

A photograph of cannabis plants growing in a greenhouse, with a white circular overlay containing text.

Production of Prescription Cannabis

Secondary Metabolites and why all products are not equal.

Callie Seaman PhD.
Sunnyside Consultants Ltd and Aqualabs Ltd



Content

Cannabis basics: Anatomy & Habitat

Active Ingredients: Cannabinoids, Terpenes & metabolic pathways

The Process of Producing a medicine

Cultivation Methods & Extraction

The Standards

Patient expectation

Conclusion & Q&A



Cannabis Basics

Hemp vs Cannabis

- **Hemp**

- Industrial use to produce fibers, animal bedding, building materials, clothing and seeds.
- Different licensing
- Can Not extract from

- **Cannabis**

- Produced for its flowers and oils that contain cannabinoids such as CBD and THC.
- Controlled substance





Cannabis the Plant

- Three Species
 - Sativa
 - Indica
 - Ruderalis - Auto-flowers
- Hybrids
- Photoperiod plants - Short day flowers
- Dioecious – Male and Female
- Phytoremediator

Native Habitat

- Has adapted to grow around the world.
- Sativa – subtropical
 - East Asia
 - Central America
- Indica – tropical climate
 - Afghanistan
 - Turkey
 - India
 - Pakistan



Chemovar's / Chemotypes

Type I

Type I –THC-dominant with a concentration of $>0.3\%$ and CBD content of $<0.5\%$.

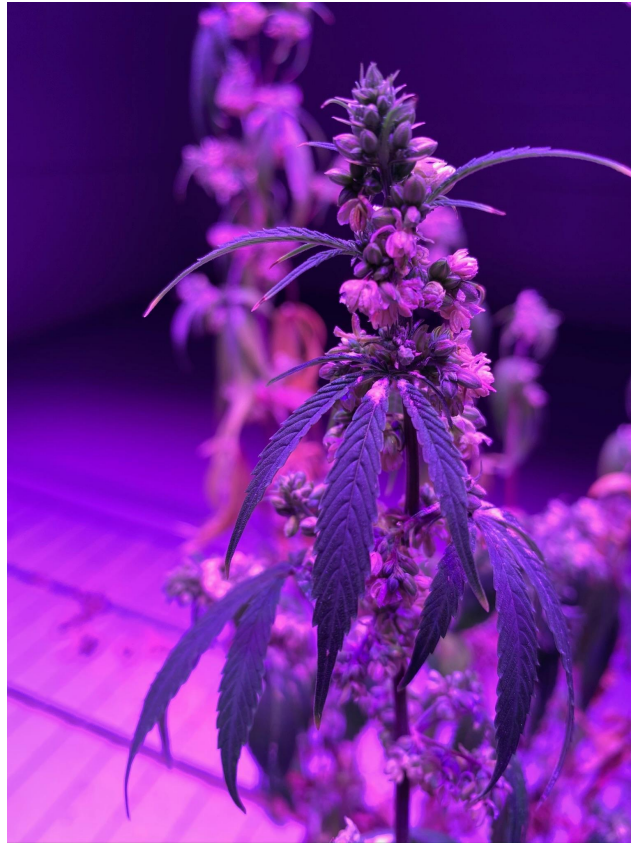
Type II

Type II – Equal THC:CBD - a mixed ratio profile with CBD and THC in varying moderate concentrations, almost always presenting as CBD-forward

Type III

Type III – High CBD, low THC content that provides little to no intoxication.

