



**Classification of narcotic substances based on the degree of  
danger, color and origin  
(Research Extracted from a Doctorate Thesis)**

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**Abstract**

The study showed the diversity of sources of narcotic substances in the world, some of which have a natural origin that is cultivated, such as hashish, coca, khat, and banjo, and some of them have a shared natural and the industrial synthetic origin, such as amphetamines, the most important of which are narcotic pills and cocaine. While fully manufactured materials are the most effective, such as Captagon and crystal, and therefore these materials must be classified into several types, including the foregoing, and some that take another aspect such as the basis of color, so they are classified as white, such as cocaine and heroin, and black, such as hashish and opium, including the classification of the degree of severity, which Narcotic substances were divided into very dangerous substances such as opium, narcotics, cocaine and crystal, and medium dangerous substances such as stimulants, sedatives, hypnotics and volatile substances. The study recommended the need for the relevant authorities to adopt the task of developing their anti-drug capabilities to be compatible with all these types, especially those that are widespread in Iraq.

**Keywords**

classification of drugs, major drugs, black drugs, natural drugs.

**Research Problem**

The main problem of the study is to present the following questions:

What are the most important types of narcotic substances circulated in Iraq and the world?

Is there a difference between narcotic substances according to the nature of their origin and the substances that make them up, and why?

### **Research Hypothesis**

The main hypothesis of the study is represented by a specific answer by the researcher to the effect that (there is a discrepancy and difference between the categories of narcotic substances according to each type, and is there a diversity according to the origin? What is meant by natural, manufactured and synthetic sources).

### **Research Objectives**

The study seeks to achieve a number of objectives that contribute to finding appropriate solutions through which the drug abuse phenomenon can be combated or reduced at the very least. The objectives of the study can be summarized as follows:

1. Detection of the most important types of narcotic substances circulating among society at the present time.
2. Introducing the harmful effects of each type of narcotic substance.
3. Helping the relevant authorities to take the appropriate decision by providing information and data related to the types and types of drugs found in our local communities.

### **Research Importance**

The study is distinguished by the fact that it sheds light on an important social issue that affects the lives of millions of young people around the world, and may even be a reason for the spread of crime and negative manifestations in society, especially in Iraq. The current study adds new importance in the field of studies specialized in the crime of drug abuse, as it focuses on a specific aspect, which is the type of crime according to the color of origin and the seriousness of the narcotic substance.

### **Research Methodology**

It is important that every study of a particular phenomenon follows a clear and accurate scientific approach in order to reach the set goals, through several scientific rules and foundations. It affects the spatial and temporal variation of the drug spread phenomenon, the subject of research, while the other works to analyze the effects of this phenomenon and its most important results in a way that serves the objective of this study.

### **Classification of Narcotics**

Drugs are usually classified according to their effects on the user, and among the most important basic or main effects are the following four: stimulation,

sedation, anesthesia, and then stimulation of psychedelics, meaning that narcotic substances are classified into three groups: stimulants, depressants, or narcotics, then stimulants to psychedelics, or what are sometimes called trances, and in some classifications The shorter classification is reduced to a triple classification that includes the narcotic group to the Depressants group, and we have the following three groups:

- 1. Stimulant Drugs Group**
- 2. Depressants Drugs Group**
- 3. Psychedelics Drugs Group**

The group of stimulant drugs includes caffeine, nicotine, and cocaine, as well as the group of amphetamines, including Benzedrine, Roxydrine, and Methedrine.

As for the group of drugs, Depressants, it includes "narcotics" such as morphine, heroin, and opium, and a group of barbiturates such as barbital and secobarbital. This group also includes some industrial compounds such as methadone.

This group also includes alcohol, and as for the group of stimulating drugs for Psychedelics or insomnia, it comes on top of it is Indian cannabis from which hashish is extracted, as well as marijuana, mescaline, psilocybin, LSD, and PCP

### **Classification According to the Chemical Composition of the Drug**

In its classification of drugs, the World Health Organization follows the chemical basis, that is, the chemical composition of the drug and not its effect, and provides a classification that includes two groups, namely:

- 1- Opioids
- 2- Coca
- 3- Amphetamines
- 4- Khat
- 5- Hashish
- 6- Psychedelics
- 7- Barbiturates
- 8- Fullanil

This classification distinguishes some drugs with a similar effect on the basis that each of them has a different chemical composition, such as coca and amphetamines, given that both are stimulants. The classification also distinguishes between Barbiturate and opioids on the basis that they have a sedative or analgesic chemical effect, and it also separated cannabis from drugs that are absent or exciting for psychedelics and added two groups that represent khat and flavonoids.

