

Chapter 1 : Psychedelics, natural and synthetic.

This item: Animals and Psychedelics: The Natural World and the Instinct to Alter Consciousness by Rob Montgomery Paperback \$ Only 10 left in stock (more on the way). Ships from and sold by calendrierdelascience.com

Four out of five stars. *Animals and Psychedelics* by ethnobotanist Giorgio Samorini is a tantalizing tour of recorded cases of apparently-intentional self-intoxication in animals ranging from moths to porcupines. Despite the title, most of the cases that Samorini recounts do not involve psychedelics, though he does describe some greedy goats refusing to share *Psilocybe* mushrooms. The book also chronicles belligerent cows going cuckoo for loco grass, elephants with a taste for liquor, felines with an affinity for catnip, khat-craving goats, and datura-drunk moths, among many other entheophiles of the four-footed variety. This brief book 97 pages describes what little is known about animal intoxication in short, breezy chapters. The accounts are short and anecdotal, relying mostly on chance field observations. Samorini sometimes bolsters the scarce available facts with speculation, as in his second-hand account of mandrills eating the roots of the Tabernanthe iboga bush: When a male mandrill must engage in combat with another, either to establish his claim to a female or to climb a rung of the hierarchical ladder, he does not begin the fight without forethought. Instead, he first finds and digs up an iboga bush, eating its root; next, he waits for its effects to hit him full force which can take from one to two hours ; and only then does he approach and attack the other male he wants to engage in battle. The fact that the mandrill waits like this to feel the full effect of the drug before attacking demonstrates a high level of premeditation and awareness of what he is doing. It is just as possible that the mandrill did not plan to challenge the other male in advance, but was driven to do so when the full disinhibiting effects of iboga came on. He begins the book with the hypothesis that animals intentionally seek intoxication and treats each case as evidence for this belief. Samorini argues that intoxication-seeking behavior often contradicts basic survival needs. Birds and mammals eat non-nutritious-but-intoxicating foods in lieu of readily-available, more nourishing alternatives. Some animals place themselves or their offspring at risk by consuming psychoactive plant material, such as the reindeer who wander away from their young while under the spell of *Amanita muscaria* mushrooms, or the moth that flutters helplessly on its back after drinking the nectar of the datura flower. Like Jonathan Ott in *Pharmacophilia*, Samorini contends that intoxication is natural. It is an instinctual drive commonly found in many animal species, and not the debased artifact of corrupt human society that it is commonly believed to be. This opens new conceptual and behavioral possibilities by disembedding animals from routinized patterns of behavior. *The Mechanism of Mind*. His arguments that intoxication is a natural drive and that it facilitates higher processes are individually persuasive, but they do not synergize well. It is hard to believe that moths drinking datura nectar or cows eating intoxicating grasses are seeking to liberate themselves from the tyranny of pre-established conceptual paradigms. I have lived with cats that regularly went into catnip frenzies, and I am quite certain that no existential imperative was at work in their behavior. This book is particularly memorable for its many wonderful accounts of animal intoxication. *Life in Pursuit of Artificial Paradise*. But in a book this short, it is distracting to see so many references to one other text. In the final analysis, *Animals and Psychedelics* is a fun and interesting read, but it breaks little new ground.

Chapter 2 : Animals and Psychedelics by Giorgio Samorini - Psychedelic Press UK

The animal kingdom offers amazing examples of wild animals and insects seeking out and consuming psychoactive substances. Giorgio Samorini explores this little-known phenomenon and suggests that, far from being confined to humans, the desire to experience altered states of consciousness is a natural drive shared by all living beings.

