



AMERICAN KRATOM ASSOCIATION CONSUMER ALERT ON ADULTERATED KRATOM PRODUCTS

The American Kratom Association (AKA) is warning consumers not to purchase or use kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) products that chemically altered, synthetic or synthetically enhanced kratom alkaloids, such as 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-HMG). In addition, the AKA urges consumers to not use kratom products with an alkaloid profile that is substantially disproportionate to that which is present in the natural plant. AKA is specifically concerned about reports that kratom vendors are marketing products containing a level of 7-HMG that is greater than 2% of the total alkaloid composition of the product.

The AKA fully supports consumer access to safe kratom products containing the natural leaf; pure powdered kratom, including capsules; extracts; and liquid kratom tinctures when they are properly formulated and manufactured.

AKA is aggressively promoting a Kratom Consumer Protection Act in numerous states around the country expressly to prohibit the marketing of kratom products that are formulated with synthetically altered alkaloids, changing the proportion of the alkaloids to one another that occur naturally in the plant; synthetic alkaloids; or any kratom product that does not disclose the alkaloid content on the product's label or package.

Marketing of kratom products that attempts to convince a consumer that they should purchase a specific kratom product versus a competitor's product based on a higher concentration of MG or 7-HMG, and making claims of "strength" based on the "massive concentration" of the alkaloids and the enhanced "effects" of their product, is of significant concern to the AKA.

The AKA supports conclusions by independent research that the artificially elevated concentrations of 7-HMG that are higher than those found in raw *M. speciosa* leaves, found in some commercially available products exceeding naturally occurring material by up to 500%,¹ are by definition dangerous adulterated products and should be removed from the market. If such product manufacturers seek market entry of such products that artificially enhance the alkaloids and their effects, they should submit applications to the FDA for a new dietary ingredient (NDI) approval prior to marketing such products.

AKA will insist on strict compliance by all kratom vendors who have elected to participate in the AKA Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Program that is designed to provide consumers with access to products that are manufactured according to prevailing FDA standards for dietary ingredients. Kratom consumers are advised to carefully review marketing claims, product content labeling, and particularly consider only kratom products that limit the 7-HMG to the proportion of the alkaloid content that is present in the natural plant.

¹ Lydecker AG, Sharma A, McCurdy CR, Avery BA, Babu KM, Boyer EW (2016) Suspected adulteration of commercial kratom products with 7-hydroxymitragynine. *J Med Toxicol* 12:341–349.