In Iraq, drugs are usually classified according to a more general classification due to the novelty of the Iraqi experience in combating drugs, although the Anti-Narcotics Law No. 50 of 2017 elaborated at length in describing narcotic substances, their proper names, and their chemical contents. This general classification of drugs included their classification to the following:

**First: (Based on color)**

- 1- White drugs: such as cocaine, heroin, and others.
- 2- Black drugs: such as opium, hashish, and the like.

**Second: (Based on the Degree of Severity)**

- 1- Major drugs that pose a great danger to their users, such as (opium, morphine, cocaine, heroin, hashish, and banjo).
- 2- Minor drugs, which are less dangerous, and most of them are drugs used as medical treatment, such as (stimulants, sedatives, analgesics, hypnotics, khat, and coca).

**Third: (According to the Production Method)**

**First: (Natural Drugs)**

There is no doubt that drugs are of different types, some of which are manufactured and some that are natural. Here we will talk about raw or unprocessed drugs that people obtain without any industrial modification to them, i.e., they are plants that contain narcotic substances that are also included as a major part. Among the most common drugs are:

**1. Alcohols**

Wine is defined as (grape juice if fermented, or every intoxicant that ferments the mind). Alcohol is one of the oldest narcotic substances that man abused, and China was the first society to know the natural fermentation processes of different types of foods. The Chinese made wines from rice, potatoes, wheat and barley, And they used types of drinks they called "Jio", meaning wine, then grape wine moved to them from the Western world in the year 200 BC, after contacts that took place between the Chinese and Roman empires, and the provision of alcoholic beverages in the ancient worlds was associated with a number of religious and social events such as offering sacrifices For the gods or the celebration of a military victory, and this is a model that is not unique in the ancient human knowledge of alcohol, just as this model has a similarity in the Egyptian, Indian, Roman and Greek civilizations, as alcohol was known to primitive societies and tribes in Africa, Asia and the Arabian Peninsula, and alcohol is classified in turn into two categories:

## Non-Distilled Alcohols

The most prominent of which are beer and wine, which are prepared by fermenting a starchy substance for varying periods of time. Beer is prepared from barley seeds germinated in water, and the percentage of ethyl alcohol in it ranges from 4-12 mg. As for wine, it is prepared from grapes, and the percentage of ethyl alcohol ranges between 10-18 mg.

## Distilled Alcohols

Most notably, whiskey, vodka, and other (alcoholic beverages) are usually prepared from barley, grapes, or dates using a fermentation method. They then go through long storage processes and then distill to raise the percentage of ethyl alcohol between 45-55 mg.

Although addiction to alcohol is a form of behavioral deviation as well, the danger of alcohol is not comparable to the danger of drugs, especially synthetic ones, which kill the mind and body much faster than alcohol.



Picture (1) Vegetarian Alcoholic Beverages

Source: Google images, available at: <https://www.lebanese-forces.com/2019/12/17/vodka-wisky/>

## 2. Cannabis (Hashish)

The Indian cannabis is one of the oldest types of natural narcotic substances common in the past, as the ancient peoples knew and abused hashish, so the Chinese called it the giver of happiness, and the Hindus called it the reliever of

sorrows. Its length is between one and five meters, and it is unisexual in appearance, similar to tobacco, but its color tends to be greener than brown.

The most important thing that distinguishes the cannabis plant (hashish) is that it grows in different climatic conditions, and it is called hashish because its users make noise after the narcotic substance reaches the peak of its effect, and according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the country with the most cannabis users is Iceland.

The office's data issued in 2019 indicated that 18.3% of Iceland's population between the ages of 15 and 64 use cannabis, and the United States came in second place with 16.2%, then Nigeria 14.3%, while Egypt ranked 25th globally and first in the Arab world, with a rate of 6.24%. %.

It is prepared from the secretions of the flowering tops and the upper surface of the cannabis leaves, and it is collected during the flowering period of the plant, and it may be present in the form of a powder called cannabis powder, and its color and purity differ depending on the place of its production, and it is usually pressed to form fragile blocks, and sometimes mixed with wax or oil to form slabs. It is solid, and it is sometimes converted into a powder when used, and it has an effect that is twice as strong as banjo. Until the mid-fifties of the last century, doctors in Egypt classified their psychiatric and psychotic patients under the category of (hashish psychosis), due to the consequences of its abuse that sometimes lead to psychosis.

Iraq is considered one of the countries in which the use of cannabis is not widely used due to the presence of narcotic substances that are more desirable by drug users or addicts, which they prefer over the use of classic narcotic substances such as hashish, and these most preferred substances are (stimulant amphetamines).



Picture (2) The Narcotic Cannabis Paste

Source: Researcher based on the Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Interior, Deputy Ministry for Police Affairs, General Directorate for Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Control, Thi-Qar Drug Control Department, 2021.