There are many cases of drug-use in other animal species. When exposed to catnip, cats will eat its flowers and rub themselves on the leaves and stems. In a matter of minutes, the cats will begin to show signs of intoxication, including sniffing, rolling, licking, rubbing themselves, stretching, jumping, and sleepiness. Some cats will drool. It is also thought that cats hallucinate while under the influence of this herb, given that many will start to exhibit hunting behaviors even when no prey is present. Cats seem to respond to the chemical just as they would to cat pheromones, showing behaviors related to sexual arousal. Both male and female cats respond in kind to catnip, showing a decreased attention to prey typical of males toward female cats in estrous, and rolling typical of female cats in estrous. Some wild cat species also seek out other drugs in the wild. Dolphins Squeezing Puffer Fish Dolphins have been observed on multiple occasions² carrying puffer fish in their mouths, squeezing them, and passing them along to other dolphins. It is speculated that the dolphins are trying to get the puffer fish to release a small burst of neurotoxin, which puts them into a trance-like state. After chewing the puffer and gently passing it round, they began acting most peculiarly, hanging around with their noses at the surface as if fascinated by their own reflection. The dolphins were specifically going for the puffers and deliberately handling them with care. Dolphins seem to be experts on how to prepare puffers and how to handle them. This intoxicating plant acts as a tranquilizer, putting animals into a stupor of calmness. Once an animal begins to graze on locoweed, it is very difficult for them to stop. Rather than being an addiction⁵, persistent grazing on locoweed is thought to simply be a socially-learned behavior⁶, though this is disputed. After an animal has grazed on locoweed for 2 weeks or more, it will begin to show signs of toxicity. Animals with locoism develop unstable behavior, and can be dangerous to interact with due to unpredictable aggression, flight responses, and extreme nervousness. Some will also fall into depression. Ranchers and farmers must put in great effort to prevent their livestock from ever grazing on locoweed if they hope to save them from suffering locoism. Once they do, the sheep will scrape off the lichen with their front teeth. Local humans noted that these sheep often displayed strange behavior in comparison to their un-addicted herd mates. Caribou that are under the influence of fly agaric will separate themselves from their herd, often at a high cost. Their intoxication leaves them in a vulnerable state which can be taken advantage of by predators, and their unattended calves are put in the same danger. Caribou will fight amongst each other in order to access the urine of a herdmate that has eaten fly agaric. In noticing this, humans realized that they too could benefit from the consumption of intoxicated caribou urine. Whether caribou or human, any being that drinks this urine will experience a more powerful high than the original eater of the mushrooms. In , Tasmanian attorney general Laura Giddings reported that wallabies are causing great problems for crop security. We see crop circles in the poppy industry from wallabies that are high. Since opium is addictive, it is not surprising that there are also reports of wallabies returning to the fields time after time to feed. These foods provided a higher caloric content for the primates, meaning that they did not need to spend as much time and energy foraging for other sources of sustenance. Through natural selection, the primates developed a preference for fermented foods. This predisposition was passed on to humans via evolution. A liking for alcohol is not limited to only humans and our ancestors, it is also found in other primates of today, as well as many other species. Alcohol affects bees much in the same way that it does humans, causing disorientation. Intoxicated bees are more likely to get into accidents while flying, get lost, and fail to share food. Alcohol concentrations in the livers and crops of these birds were ten to one hundred times higher than those measured in control bird species, suggesting a high level of alcohol ingestion. Cedar waxwings seem to be at particularly high risk in this regard given their repeated appearance in the popular literature; multiple reports in North America have them flying drunkenly into windows and buildings. Fruit-eating birds in the temperate zone may also be particularly susceptible to inebriation when they consume berries fermenting in the spring thaw. A

report from Cumbria in the United Kingdom similarly reported high levels of alcohol in dead blackbirds and redwings, consistent with lethal intoxication. In fact, it might be particularly dangerous to drink alcohol while flying. Nocturnal flights to and from communal roosts are obligatory for these large bats, and any inability to fly would involve substantial risks for them to predators, and indeed for any flying animal that has but limited mobility on the ground. Behavioral responses to alcohol are thus likely to vary with the animal species in question, and with different aspects of its physiology and natural ecology. When given the option, chimps will consume enough alcohol on a regular basis to experience withdrawals when access to the alcohol is removed. Fruit flies that are sexually deprived tend to drink more alcohol¹⁴, and when they are continuously drunk, male flies will display homosexual behaviors. More About Animal Drug Use Despite the diversity of the examples of animal drug use listed above, there are still many more documented cases.