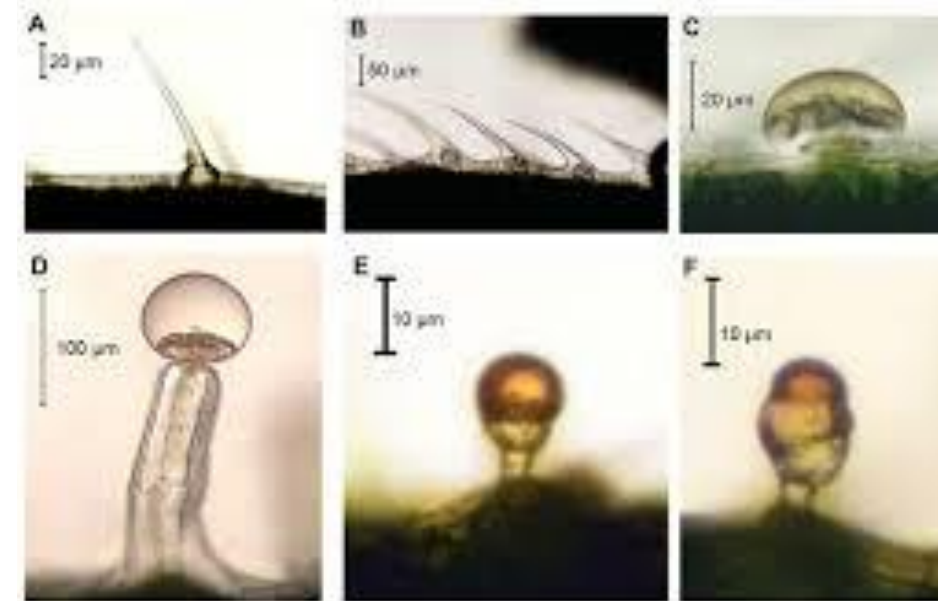




The Flower

Trichomes

- Glands on the leaves
- Site of cannabinoid and terpene production.
- 6 types



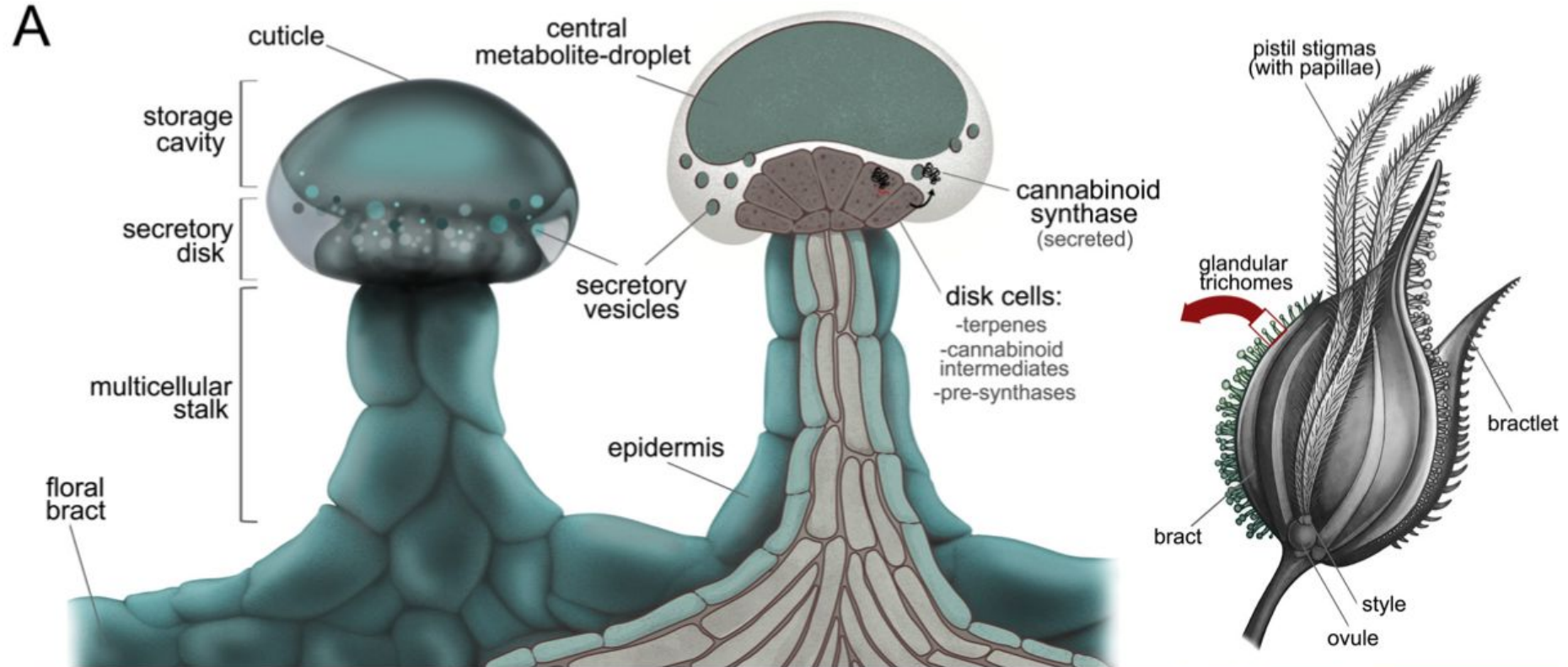
Hemp trichome types. (A) Unicellular non-glandular trichome; (B) cystolithic trichomes; (C) capitate sessile trichome; (D) capitate-stalked trichome; (E) simple bulbous trichome; (F) complex bulbous trichome.

(Images by Dr. David J. Reiter 1996 Phytocannabinoids)