### **3. Banjo**

It is one of the narcotic substances known for decades, and the banjo drug is taken from the same plant from which hashish is extracted, which is cultivated abundantly in hot regions, and is prepared by collecting the flowering tops of the plant, drying it, grinding it in a coarse way, and turning it into what looks like tobacco, so its effect is stronger than hashish. The plant is used for several purposes, as its fibers taken from the stems are used in the manufacture of ropes, and its seeds (which do not contain any narcotic substances) are used in the manufacture of oil for food and for the manufacture of soap, and its seeds are also used as food for domestic birds and may be added with other materials such as starch to be used for this purpose. While leaves, young branches and flowers contain varying amounts of narcotic substances.



Image (3) Banjo

Source: Google Images, available at: <https://fgtt.wordpress.com/2010/02/05>

### **4. Cannabis Oil**

It is also called liquid hashish, and it is a sticky substance that is dark green in color. It is prepared from the flowering tops and developing tops by dissolving them in an alcohol solution, then the solution is heated to the point of evaporation, then condensed to obtain liquid, and hashish oil has a stronger effect than banjo, and smugglers in South America and the countries where it is cultivated prefer it over other forms of hashish because of its ease of smuggling and its frequent use. A few drops of it on a ready-made cigarette are sufficient to produce the desired effect.

## **5. Coca**

Man has known the coca plant for more than fifteen centuries, and the coca tree is considered a sacred tree in the civilization (the Incas in Africa), where it was used in their religious rituals, and because of its stimulating properties, it was used in medical treatment for many diseases, and the coca plant is a red evergreen tree called (The Red Coca Tree) leaves are white in shape, soft to the touch, and the length of the tree ranges between two and six meters, and coca leaves are consumed by chewing or smoking coca paste, as it is taken by sniffing and inhalation, or by injection under the skin into a vein. This is then followed by a feeling of fatigue, lethargy, relaxation, dilated pupils, and a rise in body temperature.



Picture (4) Coca Plant

Source: Google Images, URL: <https://alhaseel.com/archives/7167>

## **6. The Khat Plant**

It is one of the narcotic plants that are still used to this day in some Arab, African and Latin countries. It is an evergreen tree whose leaves are oval and pointed, between five and ten meters long and picked for chewing. He died in Yemen in 1763. Qat is grown in the heights of the Horn of Africa, along the eastern coast of Africa, and the south of the Arabian Peninsula, especially Yemen. The active substance in it is (cathine) and (cathinone), absorbed by chewing plant leaves and has an effect similar to that of amphetamines.





Image (5) The Khat Plant

Source: Google Images, URL:

<https://arabic.sputniknews.com/20170421/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D8>

The United Nations has considered the consumption of qat leaves a local problem related to the countries that cultivate it, and it is included in the international drug law, and qat affects the digestive system of the body, causing loss of appetite, indigestion, gastritis and constipation, which leads as a result to emaciation and malnutrition, but refraining from consuming khat does not It causes serious symptoms like other narcotic substances, as it causes psychological rather than physical addiction. Symptoms include depression, bad dreams, and insomnia.

## 7. Opium

It is known locally in some countries as poppy, as it is one of the oldest narcotic substances discovered by man and used by ancient civilizations, either for luxury or during religious events and rituals, or as a treatment for some diseases, and the poppy plant is the only source of opium. It is a tall herbaceous plant, and the most important areas of its production are the Golden Triangle (Laos, Thailand, Burma), and the Golden Crescent (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran). Opium is the juice produced from the poppy tree that has not yet matured, and its fruits are a capsule ranging in size from the size of a small orange to the size of a coconut. Its quality varies according to the proportion of morphine and cocaine present in it, and the succession of international anti-drug laws since its inception on the trade and possession of opium because of its grave dangers to human societies.

## **Conclusions**

1. The study showed the presence of different types of narcotic substances, including what is vegetable and industrial, or a mixture between vegetable and industrial (in vitro).
2. The study showed that there are types of drugs that have a greater effect than others, which are "black" drugs such as morphine, heroin, and fully manufactured drugs such as amphetamines and high-impact stimulants.
3. It was found through the study that the materials used in the medical aspect may fall into the category of narcotic substances if they are misused and give the same negative effect, such as (hypnotics, stimulants and sedatives).
4. The study showed that narcotic substances differ from one region to another according to the environment of the region and the possibility of drug production within it, as is the case in Latin America and Yemen, which are regions where certain types of drugs are grown.
5. The study showed that alcohol is the oldest type of narcotic substance in history, and therefore, contrary to what is rumored, it is a classic type of drug with a limited effect.

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