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Danger of U.S. Federal Shutdown Preventing FDA Ban, Scientists Warn

An international team of scientists have identified potentially **dangerous amounts** of **methamphetamine analog** in the **workout supplement Craze**, a product widely sold across the U.S. and online. The study, published in [*Drug Testing and Analysis*](#), was prompted by a spate of failed athletic drug tests. The results reveal the presence of methamphetamine analog N, α - DEPEA, which has not been safely tested for human consumption, in three samples.

“In recent years banned and untested drugs have been found in hundreds of dietary supplements. We began our study of Craze after several athletes failed urine drug tests because of a new methamphetamine analog,” said lead author Dr. Pieter Cohen, of Harvard Medical School, U.S.A.

A workout supplement marketed as a ‘performance fuel’, Craze is manufactured

by Driven Sports, Inc., and is sold in stores across the United States and internationally via body supplement websites.

The supplement is labeled as containing the compound N,N-diethyl-phenylethyl amine (N,N-DEPEA),

claiming it is derived from endangered dendrobium orchids. However, while there is no proof that this compound is found within orchids, it is also structurally similar to the methamphetamine analog N,α-diethylphenylethylam-

mine (N, α -DEPEA), a banned substance.

The team analyzed three samples of Craze for traces of N, α -DEPEA. The first sample was

brought from a mainstream retailer in the U.S., while the second and third samples were ordered from online retailers in the U.S. and Holland.

The team used
ultra-high
performance
liquid
chromatography
to detect the
presence of
N, α -DEPEA.

The first two samples were analyzed by NSF International, while the third was tested at the Netherland's

National Institute
for Public Health.
The findings
were
independently
corroborated by
the Korean
Forensic Service,

which confirmed the presence of N, α -DEPEA in two further samples of Craze in a parallel investigation.

“We identified
a potentially
dangerous
designer drug
in three

separate
samples of this
widely
available
dietary
supplement,”
said Cohen.

“The tests revealed quantities of N, α -DEPEA of over 20mg per serving, which strongly

suggests that
this is not an
accidental
contamination
from the
manufacturing
process.”

As a
structural
analog of
methampheta

mine,
N, α -DEPEA ,
may have
stimulant
and addictive
qualities;

however, it
has never
been studied
in humans
and its
adverse

effects
remain
unknown.

The
product
labeling
claims that
Craze
contains

several
organic
compounds,
known as
phenylethyl
amines.

However,
phenylethyl
amines are
a very
broad
category of

chemicals
which range
from
harmless
compounds
found in

chocolate to
synthetically
produced
illegal
drugs.

“The
phenylethy
lamine we

identified
in Craze,
N, α -DEPE
A, is not
listed on

the
labeling
and it has
not been
previously

identified
as a
derivative
of
dendrobiu

m orchids,”
said
Cohen.

“If these
findings
are
confirmed
by

regulatory
authorities
, the FDA
(The U.S.
Food and

Drug
Administration)
must take
action to

warn
consumer
s and to
remove
suppleme

nts
containing
N,α-DEP
EA from
sale,”

concluded
Cohen.

“Our fear
is that the
federal

shutdown
may delay
this,
resulting
in

potentially
dangerou
s
suppleme
nts

remaining
widely
available.”

Muscles and Meth: Drug Analog Identified in 'Craze' Workout Supplement

Écrit par Wiley

Mardi, 15 Octobre 2013 11:32 -
