

CC9 – A new semi-synthetic cannabinoid identified in recreational drug market

Public Awareness Drug Alert

APRIL 2025

Purpose: The purpose of this announcement is to notify public health and safety, law enforcement, first responders, clinicians, and all other related communities about new information surrounding the emergent novel semi-synthetic cannabinoid **CC9 (also referred to as HHC-C9)** detected in green herbal material and in edibles. This announcement also serves to raise awareness amongst the public.

Background

At the time of writing this alert, there was no scientific literature on HHC-C9, therefore the information provided here is based on knowledge from a closely related semi-synthetic cannabinoid CC8 (or HHC-C8) and from information received from the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA). The EUDA has recently received a report from Italy of an acute poisonings linked to HHC-C9 (CC9) that was analytically confirmed in e-cigarettes and gummies purchased online and consumed by the patient. This was the first identification of this cannabinoid in Europe that occurred in December 2024.

Additionally, two acute poisoning cases linked to a closely related cannabinoid, HHC-C8, have been reported in the scientific literature

The effects of semi-synthetic cannabinoids on humans have not been studied, but anecdotal consumer reports suggest they may be subjectively similar to those of cannabis. However, some products are available in forms that can deliver high doses, raising concerns about the potential public health implications of these substances' availability.

Case

The case concerns the sale of packets containing green herbal material, which are available both locally and online. Additionally, it has been observed that products containing CC9 are also accessible locally in edible forms. The increasing ease of acquiring these products heightens the concern.

Multiple packets, each with different names, were submitted to the Forensic Analysis Laboratory for examination. These packets were labeled with the words "THC" and included a note indicating they contain CC9.

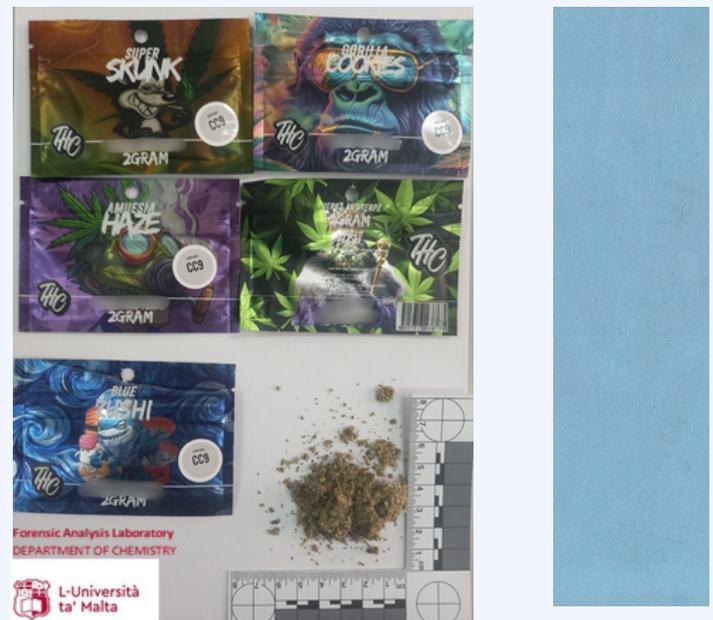


Photo 1: The packets each containing green herbal material.

The analysis of the packet's contents, which included 2 grams of green herbal material, identified the presence of **9-HHC, delta-9-THC, delta-9-THCH**, and an unidentified peak. Through collaboration with international partners, the unidentified peak was confirmed to be **CC9**.

The report of acute poisonings abroad and the presence of a novel semi-synthetic cannabinoid, which has yet to be studied, demand rigorous attention. The attractive packaging, which may appeal to some, and the ease of obtaining these products are extremely concerning.

Additionally, many of the packets sold in shops or online are labeled as "Not For Human Consumption" or "For Research Purposes Only." This gross mislabeling significantly increases the danger associated with these products.