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*Danger of U.S. Federal Shutdown Preventing FDA Ban, Scientists Warn*

An international team of scientists have identified potentially **dangerous amounts** of **methamphetamine analog** in the **workout supplement Craze**, a product widely sold across the U.S. and online. The study, published in [\*Drug Testing and Analysis\*](#), was prompted by a spate of failed athletic drug tests. The results reveal the presence of methamphetamine analog N, $\alpha$ - DEPEA, which has not been safely tested for human consumption, in three samples.

“In recent years banned and untested drugs have been found in hundreds of dietary supplements. We began our study of Craze after several athletes failed urine drug tests because of a new methamphetamine analog,” said lead author Dr. Pieter Cohen, of Harvard Medical School, U.S.A.

A workout supplement marketed as a ‘performance fuel’, Craze is manufactured

by Driven Sports, Inc., and is sold in stores across the United States and internationally via body supplement websites.

The supplement is labeled as containing the compound N,N-diethyl-phenylethyl amine (N,N-DEPEA),

claiming it is derived from endangered dendrobium orchids. However, while there is no proof that this compound is found within orchids, it is also structurally similar to the methamphetamine analog N, $\alpha$ -diethylphenylethylam

mine (N, $\alpha$ -DEPEA), a banned substance.

The team analyzed three samples of Craze for traces of N, $\alpha$ -DEPEA. The first sample was

brought from a mainstream retailer in the U.S., while the second and third samples were ordered from online retailers in the U.S. and Holland.

The team used  
ultra-high  
performance  
liquid  
chromatography  
to detect the  
presence of  
N, $\alpha$ -DEPEA.

The first two samples were analyzed by NSF International, while the third was tested at the Netherland's



National Institute  
for Public Health.  
The findings  
were  
independently  
corroborated by  
the Korean  
Forensic Service,

which confirmed the presence of N, $\alpha$ -DEPEA in two further samples of Craze in a parallel investigation.

“We identified  
a potentially  
dangerous  
designer drug  
in three

separate  
samples of this  
widely  
available  
dietary  
supplement,”  
said Cohen.

“The tests revealed quantities of N, $\alpha$ -DEPEA of over 20mg per serving, which strongly

suggests that this is not an accidental contamination from the manufacturing process.”

As a  
structural  
analog of  
methampheta

mine,  
N, $\alpha$ -DEPEA ,  
may have  
stimulant  
and addictive  
qualities;



however, it  
has never  
been studied  
in humans  
and its  
adverse

effects  
remain  
unknown.

The  
product  
labeling  
claims that  
Craze  
contains

several  
organic  
compounds,  
known as  
phenylethyl  
amines.

However,  
phenylethyl  
amines are  
a very  
broad  
category of

chemicals  
which range  
from  
harmless  
compounds  
found in

chocolate to  
synthetically  
produced  
illegal  
drugs.

“The  
phenylethy  
lamine we



identified  
in Craze,  
N, $\alpha$ -DEPE  
A, is not  
listed on

the  
labeling  
and it has  
not been  
previously

identified  
as a  
derivative  
of  
dendrobiu

m orchids,”  
said  
Cohen.

“If these  
findings  
are  
confirmed  
by

regulatory  
authorities  
, the FDA  
(The U.S.  
Food and

Drug  
Administration)  
must take  
action to

warn  
consumer  
s and to  
remove  
suppleme



nts  
containing  
N, $\alpha$ -DEP  
EA from  
sale,”

concluded  
Cohen.

“Our fear  
is that the  
federal

shutdown  
may delay  
this,  
resulting  
in

potentially  
dangerou  
s  
suppleme  
nts

remaining  
widely  
available.”

## Muscles and Meth: Drug Analog Identified in 'Craze' Workout Supplement

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