The Antimony of Trichomes

P. Romero, et al.

Plant Science 298 (2020) 110571





Active ingredients

The Polypharmacology

Phytochemicals

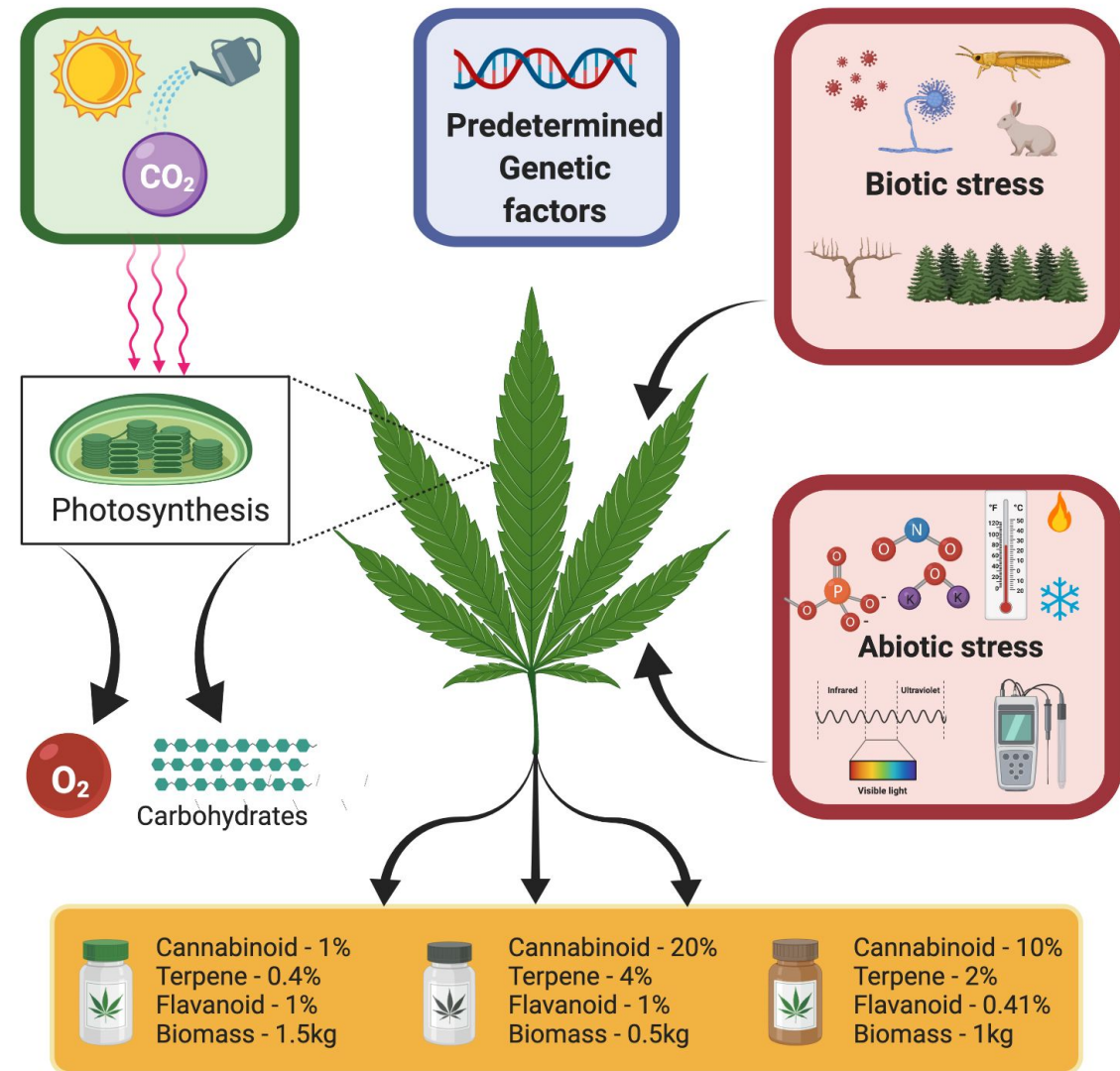
- These are secondary metabolites.
- Made up of 100s of medicinal compounds including:
 - Cannabinoids - 147
 - Terpenes - 200
 - Flavonoids - 20
 - Amino acids - 21
 - Fatty Acids
- Many different strains/cultivars
- Entourage effect
- One size does not fit all!



Why are Terpenoids produced?

- Stress
- Defense
- Repair
- Reproduction

•Ref: Seaman, C., 2021. Cultivation Stress Techniques and the Production of Secondary Metabolites in Cannabis sativa. In *Recent Advances in the Science of Cannabis* (pp. 1-30). CRC Press.



Evolution of the Cannabinoid and Terpene Content during the Growth of *Cannabis sativa* Plants from Different Chemotypes

