddish 8,1 X 4,1mm; 224 mg round, biconvex, scored 60 mg MDMA, caffeine	403 Armani green 7,1 X 4,9 mm; 0,22 g round, flat MDMA (n.qt.)	404 Rolex orange 8,2 X 4,2-4,7 mm; 262 mg round, flat, scored 39-46 mg MDMA	405 Rolex blue 8,2 X 4,5 mm; 273 mg round, flat, scored 43 mg MDMA	406 Playboy green speckled 8,1 X 4,8-5,2 mm; 278 mg round, flat 6 mg mCPP
407 star cream 8,0 X 3,2-3,8mm; 0,34 g round, flat Venlafaxine (n. qt.)	408 Rolex orange 8,2 X 3,7mm; 260 mg round, flat, scored 43 mg MDMA, amphetamine traces, caffeine	409 dollar orange 8,1 X 4,5 mm; 0,26 g round, flat, scored mCPP (n.qt.), caffeine	410 heart cream speckled 8,1 X 4,9-5,1mm; 240 mg round, flat, scored 34 mg MDMA	411 lady Kappa pale green 8,6 X 3,2 mm; 273 mg round, flat 39-72 mg MDMA	412 Rolex olive 8,2 X 4,3-4,6 mm; 273 mg round, flat, scored 39 mg MDMA, 4 mg amphetamine, caffeine
413 Rolex green 8,2 X 4,3-4,9 mm; 261mg round, flat, scored 38-40 mg MDMA, 1 mg amphetamine, caffeine	414 007 pink 8,15 X 4,5-4,9 mm; 262 mg round, flat, scored 69 mg MDMA	415 smiley white 7,1-7,2 X 3,9-4,9 mm; 0,18 g round, flat/convex 9-12 mg MDMA, 12 mg amphetamine	416 Rolex off-white 8,2 X 4,2 mm; 246 mg round, flat, scored 22 mg amphetamine, 13 mg mCPP, phenacetin, caffeine	417 Rolex pink 8,2 X 3,9-4,2 mm ; 255mg round, flat, scored 2 mg amphetamine, 20-21 mg mCPP, caffeine	418 LV (Louis Vuitton) brown 8,2 X 5,2-5,3 mm; 280 mg round, flat/convex 108 mg MDMA
419 heart/Chinese logo white 7,2 X 3,0 mm; 0,17 g round, flat 2C-B (n. qt.)	420 Rolex pink 8,2 X 3,6-4,3 mm; 248 mg round, flat, scored 2 mg amphetamine, 21 mg mCPP, caffeine	421 Mitsubishi pink speckled 9,2 X 3,7 mm; 272 mg round, flat 5-7 mg amphetamine, 23-29 mg mCPP, MDMA traces, caffeine	422 Rolex off-white 8,2 X 4,1-4,5 mm; 262 mg round, flat, scored 2 mg amphetamine, 19-31 mg mCPP, phenacetin, caffeine	423 Rolex pale blue 8,1-8,2 X 4,1-4,4 mm; 0,26 g round, flat, scored 2 mg amphetamine, 19 mg mCPP, caffeine	424 Rolex white pink speckled 8,1 X 4,9-5,1 mm; 281 mg round, flat/convex, scored 25 mg mCPP
425 Mitsubishi white 9,15 X 3,9mm; 280 mg round, flat, bevelled 26 mg mCPP	426 Batman white 9,1 X 3,4,3,5mm; 237 mg round, flat, bevelled 26 mg mCPP	427 bull head pink speckled 9,2 X 3,7-4,0 mm; 274 mg round, flat 5 mg amphetamine, 22 mg mCPP, MDMA traces, caffeine	428 Euro greenish 9,2 X 3,4-3,5 mm; 260 mg round, flat/convex 4 mg amphetamine, mg mCPP, caffeine	429 Rolex red 8,2-8,3 X 4,1-4,7 mm; 258 mg round, flat, scored 2 mg amphetamine, 16 mg mCPP, caffeine	430 target green 8,3 X 4,8 mm; 255 mg round, flat methamphetamine

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