

Hawaiian Baby Woodrose

An emergency department physician recently contacted the Maryland Poison Center about an 18 year old brought to the ED by a family member because he "wasn't acting right". He was hallucinating, HR 110, BP 140/84, pupils 8mm and reactive, and he had episodes of nausea and vomiting. He admitted to ingesting Hawaiian Baby Woodrose seeds.

Hawaiian Baby Woodrose (*Argyreia nervosa*) is a tropical woody vine in the morning glory family (*Convolvulaceae*). It is commonly found in Hawaii, Africa, the Caribbean and India. It is also grown in California and Florida. The plant is characterized by pink, purple or white trumpet-shaped flowers, large heart-shaped leaves and brown furry seeds in seed pods. The seeds contain alkaloids including d-lysergic acid amide (LSA or ergine), a hallucinogenic similar to LSD, but less potent. Packets of seeds are widely available on the internet. Street names for Hawaiian Baby Woodrose include "brown pills" and "tropical pebbles".



The seeds are usually ground or chewed and eaten. A typical "dose" to produce hallucinations is 7-8 seeds. The hallucinogenic effects begin within 20-40 minutes and include open-eye and closed eye visual disturbances, although less so than with LSD. Confusion, anxiety and paranoia may also be present. Dilated pupils are common, as well as nausea and vomiting, which may be severe. The duration of effects is 4-8 hours.

Treatment includes reassurance, sensory isolation, and protection. If sedation is necessary, diazepam or lorazepam are the recommended agents.

DID YOU KNOW THAT... the National Confectioners Association operates a Halloween Candy Hotline?

This hotline is only available to poison centers and law enforcement agencies to help identify harmless differences in candy appearance and to report suspected tampering. Fortunately, many differences in taste and appearance are the result of manufacturing processes and are not toxic. The Halloween Candy Hotline is open October 30th through November 1st. Call the Maryland Poison Center with any questions regarding the safety of Halloween candy.



Post and share this edition of **toxtidbits** with your colleagues. Send any comments or questions to: **toxtidbits**, 410.706.7184 (fax) or Lbooze@rx.umaryland.edu.

If you do not wish to receive faxes or emails from the Maryland Poison Center, call 410.706.7604 or circle your fax number and fax this back to 410.706.7184. Supported by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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