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S Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The evolution of major cannabinoids and terpenes during the growth of *Cannabis sativa* plants was studied. In this work, seven different plants were selected: three each from chemotypes I and III and one from chemotype II. Fifty clones of each mother plant were grown indoors under controlled conditions. Every week, three plants from each variety were cut and dried, and the leaves and flowers were analyzed separately. Eight major cannabinoids were analyzed via HPLC-DAD, and 28 terpenes were quantified using GC-FID and verified via GC-MS. The



growing study

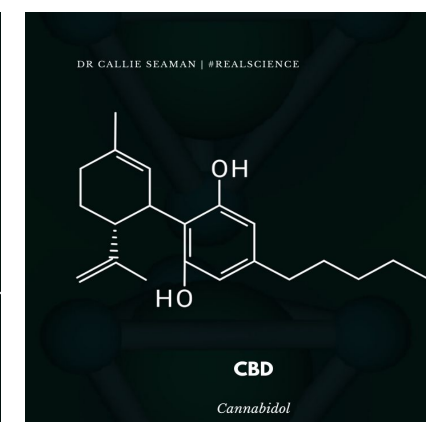
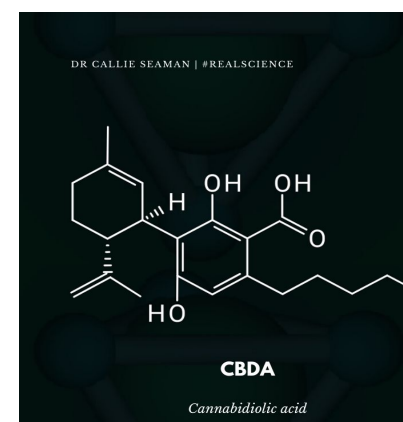
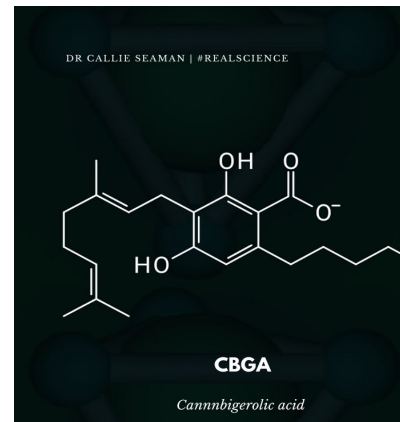
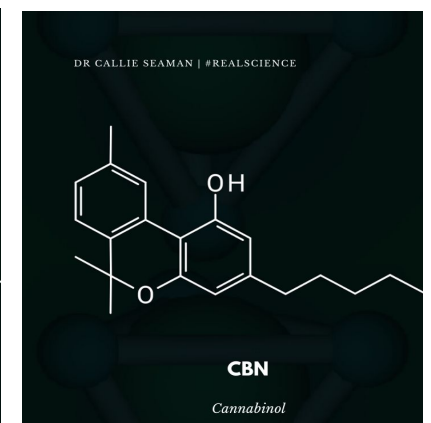
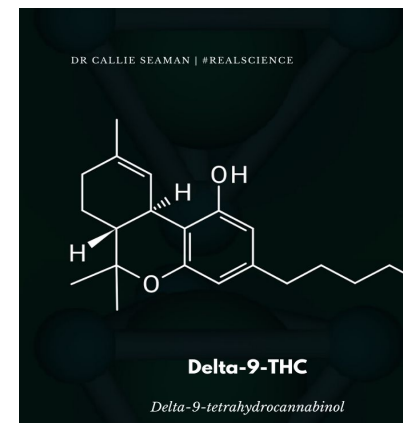
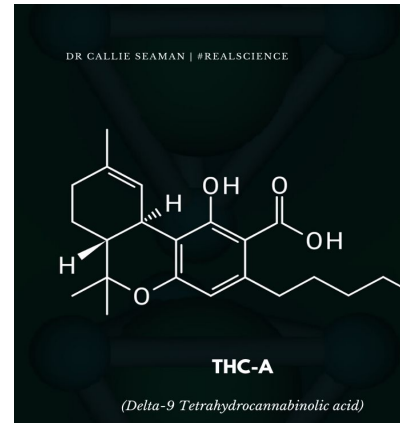
Different *Cannabis sativa* plants from chemotype I, II and III

