

Spice: Melange

Of all the drugs out there, Spice is the highest grade quality. The various forms of spices are the most powerful and addictive out there. Nobody is quite sure where the term spice came from but some think it has to do with the fact that some, like melange were originally used in food.

Melange: A complex bio-polymer originating only on Arrakis. Its several biological activities include interaction with various centers of the central nervous system (CNS), interaction with the immune system, and deposition within the sclera of the eyes. To date the biologically active portion of spice has not been isolated, although it is known that other portions of the molecule contain cytochrome, a cupric heme and cinnamic acid.

The interaction with the CNS is primarily in the Krieger-Kramptz center, which controls time-space awareness. In most humans this center is rudimentary, consisting of only a small number of cells (K-K cells) in the central cortex of the brain. Ingestion of the spice stimulates the growth of K-K cells so that the individual becomes more aware of his time-space environment. It is due to the action of the spice on the K-K cells that melange is addictive. If quantities in excess of 2 grams per 70 kilograms of body weight are ingested, addiction is encountered. Withdrawal of the spice from an addict results in insanity and eventual death due to the action of the breakdown products of K-K cells on other cells of the CNS.

The geriatric properties of melange are considerable. The addicts predicted lifespan is increased two to four times

that of normal, depending upon the age at which the spice was first ingested as well as the dose. When the spice is digested, certain as yet unidentified breakdown products are absorbed into the bloodstream. These products interact with T-cells of the immune system, rendering the addict immune to most bacterial, fungal, parasitic and viral agents of disease. Ingestion of spice also imparts an immunity to many common poisons.

One of the most striking results of a diet high in melange is the "Eyes of Ibab," the characteristic "blue on blue" eye color: the whites and irises of the eyes turn a deep blue. Visual acuity is not reduced by the deposition of the blue pigment. In fact, in the white sun light of Arrakis, the pigment acts as a blue filter, increasing contrast and enhancing vision. Melange is very expensive, and highly addictive. However, because of the preponderance of spice on the planet Arrakis, addiction to melange will occur naturally within one or two years of living there. It can be postponed a year or two by including many off-world foods into the diet, but is inevitable.

An addict requires two grams of spice per day. On Arrakis, melange is common enough in nature to meet an addict's requirements through normal food and drink.

Model: Melange Spice

Type: Spice

Availability: 2, R or X

Cost: 250 (per 2 gram dose)

Game Effects:

A regular user of the spice will have their life span doubled, tripled or even quadrupled, depending on how early they started in life. They also gain +2D to all stamina rolls to resist viral infection and poisons. A Force Sensitive character who uses Melange regularly gains +1D to the Detoxify Poison force power. They also get +1D to all vision based perception checks as their visual acuity is increased.

If the user consumes 2 grams for every 70 kilograms of bodyweight, they get +2D to all attempts to detect lies by lying for 3D minutes.

If the character consumes 4 grams of pure spice per 70 kilograms of bodyweight, they begin receiving a special sort of 'effect'. From this point, every 2 grams per 70 kilos of bodyweight give +1D to a temporary use of the Farseeing force power. Unless the user is force sensitive and already has this force power the power is assumed to start at 1D for both Control and Sense. If more than 10 grams of pure spice per 70 kilos of bodyweight is consumed the user must make a difficult stamina roll or fall into a coma for 1D weeks. More than 15 grams per 70 kilos, and it is a very difficult roll. More than 20 and it is a heroic roll. From that point on it's +15 to the difficulty for every five grams per 70 kilograms of bodyweight consumed.

After each dose roll 2Dxnumber of times the user has taken the drug versus the user's willpower. If the user loses, they become addicted and need two grams per day. If the person goes a week without their daily dose they become ill suffering -1d from all die codes until they meet their quota again. Every week this continues they go down another 1d, when their strength hits 0D they die.

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