

4-Bromo-2,5-Dimethoxyphenethylamine

(Street Names: 2C-B, Nexus, 2's, Toonies, Bromo, Spectrum, Venus)

Introduction:

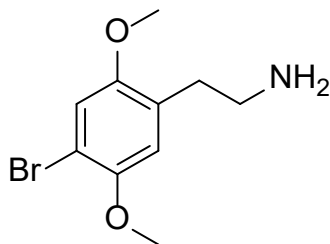
4-Bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine (also known as 2C-B, 4-bromo-2,5-DMPEA) is a synthetic schedule I hallucinogen. This substance is abused for its hallucinogenic effects, primarily as a club drug in the rave culture and “circuit” party scene.

Licit Uses:

2C-B has no approved medical uses in the United States.

Chemistry:

2C-B is a phenethylamine hallucinogen. It is part of the family of 2C drugs identified by the methoxy groups at the 2 and 5 positions on the phenyl ring of phenethylamine. Additional substitutions are possible at the 2 and 4 positions. The chemical structure of 2C-B is shown below:



Pharmacology:

2C-B produces effects similar to 4-methyl-2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine (DOM) and DOB. 2C-B displays high affinity for central serotonin receptors and produces dose-dependent psychoactive effects. Threshold effects are noted at approximately 4 mg of an oral dose; the user becomes passive and relaxed and is aware of an integration of sensory perception with emotional states. This includes euphoria with increased body awareness and enhanced receptiveness of visual, auditory, olfactory, and tactile sensation. Oral doses of 8 to 10 mg produce stimulant effects and cause a fully intoxicated state. Doses in the range of 20 to 40 mg produce LSD-like hallucinations. Doses greater than 50 mg have produced extremely fearful hallucinations and morbid delusions. The onset of subjective effects following 2C-B ingestion is between 20 to 30 minutes, with peak effects occurring at 1.5 to 2 hours. Effects of 2C-B can last up to 8 hours.

The radioimmunoassay detection system that is commonly used for testing amphetamine and hallucinogens does not detect 2C-B. In the Marquis Reagent Field Test-902, 2C-B produces a bright green color. 2C-B is the only known drug to produce a bright green color when using this test.

Illicit Uses:

2C-B is abused for its hallucinogenic effects. 2C-B is abused orally in tablet or capsule forms or snorted in powder form. This drug has been misrepresented by distributors and sold as other hallucinogens, such as MDMA and LSD. Some users abuse 2C-B in combination with lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) [referred to as a “banana split”] or 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) [called a “party pack”].

User Population:

2C-B is used by the same population as those using “Ecstasy” and other club drugs: high school and college students, as well as other young adults who frequent “rave” or “techno” parties.

Illicit Distribution:

2C-B is distributed as tablets, capsules, or in powder form. Usually sold as MDMA, a single dosage unit of 2C-B typically sells for \$10 to \$30 per tablet. Prior to the control of 2C-B, DEA seized both clandestine laboratories and illicit “repacking shops”. As the name implies, these shops would repackage and reformulate the doses of the tablets prior to illicit sales.

DEA’s forensic laboratory system first identified 2C-B in an exhibit submitted by law enforcement in 1986. DEA’s National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) Drug database collects scientifically verified data on drug items and cases submitted to and analyzed by participating federal, state, and local forensic laboratories. According to NFLIS-Drug, 2C-B has been encountered by law enforcement in 48 states, as well as Puerto Rico, since 1998. Over time, 2C-B was identified in 17 items in 2005, 89 in 2010, 59 in 2015, and 54 in 2020. Reports of 2C-B spiked to 201 in 2019, then declined to 27 in 2022 and 51 in 2023.

Control Status:

2C-B is controlled in schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA).