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Title: Analytical profiles of “legal highs” containing cathinones available in the area of Lisbon, Portugal

Author: Victor Manuel Rodriguez Zancajo Alvaro Lopes



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2 **Title:** Analytical profiles of “legal highs” containing cathinones available in the area of
3 Lisbon, Portugal

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5 **Authors:**

6 Victor Manuel Rodriguez Zancajo *¹

7 Alvaro Lopes ^{1,2}

8
9 ¹ Instituto Superior de Ciências da Saúde Egas Moniz, Quinta da Granja, Monte de
10 Caparica, 2829-511 Caparica, Portugal.

11 ² University of Lisbon; Faculty of Pharmacy, Av. Prof. Gama Pinto, 1649-003 Lisbon,
12 Portugal

13
14
15 *Corresponding author

16
17 Email: rodriguez.zancajo@gmail.com

18 Phone: +34 622125467

19
20 Co-author: Alvaro Lopes

21 Email: alvaro.lopes@campus.ul.pt

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27 **Abstract:**

28 Thirteen “legal highs” were purchased in different “smart shops” in the area of Lisbon,
29 Portugal, during the month of February 2013. The samples were analysed by a battery
30 of analytical methods including Fourier transform infra-red (FTIR), gas
31 chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry (GC-MS), proton nuclear magnetic
32 resonance (¹H-NMR) and wavelength dispersive X-ray fluorescence (WD-XRF). Active
33 ingredients were found either as single component or in mixtures in the different
34 products. The cathinone derivative methedrone was present in three products; it is
35 suspected to have a particular high toxicity and narrow therapeutic window linked with
36 the methoxy group. A total of seven compounds were identified: 4-
37 Fluoromethcathinone, ethcathinone, buphedrone, methedrone, pentedrone, 3,4-

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