

Miaow Miaow

By Dr G Shreekumar Menon,

TITLES can sometimes be misleading, and this is very true about this Article. But the author is helpless; it was not his choice, to name a Narcotic drug, after the innocent sound made by cats. Originally, in the English language, Cat's meow meant someone or something excellent, first rate or remarkable. Introduced in the early 1900's this was among the most popular fad expressions of the Roaring 20's. It is rarely used now.

The Chinese have chosen this sound as the name of a synthetic drug, manufactured by them. In the markets Meow meow is also known as Drone or MCAT.

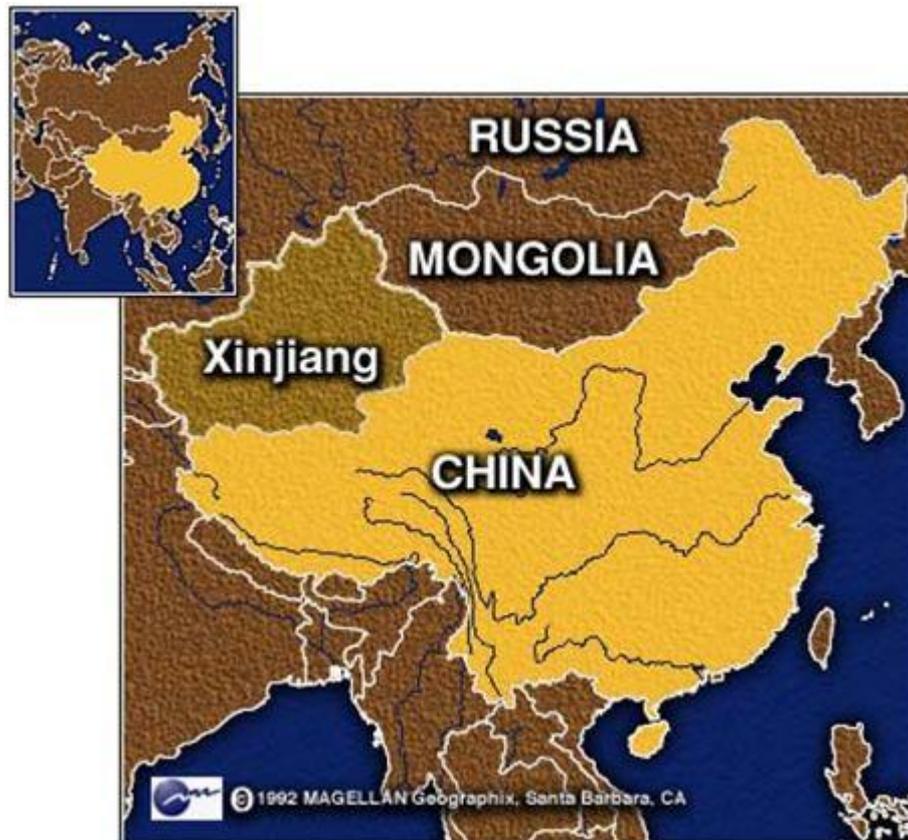


Miaow Miaow is a synthetic stimulant and the slang name for Mephedrone, also known as 4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC) or 4-methylephedrone, a synthetic stimulant and entactogen drug of the amphetamine and cathinone classes. Mephedrone was first synthesized in 1929 but did not become widely known until it was rediscovered in 2003. By 2007 mephedrone was reported to be available for sale on the internet, by 2008 law enforcement agencies had become aware of the compound, and by 2010 it was widely known in most of Europe, becoming particularly prevalent in the United Kingdom. Mephedrone was first made illegal in Israel in 2008, followed by Sweden later that year. In 2010 it was made illegal in many European countries and in December 2010, the EU ruled it illegal across Europe. In Australia, New Zealand, and the USA it is considered an analog of other illegal drugs and can be controlled by laws similar to the Federal Analog Act. In the USA, this only applies if the drug is sold for human consumption, allowing it to be sold legally if labelled as 'plant food' or 'bath salts'. Hence, it is marketed as a plant fertilizer, in U.S.A.

Miaow-Miaow is similar to other stimulants such as cocaine, amphetamine and MDMA and generates a feeling of heightened alertness and euphoria when taken. But, its unpleasant side effects include anxiety, paranoia and a risk of seizures. Doctors have reported that patients who have taken the drug, develop high blood pressure and an unnatural fast heart rate. It has also been said to cause nose bleeds, vomiting, hallucinations and blood circulation problems.

A drug known as 'ivory wave' seems to be replacing mephedrone or 'miaow miaow'. The new drug also known as 'purple wave', 'ivory coast' or 'vanilla sky', is growing in popularity and has already been implicated in deaths and illness across the UK. It is usually sold online as 'bath salts' in packets between 200 and 500 mg. It can be snorted or swallowed. 'Ivory wave' contains stimulant methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV) and the anaesthetic lignocaine.

The manufacture of Miaow-Miaow by the Chinese should be a cause of grave concern. . Most of the drugs smuggled from Middle Asia pass through Xinjiang on their way to the underground markets in Guangzhou , Shenzen and Beijing . Xinjiang's border stretches for a few thousand kilometres, covering 8 countries, and guarded by only 17 Land Customs points.



People who have used Mephedrone report experiences similar to taking Amphetamines, Ecstasy, and Cocaine, producing a sense of euphoria, alertness, talkativeness and increased sex drive. But the side effects include loss of memory, insomnia, vertigo and changes in body temperature.

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