Chapter 3 : Effect of psychoactive drugs on animals - Wikipedia

Animals figure in it as props, tokens in an ideological turf war surrounding psychedelics and their status in society. I doubt any zoologist or competent research can affirm the 'wow, animals like.

Buy from another retailer: From Chapter Six The most famous example of "collective drunkenness" in birds is that of American robins during their annual February migration to California, and in particular to the small town of Pleasant Hill. The amazing behavior of these birds on their arrival first made news in the s. Once they reach California, flocks of thousands of robins the species *Turdus migratorius* perch on small ornamental trees popularly known as California holly, though the Native Americans of the region call this scarlet fruit toyon. At this time of year the trees are laden with scarlet fruits called Christmas or holly berries. The robins, and other kinds of birds as well, gorge themselves on these fruits, bingeing until they are blatantly drunk. For about three weeks this region unintentionally hosts what can only be called a drunken orgy on the part of the birds, who become disoriented and confused, engaging in silly games with each other and fluttering wildly into cars and houses. Siegel, who has studied this phenomenon with great attention, notes that although four or five holly berries would suffice to make a full meal, a single robin will gobble down as many as thirty at a time. Clearly the purpose of such gorging transcends simple nutrition; it would seem conclusive that the birds recognize and remember the fruit and seek out the intoxication induced by eating massive doses of it. In his book *Intoxication: Life in Pursuit of Artificial Paradise*, Siegel describes the behavior of a flock of about three thousand American robins after their arrival in Pleasant Hill. Excerpts from his observations follow. As the branches wobble, so do the birds and they [the birds] start falling. Four birds are staggering on the ground, unable to fly. Several are still grasping berries in their beaks. A lone starling pilfers a berry right out of the locked beak of a robin. A group of birds on the start of another feeding frenzy flies directly into my head and body. I am driving in low gear to the edge of the field. There are thumps against the roof, then a robin smashes into the windshield. Several birds are stunned momentarily when they fly into the windows and sides of houses. On the side of the road I find four more birds that have been killed in collisions with cars. I performed autopsies on the dead birds. Neither the stomach contents nor the berries themselves showed evidence of fermentation or alcohol. Death was caused by a massive trauma inflicted by the collisions, secondary to an unknown intoxication" Siegel , Apparently, then, there have been no true cases of overdose in the robins and other birds who get high on the holly berries, and the only fatalities? The local press, which almost every year dedicates a paragraph or two to the bizarre behavior of the migrating robins, frequently refers to the deaths of birds who have flown into cars or houses as "suicides," a misnomer and completely erroneous interpretation of the facts. During the same time period and in the same region of California, birds become intoxicated on the fruits of yet another shrub, *Pyracantha*, a member of the rose family popularly known as firethorn. In this case, the birds act "like winged clowns: Some were found fluttering in the dirt with wings awry, teasing backyard cats. Others teetered on window ledges and pecked at their reflections. Because firethorns were often planted near homes and roads, collisions with windows and cars were reported more frequently than with toyon" Siegel , The bark of the toyon tree was used by the Native tribes of California for tanning, while its fruits were roasted and eaten or brewed to make an intoxicating cider. However, it is not yet known precisely which substances in these sour, scarlet fruits are responsible for their inebriant effects on birds or humans, who have sometimes experienced delirium and visions after drinking toyon cider. Possibly they are due to the presence of psychoactive saponins, since another case of collective "drunken" bird binges hinges on Tartarian honeysuckle, a source of similar saponins. Tartarian honeysuckle, *Lonicera tatarica*, is a shrub native to Asia but widely cultivated along the eastern coast of the United States. In this case as well, robins are the birds most attracted by its intoxicating berries. Grinnell observed the behavior of these birds in his garden: They appeared tame and dazed. Some lay on the earth in the dirt with their wings awry. I regretted the fact that their condition rendered the birds unusually easy to catch by our cat, who seemed to know very well that he could catch one any time he felt like it.

Chapter 4 : animals and psychedelics | Download eBook PDF/EPUB

An Italian ethnobotanist explores the remarkable propensity of wild animals to seek out and use psychoactive substances. â€¢ Throws out behaviorist theories that claim animals have no consciousness. â€¢ Offers a completely new understanding of the role psychedelics play in the development of.

