

## **P115. SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS: BONZAI**

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Synthetic cannabinoids are substances with similar chemical structural effects to the active substance of marijuana, which is  $\Delta$ 9-tetrahydrokannabinoid (THC). Their receptors bearing similar characteristics with THC affect the brain and the other organs. After discovery of  $\Delta$ 9-tetrahydrocannabinoid ( $\Delta$ 9-THC) isolation in 1964 and cannabinoid receptors (CB1 and CB2) in 1980s, numerous cannabinoid receptor agonists were produced for therapeutic purposes. On the other hand, cannabis has become the illegal substance that is produced and consumed the most in the world. Since 1997, over 200 psychoactive substances have been defined. In 1990s, compounds with cannabinoid receptor activity that are known as “JWH substances” were synthesized and in time, these substances have become the main component of the new substances that contain synthetic cannabinoid (SC). Since 2004, SCs have not only been available in the market, but also become popular among those looking for legal fuddling substances. Substances containing SC are generally called “Spice” in Europe and “Bonzai” in Turkey. Because of the common use of these substances, of which structures are not known completely in terms of dosage and content, and of the lack of specific regulations, increasing consumption of SCs as the designed and abused substances has become a serious problem for public health institutions. Upon SCs sales on the Internet and shops called “head shop” and their being offered as herbal incense sticks, fuddling effect occurring upon having these herbal mixtures has become to be discussed on the Internet and particularly in the substance forums, and this accelerated popularity of SCs. And with our research, we aim to touch upon the current developments in this issue and its mechanism.