Leaves and flowers analyzed every week

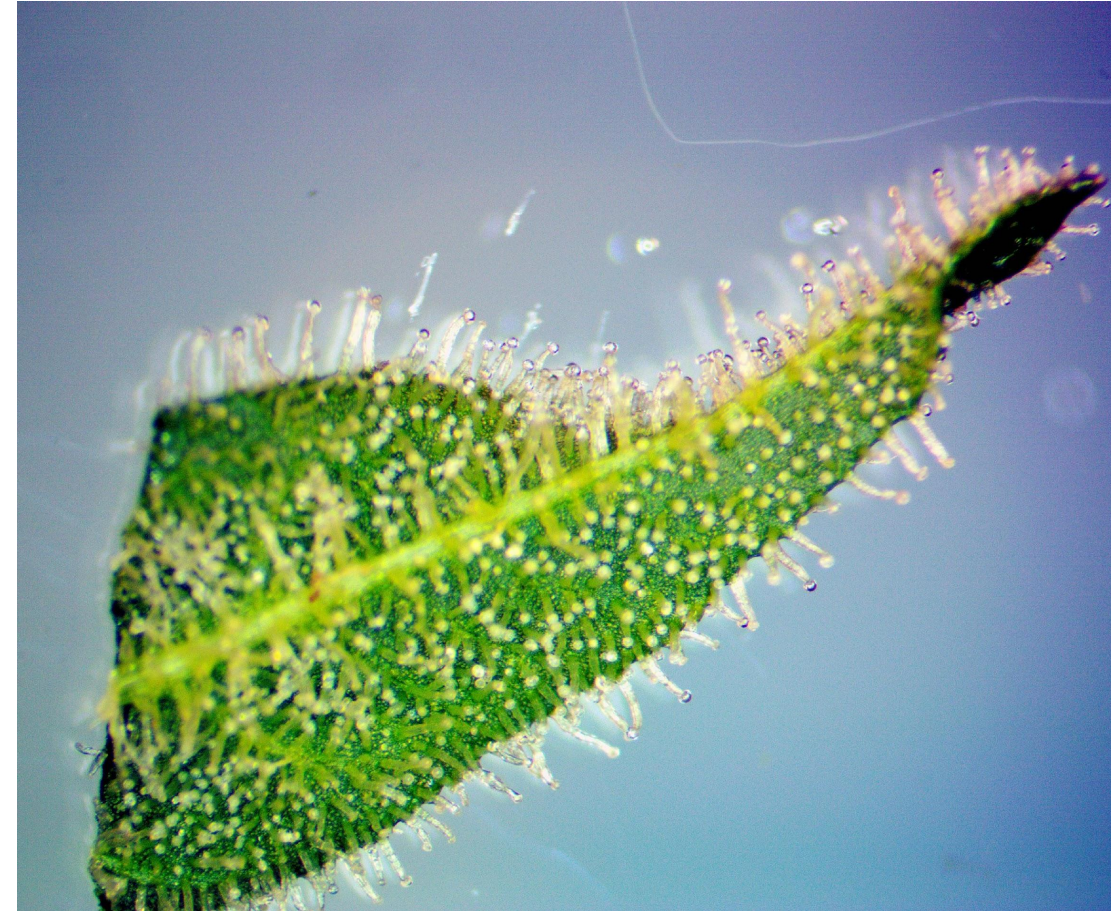
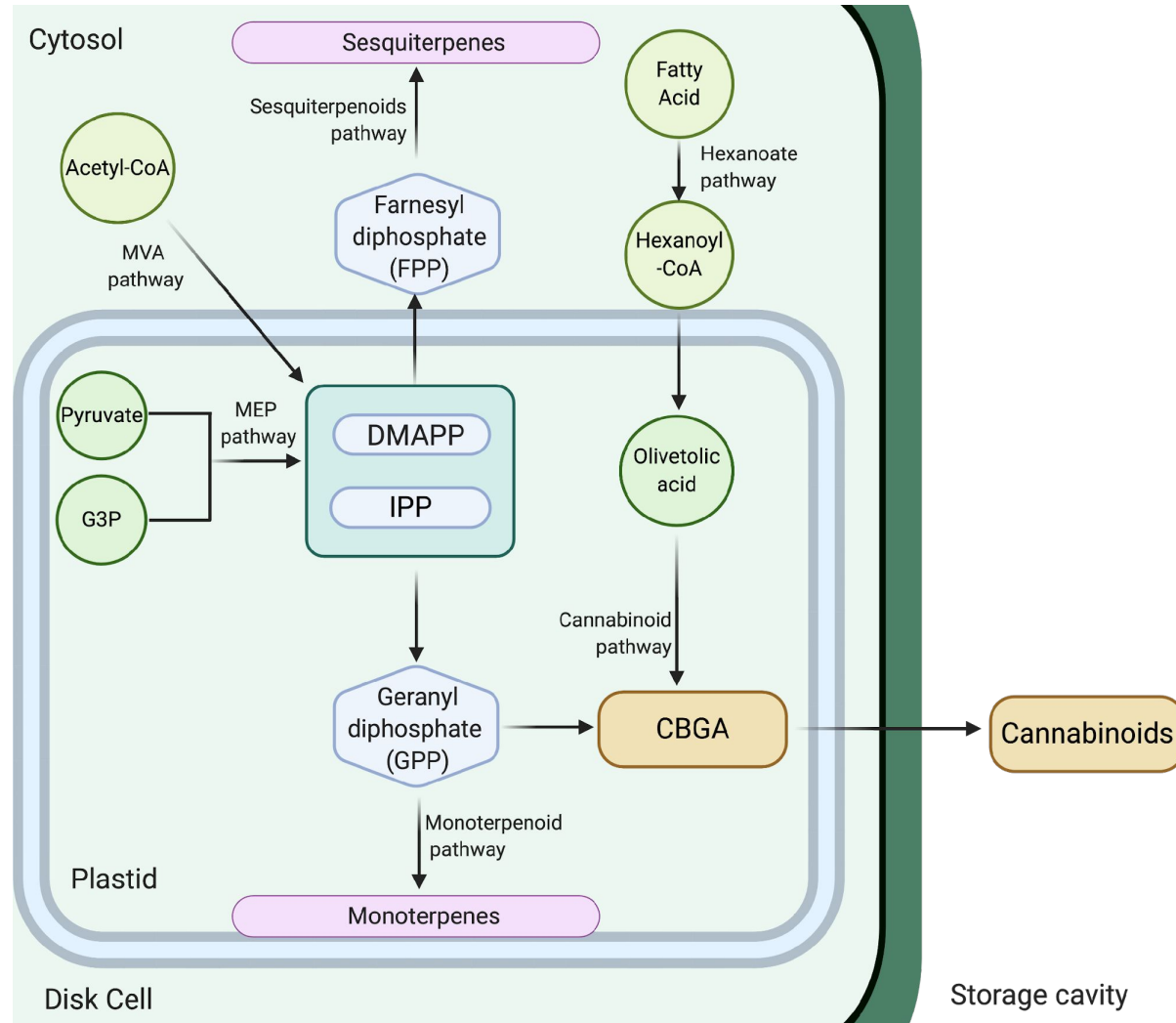
Eight cannabinoids quantified

