

Employing the CAS Registry (SciFinder[®]) to Identify Seized Drugs Using Data from the NIST Hybrid EI Mass Spec Searches

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Mass Spec Interpretation Services

1/10/23



**“Spectraless” Database Approach for
Known Unknown Identifications**

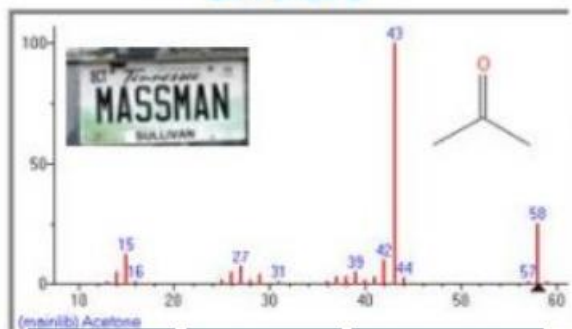


Used as Supporting Information for the Presentation on My Website

A "Little" Mass Spec and Sailing

Organic Mass Spectrometry, NMR, Sailing, Tesla, Duplicate Bridge

Mass Spec Interpretation Services



[About Me](#) [My Topics](#) [Others Links](#)

Overview "Known Unknowns" Posted by: [tvasailor](#) | May 24, 2012 (edit)

Available 1/25/2023: "Approaches for Identifying New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)" at 2023 Current Trends in Seized Drugs Analysis Symposium

New 11/24: Creating and Using Retention Indices in NIST Software

New 11/15: Forensic@NIST2022 Workshop: Seized Drug Analyses

New: Training for Wiley KnowItAll New EI Mass Spec Capabilities

New: FREE Courses for Unknown Identification Using NIST Search

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Monthly Archives ▾

Search



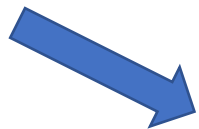
LINKS

- Accurate Mass NIST User Libraries

Suggest New Users Watch Training Videos on SciFinderⁿ on My Website

[Click Here for Website link](#)

Excellent CAS training videos are available on a variety of topics. I have links to a few essential videos that I captured below that will be very useful for the new user of this powerful software package. They have many more on their website.



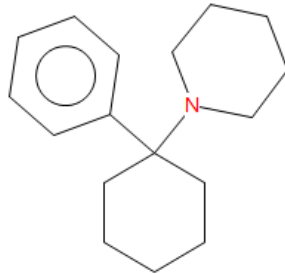
[Basic Searching a Topic and Filtering](#) (download or view Google Drive)

[Basic Structure Searches](#) (download or view Google Drive)

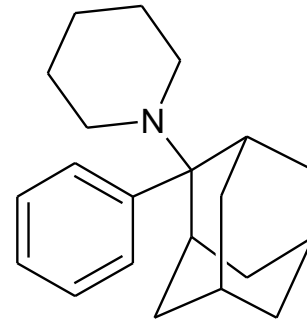
[Searching for Spectra and Properties of a Chemical](#) (download or view Google Drive)

Conclusions Leading to Identification of Unknown

- Hybrid search was critical in suggesting PCP-related substructure
- Molecular formula from Accurate mass DART critical step (E. Sisco, NIST)
- Testing SciFinder and CAS Registry as a ***much simpler approach*** than shown in presentation
- Also demonstrated in separate video on website using ChemSpider



“Angel Dust”
Phencyclohexyl piperidine
PCP
Phencyclidine

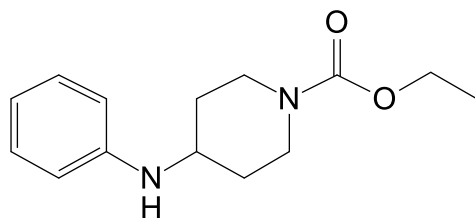


Identity of PCP-Related Unknown
CAS No. 72241-00-7
C₂₁H₂₉N
MW 295

Another Compound Identified in Presentation

- Hybrid search showed substructure and presence of carbamate group by MS and IR
- A molecular formula of $C_{14}H_{20}N_2O_2$ from hybrid data
- No accurate mass data really needed, such a simple deltaMass of oxygen, 16!
- IR and mass spectral data matched that obtained from another laboratory
- ***If it had not matched, could we have found other candidate structures with SciFinderⁿ***

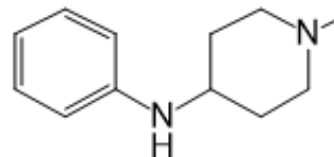
Identified Structure:



$C_{14}H_{20}N_2O_2$

MW 248

Other Possibilities for This Side of Ring?



