"Paco" Cocaine

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ORIGINS AND HISTORY OF COCAINE
-Erythroxylum Coca-
-From Ancient Tribes to Edwing Merck-

The properties of the coca plant have been known for 7,000 years. For the Aymara and the Quechua it was a miraculous plant, and they used it in their ritual ceremonies.

With the arrival of the Inca it began to be used in ceremonies and it denoted outstanding members or loyal subjects. The state controlled its production and use.

In Germany, Edwing Merck, at his Angel Pharmacy in the city of Damstadt, was the first to isolate the drug, giving us the term MERC K.

Initially isolated in 1855, cocaine was the first local anesthetic known, and was introduced into medical practice by the Austrian ophthalmologist Carl Koller.

Vin Mariani by Angelo Francois Mariani, born December 17, 1838, died April 1, 1914
**PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL PROPERTIES**

Cocaine Cl is soluble in water, partially soluble in alcohol, slightly soluble in chloroform, and insoluble in ether. It has a high melting point of between 200 and 205°C. This is in contrast to base cocaine, which is insoluble in water and soluble in the other substances indicated, with a melting point of 98°C. ([ST/NAR/7](#))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATURAL ALKALOID</th>
<th>PROPERTIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>Anesthetic and analgesic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecgonine</td>
<td>Metabolizes fats and carbohydrates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pectin</td>
<td>Absorbent and antidiarrhetic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papain</td>
<td>Protease that accelerates digestion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrine</td>
<td>Stimulates the salivary glands when environmental oxygen is low</td>
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<tr>
<td>Globulin</td>
<td>Improves blood circulation, prevents altitude sickness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pyridine</td>
<td>Accelerates brain development and circulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinoline</td>
<td>Prevents tooth decay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conine</td>
<td>Anesthetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocamine</td>
<td>Analgesic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inulin</td>
<td>Diuretic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benzoin</td>
<td>Accelerates the development of muscle cells and prevents putrefaction of foodstuffs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserpine</td>
<td>Regulates blood pressure</td>
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**EXTRACTION OF COCAINE AND ITS DERIVATIVES**

1. The coca leaves are mixed in a barrel with water and lime. They are pressed and left for between 1 and 3 days to macerate.

2. A nonpolar organic solvent (kerosene, diesel, etc.) is added to extract the coca. The leaves are then discarded, which produce BASUCO, and the green liquid remaining, known as "raw paste," is separated.
EXTRACTION OF COCAINE AND ITS DERIVATIVES

1. After decanting the solvent, which is generally acidified with sulfuric acid, the cocaine precipitates as a sulfate. Contaminants are then eliminated by oxidation with potassium permanganate and transformation of egonine into cocaine through methylation and benzoylation.

2. After filtering and drying through alkalization and extraction with an organic solvent (ether, chloroform etc.), BASE PASTE is obtained.

The paste is diluted in acetone; it is filtered and hydrochloric acid is added; and it is filtered again and dried in the sun or with burners. The resulting powder is finally:

--------COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE--------

The residue from the filtering before cocaine hydrochloride is obtained is used to produce PACO.
EXTRACTION OF COCAINE AND ITS DERIVATIVES

The processes do not yield transformations of 100%. For that reason, the chemical equations include double arrows of different sizes, indicating the prevailing direction of the transformation.

Acetone or Ether + Hydrochloric acid + Alcohol

BASE PASTE
May contain sulfate, cocaine acetate, or intermediate compounds

COCAINA

BIOSYNTHESIS OF COCAINE IN THE PLANT
COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE

WHO reports indicate that it can be inhaled, injected, or applied to mucous membranes. CANNOT BE SMOKED. DOES NOT PASS THE BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER.

CONSUMPTION AND TRAFFICKING

BASE PASTE OR BASE COCAINE

Base Cocaine and Base Paste: liposoluble, 98ºC melting point, passes BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER, and CAN BE SMOKED.

Smoked in a metal tube with wire wool or a sponge, on which is placed the base cocaine derived from the salification of the base paste to transform it into hydrochloride. Sulfates or solvents may be found throughout the process.
Cocaine vs. Paco

QUE ES EL PACO
Es parte del residuo químico que queda en el proceso de producción de la cocaína.

QUE PROVOCÁ AL FUMARLO
Sólo demora de 5 a 60 segundos en llegar el sistema nervioso central, donde produce un inmediato efecto de euforia que dura de 2 a 5 minutos.

1. **Euforia**
   - Diminuyen las inhibiciones, sensación de placer y seguridad.

2. **Disforia**
   - Aparece una sensación de angustia, depresión e inseguridad.

3. **Deseo de consumo**
   - Necesidad de seguir fumando para sustituir el estado anterior.

4. **Psicosis y alucinaciones**
   - Se da con el consumo múltiple. También psicosis y agresividad.

COMO SE CONSUME
Se fuma solo o mezclado con tabaco o marihuana, o con ambos.

DANOS QUE PRODUCE LA ADICCIÓN
- Cerebro: Confusión, excitación parcial, delirio, paranoia. Comisiones y hasta daños cerebrales.
- Vías respiratorias y altales: Lesiones en boca y garganta.
- Pulmones: Inflamación de las vías respiratorias, inflamación y neumonías. Entes que pueden ser seriales.
- Corazón: Hipertensión, arritmia e insuficiencia.
- Náuseas, vómitos, diarrea, pérdida de peso.
- Hígado: Hepatitis.
Police Reports

"...the federal police seized between 550 and 600 doses of paco in two raids on two homes in Empalme Graneros, where they also found 500 doses of cocaine and 3 kilograms of the same drug in compacted form..." La Capital, 28/04/2010

"...As of March 2009, the 12th National Criminal and Correctional Court, Judge Sergio Torres presiding, is processing and has processed more than 90 cases involving illicit narcotic trafficking in the settlements known as Ciudad Oculta (or Villa 15). The seizure of approximately 36,000 grams of a substance made from cocaine alkaloid, equal to some 300,000 threshold consumable doses of cocaine hydrochloride (using a threshold dose of 0.10 grams), or the equivalent of more than 5,400,000 threshold doses of paco..." Thursday, February 17, 2011, CIF, news service of the judicial branch.

"...Some 6,000 doses of paco and around 3 kg of high-purity cocaine were seized in a raid in the city of Berisso, province of Buenos Aires, in which two women and a man were arrested under the authority of the federal court of La Plata, which ordered proceedings for 'breaches of the drugs law, No. 23,737, in the form of trafficking, production, distribution, and sale'..." Federal News Agency, November 26, 2010.

Is PACO found in Argentina?

Yes, PACO can be found...