Cannabinoids

- 147 different ones
- Major – < 1%
 - THC-A
 - CBD-A
- Minor - > 1%
 - CBG
 - CBN
 - THCV
 - CBC
- Produced in Trichomes
- Found predominately in the acid form in the plant
- Effects
 - Analgesic
 - Anti-inflammatory
 - Anti-seizure
- Properties
 - Lipophilic



Biosynthetic pathway in the plant



Ref: Seaman, C., 2021. Cultivation Stress Techniques and the Production of Secondary Metabolites in *Cannabis sativa*. In *Recent Advances in the Science of Cannabis* (pp. 1-30). CRC Press.

Metabolism of cannabinoids

Gene Networks Underlying Cannabinoid and Terpenoid Accumulation in Cannabis^{1[OPEN]}

Jordan J. Zager,^a Iris Lange,^a Narayanan Srividya,^a Anthony Smith,^b and B. Markus Lange^{a,2,3}

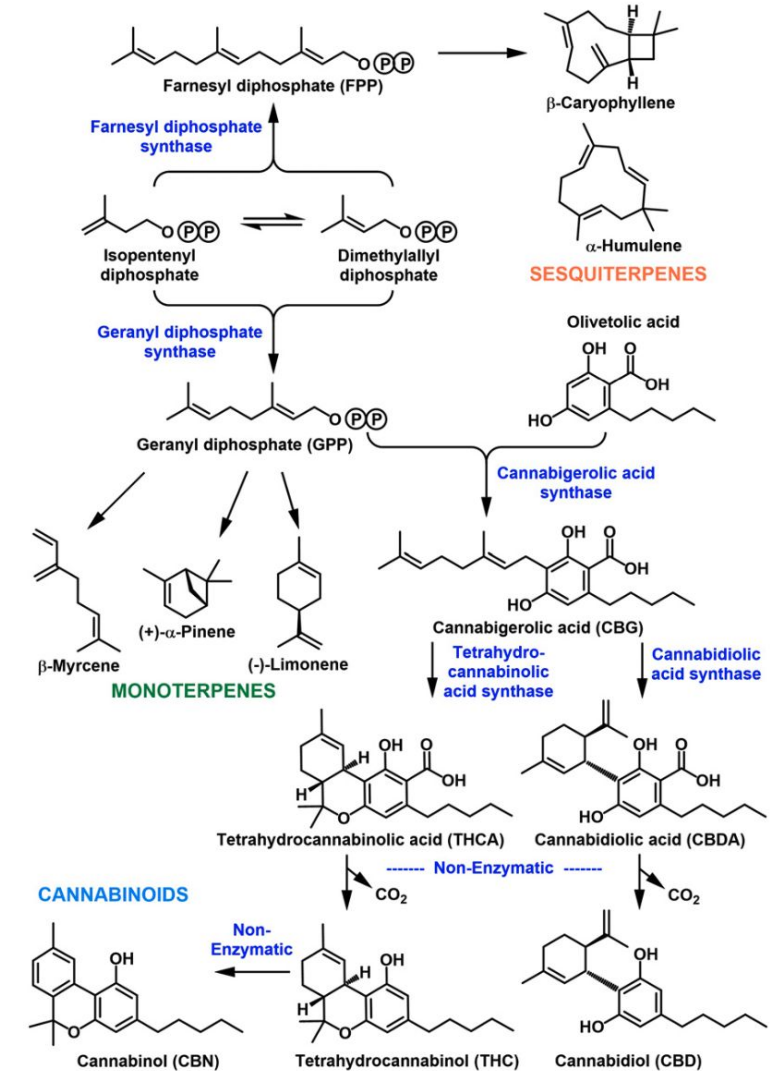
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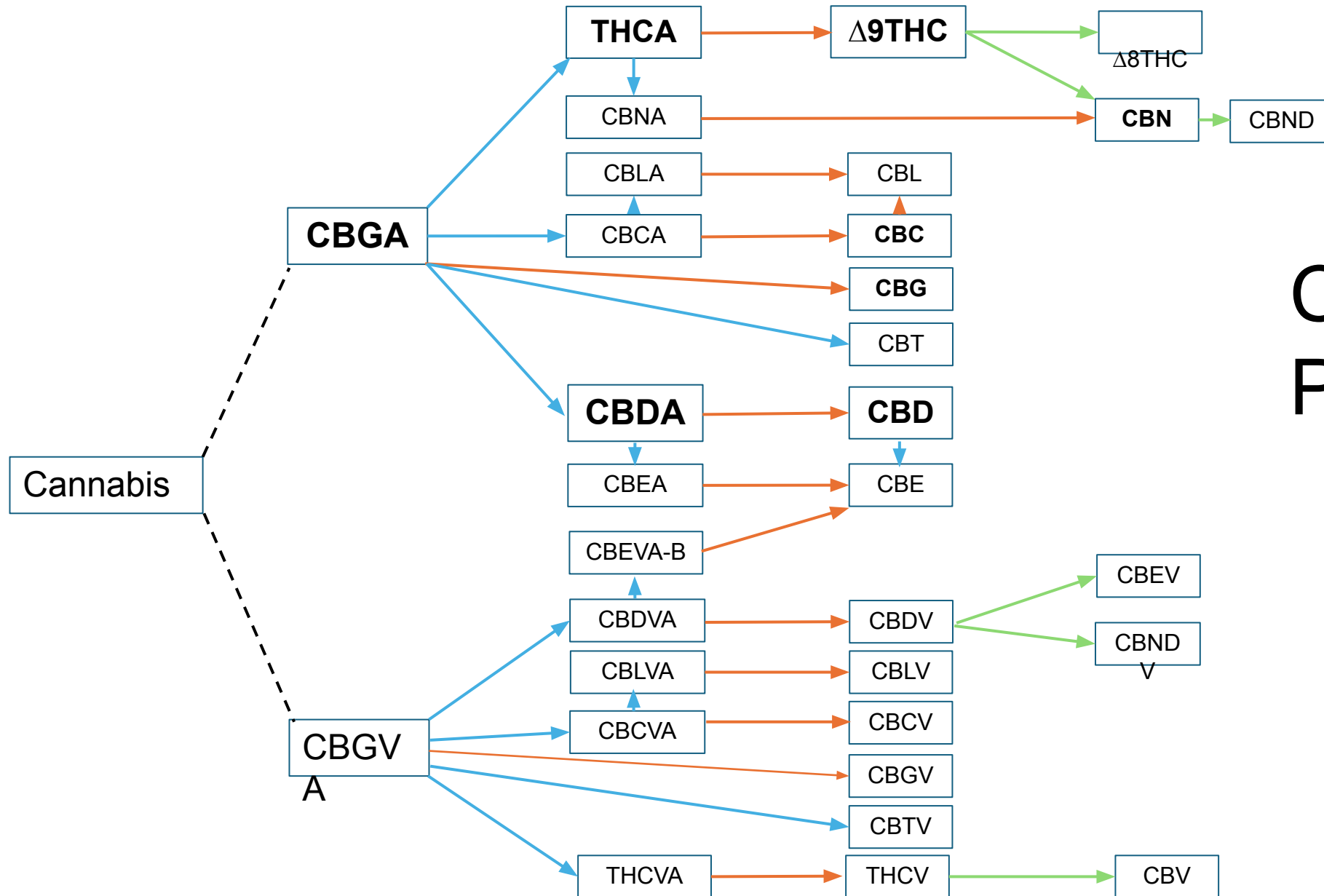
ORCID IDs: 0000-0001-6970-5832 (J.J.Z.); 0000-0001-7934-7987 (N.S.); 0000-0001-6565-9584 (B.M.L.).