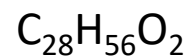
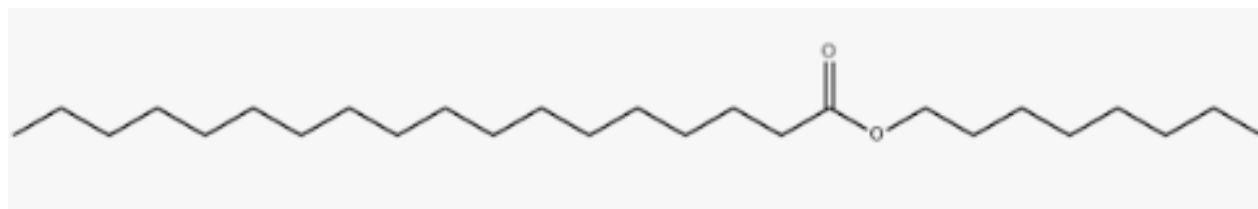
Searching or Limiting Searches in SciFinder by Molecular Weight

Molecular weight uses **exclusively** in SciFinder, **but** ChemSpider uses monoisotopic, nominal, and molecular weight.

Molecular weight calculated using the average molecular weight of the nuclides, thus those present in the periodic table. Typically used by chemists to calculate molar ratios for reactions.

Nominal Mass is calculated using the mass number of the most abundant isotope of each atom, without regard for the mass defect. All molecular ions and fragment ions are corrected to nominal mass when imported into the NIST search program.

Monoisotopic Mass is calculated by taking the sum of the accurate masses (including mass defect) of the most abundant naturally occurring stable isotope of each atom in the molecule.



Molecular Weight	396.690
Nominal Molecular Weight	396
Monoisotopic Mass	396.39673

Calculating Molecular Weight from Mass Spec Data

- Not easy to easily determine by mass spec using most data systems
- Would have to normalize the isotopic data and m/z values to 1 or more places to right side of decimal
- Also know the standard deviation for the measurement
- See the following [link](#) to our JASMS article
- Not very practical

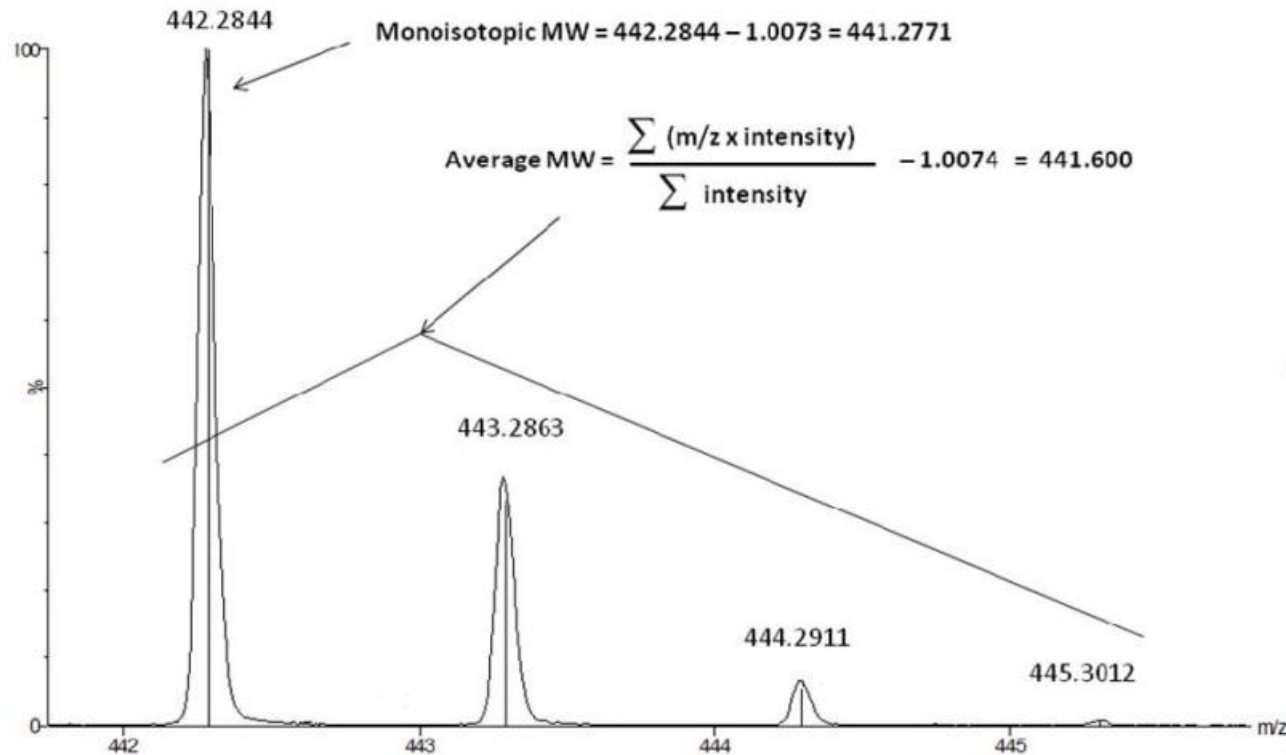


Figure 1: Determining the average MW of "known unknown" from centroided data for M+H species.

Relationship of Species Present to Molecular Weight (MW) Noted

- Carbon and hydrogen increase MW the most
- S, O, N, F, Si, I, etc. don't change significantly due to their value or the number typically present in a compound
- Cl and Br can have a significant effect, especially as the number present increase

**Incremental Mass Increase
for a Series of H-(CH₂)_n-H**

