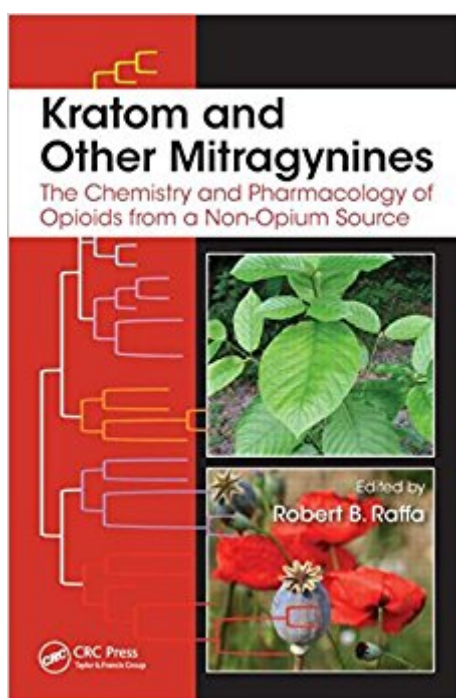


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Kratom And Other Mitragynines: The Chemistry And Pharmacology Of Opioids From A Non-Opium Source



Synopsis

Opioids such as morphine, codeine, and oxycodone are extracts or analogs isolated from a single source: the opium poppy. For a long time, it was believed to be nature's only source of opioids. But it now appears that biological diversity has evolved an alternative source of opioid compounds—those derived from the plant *Mitragyna speciosa*. This plant, known as Kratom in Thailand or Biak-Biak in Malaysia, has long been used locally as treatment for pain, fever reduction, diarrhea, and even depression. *Kratom and Other Mitragynines: The Chemistry and Pharmacology of Opioids from a Non-Opium Source* presents an introduction to the chemical and biological properties of alkaloids isolated from *M. speciosa* as well as their synthetic analogs. The book covers various topics including phytochemistry, medicinal chemistry, and pharmacology. Current research, analgesic effects, and addiction potential are also discussed. As the first extensive text on the basic science and clinical use of Kratom, the book provides readers with a concise yet comprehensive introduction to nature's "other opioid."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've just read *Kratom and Other Mitragynines: The Chemistry and Pharmacology of Opioids from a Non-Opium Source*, ed. by Robert B. Raffa. In the preface, Professor Raffa explains the book evolved from an elective course taught at Temple University School of Pharmacy, and is a collection of essays by experts in various fields (chemistry, biology, pharmaceuticals, forensic toxicology, etc.). First of all, this is a valuable book, and my only real criticism of it is that it is priced much too

high. Perhaps the hardback needs to be so expensive, but why can't the e-book be a reasonable price? Also, I didn't have the background to understand all of the essays. I found myself looking up terms every couple of minutes while reading. Many of the essays are descriptions of the chemical and biological elements of kratom, and I pretty much skipped these, as they were very dense reading, and I was more concerned with the way kratom functioned as a drug.

Short Review: Kratom has enough opioid properties that it should be classified as an opioid, albeit a new one. Kratom has significant pain-relieving properties. It also seems to suppress coughs, has some anti-depressive properties, and can produce euphoria at high doses. It does suppress breathing but less so than classic opioids. It also causes much less constipation. It seems to be less toxic than classic opioids, as there are no verified reports of it acting alone to cause deaths. There are anecdotal reports, and worry, that it can cause dependence and addiction. Most of the chapters call for more research to be done.

Notes from the Chapters I Read: Chap 2 Makes the case that kratom can be classified as an opioid.

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