From Chapter Six The most famous example of "collective drunkenness" in birds is that of American robins during their annual February migration to California, and in particular to the small town of Pleasant Hill. The amazing behavior of these birds on their arrival first made news in the s. Once they reach California, flocks of thousands of robins the species *Turdus migratorius* perch on small ornamental trees popularly known as California holly, though the Native Americans of the region call this scarlet fruit toyon. At this time of year the trees are laden with scarlet fruits called Christmas or holly berries. The robins, and other kinds of birds as well, gorge themselves on these fruits, bingeing until they are blatantly drunk. For about three weeks this region unintentionally hosts what can only be called a drunken orgy on the part of the birds, who become disoriented and confused, engaging in silly games with each other and fluttering wildly into cars and houses. Siegel, who has studied this phenomenon with great attention, notes that although four or five holly berries would suffice to make a full meal, a single robin will gobble down as many as thirty at a time. Clearly the purpose of such gorging transcends simple nutrition; it would seem conclusive that the birds recognize and remember the fruit and seek out the intoxication induced by eating massive doses of it. In his book *Intoxication: Life in Pursuit of Artificial Paradise*, Siegel describes the behavior of a flock of about three thousand American robins after their arrival in Pleasant Hill. Excerpts from his observations follow. As the branches wobble, so do the birds and they [the birds] start falling. Four birds are staggering on the ground, unable to fly. Several are still grasping berries in their beaks. A lone starling pilfers a berry right out of the locked beak of a robin. A group of birds on the start of another feeding frenzy flies directly into my head and body. I am driving in low gear to the edge of the field. There are thumps against the roof, then a robin smashes into the windshield. Several birds are stunned momentarily when they fly into the windows and sides of houses. On the side of the road I find four more birds that have been killed in collisions with cars. I performed autopsies on the dead birds. Neither the stomach contents nor the berries themselves showed evidence of fermentation or alcohol. Death was caused by a massive trauma inflicted by the collisions, secondary to an unknown intoxication" Siegel , Apparently, then, there have been no true cases of overdose in the robins and other birds who get high on the holly berries, and the only fatalities? The local press, which almost every year dedicates a paragraph or two to the bizarre behavior of the migrating robins, frequently refers to the deaths of birds who have flown into cars or houses as "suicides," a misnomer and completely erroneous interpretation of the facts. During the same time period and in the same region of California, birds become intoxicated on the fruits of yet another shrub, *Pyracantha*, a member of the rose family popularly known as firethorn. In this case, the birds act "like winged clowns: Some were found fluttering in the dirt with wings awry, teasing backyard cats. Others teetered on window ledges and pecked at their reflections. Because firethorns were often planted near homes and roads, collisions with windows and cars were reported more frequently than with toyon" Siegel , The bark of the toyon tree was used by the Native tribes of California for tanning, while its fruits were roasted and eaten or brewed to make an intoxicating cider. However, it is not yet known precisely which substances in these sour, scarlet fruits are responsible for their inebriant effects on birds or humans, who have sometimes experienced delirium and visions after drinking toyon cider. Possibly they are due to the presence of psychoactive saponins, since another case of collective "drunken" bird binges hinges on Tartarian honeysuckle, a source of similar saponins. Tartarian honeysuckle, *Lonicera tatarica*, is a shrub native to Asia but widely cultivated along the eastern coast of the United States. In this case as well, robins are the birds most attracted by its intoxicating berries. Grinnell observed the behavior of these birds in his garden: They appeared tame and dazed. Some lay on the earth in the dirt with their wings awry. I regretted the fact that their condition rendered the birds unusually easy to catch by our cat, who seemed to know very well that he could catch one any time he felt like it.

Chapter 5 : Animals, Psychedelics in Wild | Crossroads Ibogaine Treatment Center

Animals and Psychedelics: The Natural World and the Instinct to Alter Consciousness by Giorgio Samorini An Italian ethnobotanist explores the remarkable propensity of wild animals to seek out and use psychoactive substances.

