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The author is a fifth-year psychology student at the Philosophical Faculty of Palacky University in Olomouc. She examines the potential of the use of hallucinogens in therapy. She is interested in cultural anthropology, specialising in the study of South American native tribes and their cults of shamanism.

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abstract

# Potential of the use of the hallucinogen ayahuasca in addiction therapy



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Takiwasi (Centre for the Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts and for Research into Traditional Medicines) was founded in 1992 in the Peruvian town of Tarapoto as a pilot project focused on research into traditional Amazonian medicine. The president of the Centre, the French doctor Jacques Mabit, and the director, the Peruvian psychologist Jaime Torres, lead the therapeutic team, who treat drug addicts by means of a combination of modern medicine and psychotherapy with traditional healers' shamanistic knowledge and procedures, including the use of the hallucinogenic vine ayahuasca. This form of treatment appears to be very successful and safe as strict rules and rituals are observed.

**Key words:** ayahuasca – hallucinogens – addiction – traditional medicine.

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