Glandular trichomes are specialized anatomical structures that accumulate secretions with important biological roles in plant-environment interactions. These secretions also have commercial uses in the flavor, fragrance, and pharmaceutical industries. The capitate-stalked glandular trichomes of *Cannabis sativa* (cannabis), situated on the surfaces of the bracts of the female flowers, are the primary site for the biosynthesis and storage of resins rich in cannabinoids and terpenoids. In this study, we profiled nine commercial cannabis strains with purportedly different attributes, such as taste, color, smell, and genetic origin. Glandular trichomes were isolated from each of these strains, and cell type-specific transcriptome data sets were acquired. Cannabinoids and terpenoids were quantified in flower buds. Statistical analyses indicated that these data sets enable the high-resolution differentiation of strains by providing complementary information. Integrative analyses revealed a coexpression network of genes involved in the biosynthesis of both cannabinoids and terpenoids from imported precursors. Terpene synthase genes involved in the biosynthesis of the major monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes routinely assayed by cannabis testing laboratories were identified and functionally evaluated. In addition to cloning variants of previously characterized genes, specifically *CsTPS14CT* [(+)-limonene synthase] and *CsTPS15CT* (β -myrcene synthase), we functionally evaluated genes that encode enzymes with activities not previously described in cannabis, namely *CsTPS18VF* and *CsTPS19BL* (nerolidol/linalool synthases), *CsTPS16CC* (germacrene B synthase), and *CsTPS20CT* (hedycaryol synthase). This study lays the groundwork for developing a better understanding of the complex chemistry and biochemistry underlying resin accumulation across commercial cannabis strains.

Figure 1. Shared origin of the cannabinoid and terpenoid biosynthetic pathways. A circled P notes phosphate moieties.



Acid Synthase Decarboxylation Oxidative
Precursors \longrightarrow Acid \longrightarrow Neutral \longrightarrow Oxidative



Cannabinoid Pathway

Terpenes

Over 200 –

- α -Pinene, Camphene, β -Myrcene, Sabinene, β -Pinene, Linalool, Caryophyllene, Limonene

Aromatic compounds

Volatile

Found many plants

Anti-microbial properties

Often cause the allergies

Camphene binds to the CB1 receptor

Produced in the plant through the same metabolic pathway as cannabinoids.

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***Cannabis sativa* terpenes are cannabimimetic and selectively enhance cannabinoid activity**

[Justin E. LaVigne](#), [Ryan Hecksel](#), [Attila Keresztes](#) & [John M. Streicher](#) [✉](#)

[Scientific Reports](#) **11**, Article number: 8232 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

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Abstract

Limited evidence has suggested that terpenes found in *Cannabis sativa* are analgesic, and could produce an “entourage effect” whereby they modulate cannabinoids to result in improved outcomes. However this hypothesis is controversial, with limited evidence. We thus investigated *Cannabis sativa* terpenes alone and with the cannabinoid agonist WIN55,212 using in vitro and in vivo approaches. We found that the terpenes α -humulene, geraniol, linalool, and β -pinene produced cannabinoid tetrad behaviors in mice, suggesting cannabimimetic activity. Some behaviors could be blocked by cannabinoid or adenosine receptor antagonists, suggesting a mixed mechanism of action. These behavioral effects were selectively additive with WIN55,212, suggesting terpenes can boost cannabinoid activity. In vitro experiments showed that all terpenes activated the CB1R, while some activated other targets. Our findings suggest that these *Cannabis* terpenes are multifunctional cannabimimetic ligands that provide conceptual support for the entourage effect hypothesis and could be used to enhance the therapeutic properties of cannabinoids.

Flavonoids

- Oxygen free radical scavengers
- Anti-oxidants
- Produce pigments
- Result of temperature stress
- Produced in the leaves and roots
- Cannabis specific include Cannflavin A and B
- Migrate into the Trichomes



Other compounds

- Flavonoids – the colours
- Lignans
- Chlorophyll
- Lipids
- Sterols
- Sulphuraphanes



***Cannabis sativa*: The Plant of the Thousand and One Molecules**

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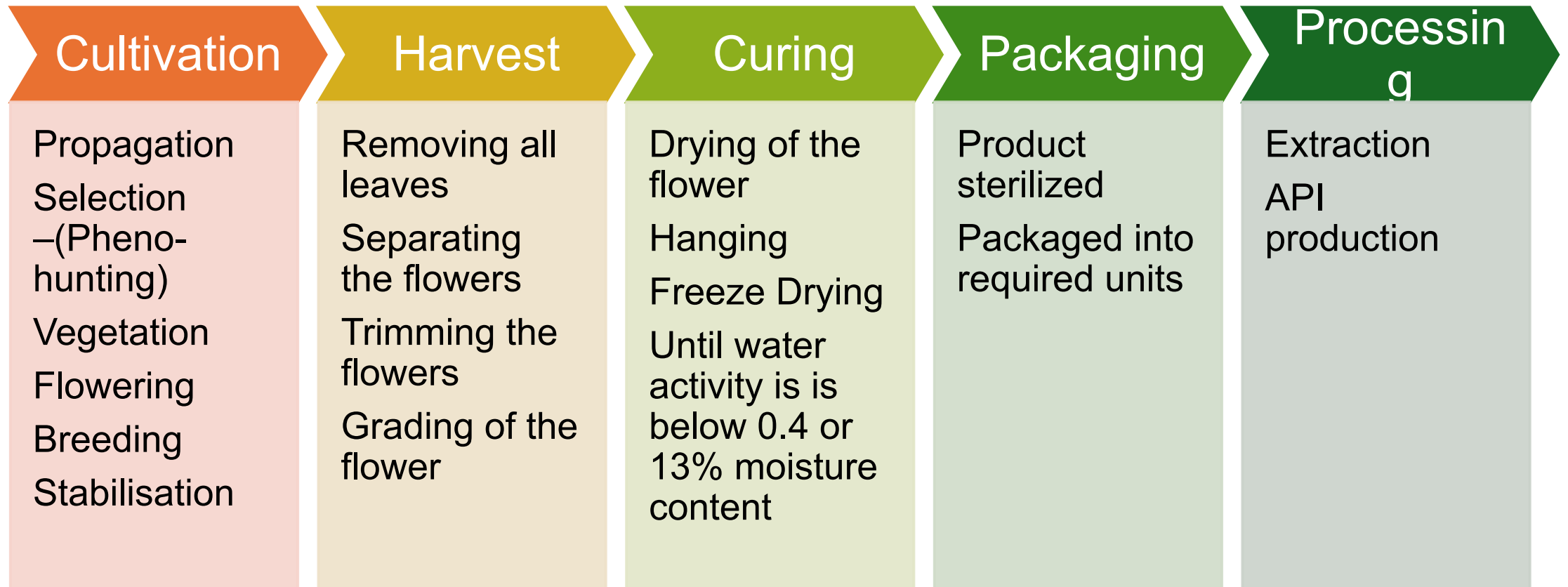
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a section of the journal

