

Surprising Cannabis Compound Found in Unrelated Plant!


Description

Recent investigations have unveiled the presence of cannabidiol (CBD), a compound traditionally affiliated with cannabis, in the ubiquitous Brazilian plant known scientifically as [Trema micrantha blume](#). This remarkable discovery paves the way for innovative pathways to sustainably produce this increasingly sought-after substance.

The research team, led by molecular biologist Rodrigo Moura Neto from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, disclosed that CBD was identified within the fruits and blossoms of this shrub, which proliferates throughout Brazil and is frequently dismissed as a mere weed. According to Neto, this revelation could transform CBD production given the plant's widespread availability across the South American landscape.

Notably, CBD has garnered attention for its therapeutic potential in alleviating conditions such as epilepsy, chronic pain, and anxiety. It is one of the primary bioactive compounds found in cannabis, alongside tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive component responsible for the characteristic high associated with cannabis consumption.


Despite its promise, comprehensive research into the medicinal efficacy of CBD remains ongoing.


Distribution of *Trema micranthum* blume. ([Royal Botanic Gardens Kew/CC by 4.0](#))

Interestingly, chemical analyses confirmed that while *Trema* contains CBD, it is devoid of THC, thus presenting a potentially abundant and legally unencumbered source of cannabidiol—especially significant in jurisdictions where cannabis remains prohibited, such as Brazil.

Neto remarked, "This plant represents a lawful alternative to conventional cannabis." Its omnipresence in Brazil suggests a simpler and more cost-effective means of sourcing CBD.

Previously, CBD had been identified in a related species found in Thailand, emphasizing the compound's broader botanical context.


A variety of *Trema micrantha*. ([João Medeiros/Wikipedia/CC By 2.0](#))

Moving forward, Neto aims to escalate his inquiry to establish optimal extraction techniques for CBD from *Trema* and evaluate its therapeutic efficacy in conditions typically treated with medical cannabis.

This endeavor is bolstered by a substantial grant of 500,000 reais (approximately US\$104,000) awarded by the Brazilian government, with expectations for completion spanning at least five years.

Market analysis from Vantage Market Research indicates that the global CBD sector is poised to expand from nearly US\$5 billion to over US\$47 billion by 2028, primarily fueled by the burgeoning health and wellness industry.



Vocabulary List:

1. **Cannabidiol** /ˌkæən.əˈbɪd.i.ɔɪl/ (noun): A compound found in cannabis known for its potential therapeutic effects.
2. **Innovative** /ˈɪn.əˌveɪ.tɪv/ (adjective): Featuring new methods; advanced and original.
3. **Proliferates** /prəˈlɪf.ə.reɪts/ (verb): To increase rapidly in numbers; multiply.
4. **Therapeutic** /ˌθer.əˈpjʊː.tɪk/ (adjective): Relating to the healing of disease.
5. **Efficacy** /ˈɛf.ɪ.kə.si/ (noun): The ability to produce a desired or intended result.
6. **Jurisdictions** /ˌdʒʊr.ɪsˈdɪk.ʃənz/ (noun): The official power to make legal decisions and judgments.

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL6

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