

BOOK REVIEW

William Lee Hearn,¹ Ph.D.

A Review of The Controlled Substances Act: A Resource Manual of the Current Status of the Federal Drug Laws

REFERENCE: Shulgin, A. T., *The Controlled Substances Act: A Resource Manual of the Current Status of the Federal Drug Laws*, Alexander T. Shulgin, 1483 Shulgin Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549, 1988, 383 pp., \$34.95.

In compiling this reference work, Dr. Shulgin has done a great service for those who work in drug enforcement. This should be a valuable reference for the criminalist who must know the legal status of substances detected in the crime laboratory and drug enforcement agents, attorneys, judges, and legislators who must make sense of the complex laws dealing with drugs. It will also save a vast amount of time and energy of those who must research the history and current status of drug law.

The book begins with a chapter devoted to defining and explaining the terminology of drug legislation (such as "currently accepted medical use" and "isomer"), using citations from the laws and the *Federal Register* to show the intent of the legislature and the regulatory interpretation of the wording. The second and major chapter consists of an alphabetical listing of all drugs that have ever been included in the Controlled Substances Act. Synonyms and tradenames are cross-referenced to the primary citation. In the section for each drug, one can find its DEA drug code number, pharmacological classification, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number, and status regarding inclusion in any of the five controlled drug schedules. For the chemists, the *Chemical Abstracts* (CA) name, empirical formula, and a cross reference to the chapter on structures are included. In addition, in cases in which the scheduling status of a drug has changed or has been redefined, an explanation of the changes along with legal citations is provided.

Other chapters examine the history of Federal drug laws and of administrative regulations, respectively. The chapters on structures and empirical formulas of the drugs are logically organized and will be useful to chemists, both medicinal and forensic. The chapter listing controlled substances code numbers will probably prove to be the least used section of this reference since it deals with codes which are primarily used by the Federal drug enforcement bureaucracy for internal record keeping. Others who need to know a drug's code can obtain the number by referring to the drug name in Chapter two. Finally, the appendices contain the texts of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Pre-

¹Toxicology laboratory director, Dade County Medical Examiner's Department, Number One Bob Hope Rd., Miami, FL 33136-1133.

vention and Control Act of 1970 in its original form and as redefined in the Code of Federal Regulations in 1987, as well as the Emergency Scheduling Act of 1984 and the Controlled Substance Analogue Enforcement Act of 1986.

The book is written in a clear and concise style. It presents balanced viewpoints explaining the meaning and intent of the law as well as the flaws and inconsistencies. In doing so it may provide the impetus and guidance for further revision of the drug laws.