Cannabis sativa L. is an important herbaceous species originating from Central Asia, which has been used in folk medicine and as a source of textile fiber since the dawn of times. This fast-growing plant has recently seen a resurgence of interest because of its multi-purpose applications: it is indeed a treasure trove of phytochemicals and a rich source of both cellulosic and woody fibers. Equally highly interested in this plant are the pharmaceutical and construction sectors, since its metabolites show potent bioactivities on human health and its outer and inner stem tissues can be used to make bioplastics and concrete-like material, respectively. In this review, the rich spectrum of hemp phytochemicals is discussed by putting a special emphasis on molecules of industrial interest, including cannabinoids, terpenes and phenolic compounds, and their biosynthetic routes. Cannabinoids represent the most studied group of compounds, mainly due to their wide range of pharmaceutical effects in humans, including psychotropic activities. The therapeutic and commercial interests of some terpenes and phenolic compounds, and in particular stilbenoids and lignans, are also highlighted in view of the most recent literature data. Biotechnological avenues to enhance the production and bioactivity of hemp secondary metabolites are proposed by discussing the power of plant genetic engineering and tissue culture. In particular two systems are reviewed, i.e., cell suspension and hairy root cultures. Additionally, an entire section is devoted to hemp trichomes, in the light of their importance as phytochemical factories. Ultimately, prospects on the benefits linked to the use of the -omics technologies, such as metabolomics and transcriptomics to speed up the identification and the large-scale production of lead agents from bioengineered *Cannabis* cell culture, are presented.

Keywords: fibers, hemp, *Cannabis*, cellulose, lignin, cannabinoids, terpenes, lignans

The Process of Producing a Medicine



Cultivation Methods & Standards



Indoor vs Outdoors

Indoors

Closed system

Artificial Lights

Expensive to run

Less risk of contamination

Hydroponic systems

Closely controlled environment

Outdoors

Natural light

Grown in the ground

Less overheads

High risk of contamination

Weather damage risk

Seed production risk







Extraction – Making the medicine

- Types of products
 - Full plant extract
 - Isolate
 - Distillate
- Types of Extraction
 - CO₂
 - Butane
 - Rosin Press
 - Chromatography
 - Rotary evaporation Ethanol



The Standard s



GACP – Good Agricultural and Collection Practice, applies to cultivation and harvest



GMP – Good Manufacturing Practice applies to packaging and processing



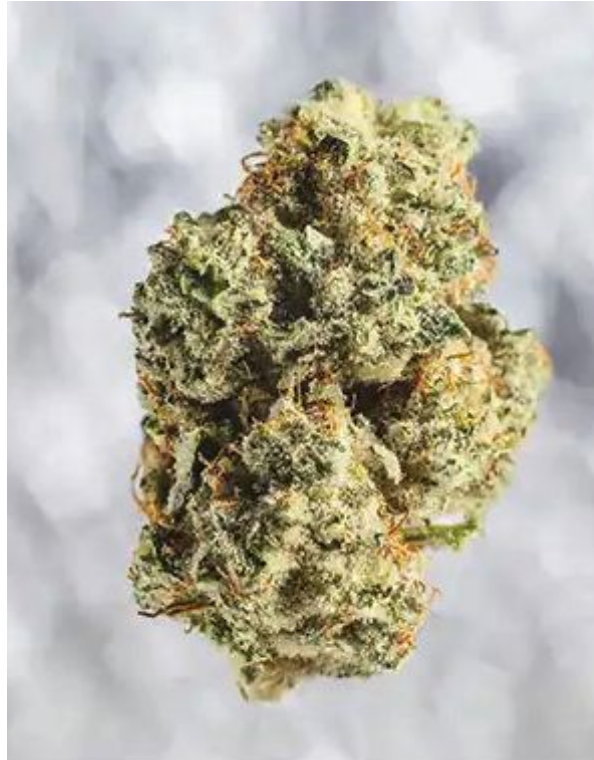
EU-GMP – Meets the European pharmacopeia requirements and can be prescribed in the the UK

What the
Patient
expects



Bag Appeal

- Neatly trimmed
- Sparkling/sugar frosted
- Large buds
- Aromatic
- Sticky



Types of Street cannabis

*Image adapted from Woah Storks visual guide to cannabis



MARIJUANA



KILOBRICK



SINSEMILLA



KIEF



THAI STICKS



HASH



QWISO



RSO/FECO



SHATTER



WAX



CO₂ OIL



ROSIN

BHO



BUDDER



CRUMBLE



LIVE RESIN



CANNABINOID ISOLATE (CLEAR)

Thank you for Listening

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