

Module One

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MODULE I: PSILOCYBIN OVERVIEW

Disclaimer: *Psilocybin is an illegal substance and I share this information with the understanding that its use is far more common than not. This course represents a dissemination of useful information that is meant to keep people informed and safe and ultimately healthy in mind, body and spirit.*

Psychoactive substances should be avoided by anyone with mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or severe depression.

Avoid taking mushrooms or other psychoactives if you are taking pharmaceutical drugs such as SSRI's or antidepressants or any medications that alter the serotonin system like Prozac, etc. Psilocybin should not be mixed with Tramadol, as it can lead to serotonin syndrome. Be very cautious in mixing psilocybin with other substances like cannabis, which has been heavily hybridized and can cause potential challenges.

Prehistoric Rock Art



Images from the Tazarift rock art site in the Sahara



Tassili Cave Drawing (Northern Algeria)
Drawn by Kat Harrisson McKenna from photograph by Lajoux (1961) ✨



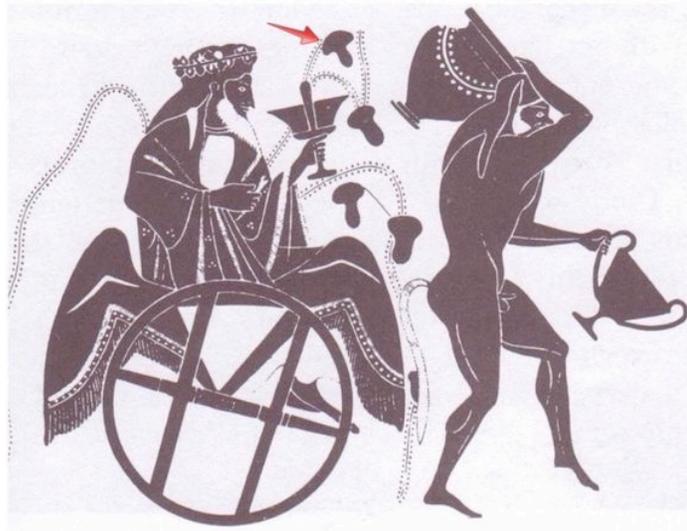
Rock art from Selva, Spain of cattle and mushrooms

Ancient Greece



Demeter and Persephone holding mushrooms

Breaking the Mushroom Code



*Dionysus, the Greek god of Ecstasy,
note the mushroom motifs*

Mesoamerica



Aztec drawing of crow shaman on mushroom



A few of the estimated two hundred mushroom stones that escaped destruction, despite the concerted efforts of misdirected Catholic missionaries. The smaller mushroom stones are the ones found with metates, which were presumably used for grinding the sacraments prior to use (Borhegi 1961).

Mushroom statues



Mushrooms in pre-Columbian art
(from www.mushroomstone.com)

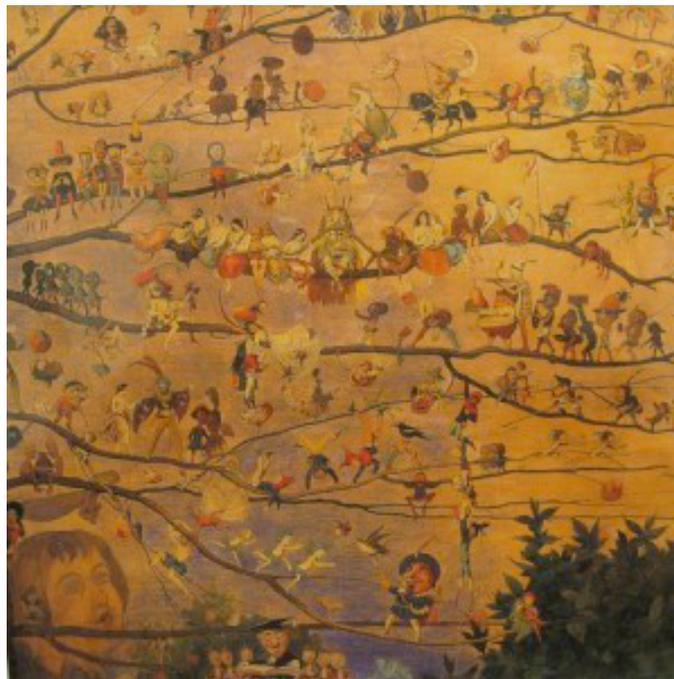
British Isles – 19th century paintings



The Dance of the Little People
by William Holmes Sullivan



Midsummer Eve
by Edward Robert Hughes



The Faerie Tree by Richard Doyle

Siberia



*Siberian shaman and the
Amanita Muscaria or Fly Agaric*

Dosage

Psilocybin is the active psychedelic ingredient in magic mushrooms and it is metabolized into psilocin, which produces the hallucinogenic effects. In comparison, LSD is 100 times stronger and mescaline is 10 times stronger than psilocybin.