Quick Reply Ok, so I got a chance to sit down and finish this very short 88 pgs , very good read. I enjoyed this book. Giorgio Samorini presents some very interesting and probable explanations of why animals drug themselves. I liked this quote towards the end: The search for knowledge and the search for pleasure: Inappropriate approaches to and ignorance about drugs can lead to behaviors interpretable as the need to hide from oneself, [escapism] as described by Tolstoy. Yet even in these cases, which we define as pathological, we must exercise care in the expression of judgments with purely moralistic connotations. A new theory has recently found widespread acceptance among scholars and workers in the field of addiction: According to this hypothesis, the heroin addict could well be a person in whom the production of endorphins - opiate substances produced naturally by the body - is lower than average. This individual may be finding a solution, more or less unconsciously, to his or her neurochemical imbalance by taking an exogenous opiate: To follow a different line of thought, human drug use might have an adaptive function in relationship to surrounding reality. In fact, some modern sociologists and anthropologists have directly denominated drugs with the term adaptogens, that is, substances that facilitate adaptation to the surrounding environment, whether that be a village of huts immersed in the Amazonian rain forest or a frustrating and neurosis-ridden Western city. I will put forth, first of all, a suggestion and a further hypothesis: In other words, it would seem that we are only at the beginning of this knowledge. And the phenomenon of animals that drug themselves becomes ever more important as it leads us to a fuller comprehension of the motivations that induce human beings to do the same. Anthropocentric as we are, we are used to negating any form of consciousness at all in other species, especially in the lower orders of animals. Orthodox scientific thought is permeated by the philosophical dogma known as behaviorism, which excludes the possibility of thought of any kind in the animal kingdom. I think that if what I said in my first post is true, about the Mandrills actually searching out, digging up, and eating the roots of Iboga and then actually sitting around and waiting until it kicks in fully before they go fight another male, then it goes to reason that animals DO actually have at the very least a basic level of thought. It seems that this fact alone, let alone all of the other examples that Samorini gives, should blow the behaviorist theory out of the water. Overall it was an excellent book, definitely worth the read. Anyway, I hope you guys enjoyed the review.

Chapter 6 : The Animals that Love Doing Drugs - Animal Cognition

Animals and Psychedelics by Giorgio Samorini - An Italian ethnobotanist explores the remarkable propensity of wild animals to seek out and use psychoactive.

Spiders[edit] In , Swiss pharmacologist Peter N. Witt started his research on the effect of drugs on spiders. The initial motivation for the study was a request from his colleague, zoologist H. Peters, to shift the time when garden spiders build their webs from 2amâ€”5am, which apparently annoyed Peters, to earlier hours. Witt tested spiders with a range of psychoactive drugs, including amphetamine, mescaline, strychnine, LSD, and caffeine, and found that the drugs affect the size and shape of the web rather than the time when it is built. All the drugs tested reduced web regularity except for small doses 0. In some later studies, spiders were fed with drugged flies. The webs were photographed for the same spider before and after drugging. Nathanson in the journal Science , [4] which is discussed below. Based on the results, drugs make the spider brain signal and web less complex. Namazi also analyzed the information contents of spider brain signal and web in different conditions. He administered solutions of finely powdered tea leaves or coffee beans to the larvae and observed, at concentrations between 0. At higher concentrations, larvae were killed within 24 hours. He repeated the experiments with purified caffeine and concluded that the drug was responsible for the effect, and the concentration differences between coffee beans and tea leaves originated from 2â€”3 times higher caffeine content in the latter. Similar action was observed for IBMX on mosquito larvae, mealworm larvae, butterfly larvae and milkweed bug nymphs , that is, inhibition of feeding and death at higher doses. He observed a similar effect, namely inhibition of feeding followed by death. Nathanson concluded that caffeine and related methylxanthines could be natural pesticides developed by plants as protection against worms: Caffeine is found in many plant species, with high levels in seedlings that are still developing foliage, but are lacking mechanical protection; [7] caffeine paralyzes and kills certain insects feeding upon the plant. It is therefore understood that caffeine has a natural function, both as a natural pesticide and as an inhibitor of seed germination of other nearby coffee seedlings, thus giving it a better chance of survival. It was concluded that those beetles have adapted to caffeine. Although aqueous caffeine solutions had indeed no effect on the beetles, oleate emulsions of caffeine did inhibit their feeding, suggesting that even if certain insects have adjusted to some caffeine forms, they can be tricked by changing minor details, such as the drug solvent. Cabbage leaves were sprayed with caffeine solutions and fed to *Veronicella cubensis* slugs and *Zonitoides arboreus* snails. Cabbage consumption reduced over time, followed by the death of the molluscs. Wild cats, including tigers, are also affected, but with unknown percentage. The first reaction of cats is to sniff. Then, they lick and sometimes chew the plant and after that rub against it, with their cheeks and the whole body by rolling over. If cats consume concentrated extract of the plant, they quickly show signs of over-excitement such as violent twitching, profuse salivation and sexual arousal. The reaction is caused by the volatile terpenoids called nepetalactones present in the plant. Although they are mildly toxic and repel insects from the plant, their concentration is too low to poison cats. These results have not been observed in humans who also take the drug due to the lack of available data.

