

# Cannabis labels are unreliable

The traditional division of cannabis into the *sativa* and *indica* variants is misleading, argue Biosystematics lecturer Robin van Velzen and Canadian colleagues in *Nature Plants*. Many users claim they get different highs from the two variants, which have their origins in two varieties of the cannabis plant. But after examining hundreds of cannabis samples taken from Dutch cannabis cafés and other sources, the researchers concluded that they could not tell whether a sample was a *sativa* or *indica* variant based on the genetic and chemical profile.

‘Cannabis labelling is unreliable, in contrast to the situation for other valuable plant species,’ says Van Velzen. ‘That is unfortunate, especially for patients who use cannabis as a medicine. They need a consistent quality.’

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