A dose of .3 to .5 of a gram of mushrooms will produce a mild effect depending on one's sensitivity. Most common dosage is between 1.5 and 3.5, which will take the user into a classic psychedelic journey. The higher the dose the more intense the journey becomes and the deeper one goes. Expect the effects to last between 4 and 6 hours.

Taking psilocybin creates a tolerance and if it is taken again within a few days the user will have to take more to produce similar effects.

Effects

Effects are different from one person to the next but this is a general description of what can be expected:

Initial yawning, soporific feeling. Cold, shivers, sometimes stomach discomfort or nausea.

Shimmering imagery, circus-like beings, elf or faerie beings, mandalas, geometric shapes, all of which can be very active and fast moving.

A glow or haze when eyes are open with an overlay of feathery, shimmering shapes wherever one gazes. Sensory intensity where colors are pronounced and sounds are acutely heard and felt. A sense of profound connection and openness to the environment especially in nature or a place of great beauty.

Sinesthesia where one feels colors or hears numbers.

Intensely felt emotions, insights, revelations, etc. A sense of other presences or a very real connection and conversation with spirit intelligences. An experience of dissolving, unity with the cosmos, divine revelation.

Hilarity, lots of laughing, raucous humor and merry-making.

Deep emotion, grief, sadness, tears, release.

And sometimes...intense paranoia, a desire to flee, a feeling of being trapped, etc.

Legality (from www.erowid.com)

Growing mushrooms from the spores is still considered illicit activity.

Psilocybin mushrooms are not specifically named in the U.S. federal scheduling system, however their two primary active chemicals Psilocybin and Psilocin are both Schedule I in the United States. This means they are illegal to manufacture, buy, possess, or distribute (sell, trade or give) without a DEA license. Fresh and dried psilocybin mushrooms are considered containers of Psilocybin and Psilocin, making them illegal to possess as well.

Because spores contain no psilocybin or psilocin, they are legal to sell and possess (in all states except California, Georgia, and Idaho). But in most states, it is illegal to cultivate or propagate spores into mycelium since mycelium generally contains both psilocybin and psilocin.

Some countries have ruled that growing psilocybe mushrooms does not qualify as 'manufacturing' a controlled substance (psilocybin). In 2005, a New Mexico state appellate court ruled that growing mushrooms did not qualify as manufacturing psilocybin under state law (see [State of New Mexico v. Pratt](http://caselaw.findlaw.com/nm-court-of-appeals/1401800.html), 2005 or <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/nm-court-of-appeals/1401800.html>). In Feb 2006, the FMRC's TEO journal reported that the Pratt ruling was overturned and that people have been prosecuted for growing psilocybin mushrooms in New Mexico (TEO Feb 2006). However, Erowid has not been able to substantiate FMRC's claim and to the best of our understanding, the Pratt appellate ruling stands (last updated Jun 28, 2013).

Psilocybin mushrooms are illegal in every state in the United States except Florida (see below). Specific state laws can be accessed through this [state-by-state list](#). An Overview of case law for several states can be accessed [here](#).

Psilocybin Mushroom spores are legal to possess in every state except California, Georgia, and Idaho (see [details](#)).

[Florida](#)

Florida stands out because of a decision in 1978 in [Fiske v. Florida](#) by the Florida Supreme Court which ruled that wild-picked psilocybin mushrooms could not be legally considered "containers" of psilocybin and thus would have to be specifically listed in Florida law by the legislature if they meant to make them illegal. Since the Florida legislature has not chosen to change the laws since then, the possession of wild Psilocybin mushrooms is presumptively not punishable under state law. This does not mean police won't arrest people for possession of even wild mushrooms, but this has been used as a successful defense against such charges.

[New Mexico](#)

New Mexico appeals court ruled on June 14, 2005, that growing psilocybin mushrooms for personal consumption could not be considered "manufacturing a controlled substance" under state law (see [Opinion: State of New Mexico vs. David Ray Pratt](#)).

Suggested Reading for Module I

Sacred Mushrooms of the Goddess by Carl A.P. Ruck

The Road to Eleusis: Unveiling the Sacred Mysteries by Gordon Wasson & Albert Hoffman

Ploughing the Clouds: The Search for Irish Soma by Peter Lamborn Wilson

Hallucinogens and Shamanism by Michael Harner

The Encyclopedia of Psychoactive Plants by Christian Ratsch

Helpful Websites: www.erowid.com
www.shroomery.org