Chapter 7 : Animals & Psychedelics - Forums

An Italian ethnobotanist explores the remarkable propensity of wild animals to seek out and use psychoactive substances. â€¢ Throws out behaviorist theories that claim animals have no consciousness.

Animals and Psychedelics in the Wild November 19, by Martin Polanco Psychedelics have been used for thousands of years by many different cultures throughout the world. These mind-altering substances are even considered sacred by some and have been used by various people as powerful spiritual conduits and for healing on mental, physical, and emotional levels. There happens to be many different species of animals that enjoy dipping into the psychedelic cookie-jar. While the initial appeal animals find in psychedelics is most likely for nutritional or protective reasons, many return time and time again to certain plants that contain psychedelic compounds. Fermented fruits, opium poppies, and hallucinogenic mushrooms are all quite popular amongst the animal kingdom. And there are those that speculate that animals choose to return to these plants for the sole purpose of experiencing the altered state they provide. Reindeer on Mushrooms The northern hemisphere is home not only to reindeer, but to the fly agaric mushroom. It seems, however, that reindeer fancy these mushrooms a bit more and will go to great lengths to search them out. Eating these hallucinogenic mushrooms causes reindeer to act drunkenly, and run around meaninglessly making strange noises. Gorillas, boars, mandrills, and porcupines have all been known to dig up the roots of the iboga plant and eat them until intoxicated. One account shows that a male mandrill will not engage in combat until he has first dug up and eaten the iboga root. He then waits up to two hours until the root has time to fully take effect. This exemplifies that the animal has a full awareness that of how the substance will affect him and that he has full comprehension of what he is doing. While these plants are usually avoided by most, there are accounts of horses coming back to them repeatedly. Amazonian Jaguars Eat Ayahuasca In the jungles of the Amazon jaguars are known to munch on the Banisteriopsis caapi vine, which is better known by humans as one of the plants used to make ayahuasca. However, jaguars that have eaten this vine have been shown to roll around in extreme pleasure after consuming the vine, which makes some believe they are seeking it out for this purpose. These are but a few accounts of animals purposely seeking out psychedelic substances in the wild. Scientists who study this particular behavior of animals have found that species throughout the world are purposely intoxicating themselves. Rats, mice, lizards, and spiders are all known to be fond of opium. So, prevalent is this behavior that some scientists believe animals purposely seek out mind-altering substances. Cats can develop brain damage from too much nip, and the horses and cows that gorge on locoweed will eventually die.

Chapter 8 : Erowid Library/Bookstore : 'Animals and Psychedelics'

Originally published in Italy in under the title 'Animali che si Drogano', this English Translation of Giorgio Samorini's 'Animals and Psychedelics: The Natural World and the Instinct to Alter Consciousness' was published by Park Street Press in The author is an ethnobotanist.

Chapter 9 : Animals On Psychedelics â€“ Juno Records

Animals and Psychedelics. likes. From caffeine-dependent goats to nectar addicted ants, the animal kingdom offers amazing examples of wild animals.