Supporting Information:

# Novel  $\Delta^8$ -tetrahydrocannabinol vaporizers contain unlabeled adulterants, unintended byproducts of chemical synthesis, and heavy metals

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# **Table of Contents**

### **NMR methodology**

<sup>1</sup>H NMR was chosen as a primary method for assessing chemical composition of the  $\Delta^8$ -THC CECs given this method's previously demonstrated ability to characterize molecules used as vaporizer adulterants that are difficult to characterize by GC-MS or LC-MS,<sup>1</sup> and for the possibility of identifying and quantifying compounds for which reference standards do not exist. In addition, NMR offers the possibility of identifying molecules without the need for developing a dedicated GC-MS or LC-MS chromatographic method, which may be necessary for samples that contain complex mixtures of isomeric cannabinoids that tend to co-elute and have similar mass spectral features. Rapid analysis of these samples was deemed necessary given the timely nature of this topic.

Triplicate quantitative <sup>1</sup>H NMR samples were prepared by massing 20-30 mg  $\Delta^8$ -THC CEC oils in 1.4 mL plastic centrifuge tubes, adding 500 µL DMSO-*d*<sup>6</sup> and 10 µL of 392 mM benzoic acid in DMSO- $d_6$  internal standard, sonicating for  $\sim$ 5 min., vortexing, then transferring to Wilmad 5 mm precision 500 MHz NMR tubes (Vineland, NJ). <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were acquired on a Bruker 500 MHz with 32 scans, 14.5 s repetition rate (12.8 s relaxation delay was chosen as  $4x$  the  $T_1$  of the longest relaxing proton, the internal standard benzoic acid, 3.2 s), 90° flip angle, with 64k data points. Spectra were processed using Mestrenova with a 0.2 Hz line broadening factor, to a final data size of 64k real data points, manually phase corrected, and baseline corrected with the Mestrenova Bernstein polynomial fit. All other, non-quantitative NMR spectra were recorded with a number of scans and relaxation delay sufficient to provide adequate signal-to-noise for the purposes of the experiment, and processed in a similar manner as above. Reported  $\Delta^8$ -THC data (Table 1) were obtained from product packaging or from certificates of analysis available online accessible by following QR code links on the packaging.

#### **GC-MS methodology**

GC-MS data was obtained using a Shimadzu GC-2010 wherein 1 µL of sample was injected at 250 °C with a 20x split ratio and separated on a 30 m Zebron ZB-XLB 0.25 mm i.d., 0.25 µm film thickness GC column with a constant flow of 0.95 mL/min. He at an initial oven temperature of 100 °C that was held for 3 min., then ramped to 280 °C at a rate of 24 °C/min. and held for 5 min. for a total run time of 15.5 min. The GC was interfaced with a Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010 with electron impact ionization operating with an ion source temperature of 225 °C, an interface temperature of 250 °C, and a detector voltage of 1.5 kV scanning between 50- 500 amu. Mass spectral data were compared to a NIST spectral library database.

#### **ICP-MS methodology**

For this analysis, one product chosen arbitrarily from each brand of  $\Delta^8$ -THC CEC was used. Each 50-90 mg sample was digested in concentrated nitric acid (ultra trace grade) on a hot block at 95°C for one hour. The red/orange colored digest was transferred to a 15 mL polypropylene tube and ultrapure water was added to a total volume of 10 mL. After addition of water a yellowish precipitate was formed and the samples were centrifuged to sediment the precipitate and leave a clear solution for analysis. For Total Quant, S, and Si analyses, kinetic energy discrimination mode was used at 4.6 mL/min He flow. Total Quant external calibration standard was a 1 ppm solution of all analyzable elements in 2% nitric acid. S and Si were calibrated at 0, 1, and 2 ppb standards of each element. The plasma RF power was 1600 W and the Ar flow was 17 L/min. Data obtained from these experiments is presented in Tables S1 and S2.

# **Identification of components in**  $\Delta^8$ **-THC CECs**

The presence of  $\Delta^8$ -THC was confirmed by comparison of a <sup>1</sup>H NMR sample of  $\Delta^8$ -THC made from evaporating two 1 mg/mL samples in methanol (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) and working up in DMSO- $d_6$  (Figure S1), and assignments were aided by 2D<sup>-1</sup>H correlation spectroscopy (COSY) and by comparison with previously published  ${}^{1}H$  NMR data.<sup>2</sup> In addition, GC-MS analysis of samples in Table 1 indicated to presence of  $\Delta^8$ -THC with match qualities  $>90\%$  with respect to the NIST spectral database. The alkenyl proton on  $\Delta^8$ -THC ( $\delta$  5.39 ppm, *m*, 1H) which shows little overlap with other resonances was chosen for quantification of  $\Delta^8$ -THC. However, any potential overlap of other resonances is a potential source of systematic error. Resonances corresponding to  $\Delta^8$ -THC and the adulterants were the dominant features of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (Figure S2), but upon closer inspection (Figure S3) minor resonances corresponding to terpenes, adulterants, and unidentified components are visible. The resonance corresponding to the  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol ( $\Delta^9$ -THC) alkenyl proton is visible in all spectra but overlaps with a terpene resonance (likely  $\beta$ -myrcene) and  $\Delta^9$ -THC was not quantifiable in any of the  $\Delta^8$ -THC CECs. Medium chain triglyceride (MCT) oil was identified by spiking (Figure S4) with a sample of commercially available MCT oil (Greenive, Eden, ID) and quantified by integrating the 4.26 ppm resonance. Triethyl citrate (TEC) was identified by spiking (Figure S5) with a pure standard (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) and quantified by integrating the 2.86 ppm resonance.

All  $\Delta^8$ -THC CECs were assayed by GC-MS which identified  $\alpha$ -pinene in 2/27 samples (avg. match quality: 93%, retention time [RT]: 2.3 min.),  $\beta$ -pinene in 4/27 samples (avg. match quality: 87%, RT: 2.7 min.), limonene in 3/27 samples (avg. match quality: 85%, RT: 3.6 min.),  $\beta$ -caryophyllene in 10/27 samples (avg. match quality: 84%, RT: 6.95 min.),  $\alpha$ -humulene in 4/27 samples (avg. match quality: 92%, RT: 7.2 min.), ethyl citrate in 7/27 samples (avg. match quality: 87%, RT: 8.4 min.), and  $\Delta^8$ -THC in 27/27 samples (avg. match quality: 92%, RT: 12.6 min.). Two or three minor and overlapping peaks eluted immediately before  $\Delta^8$ -THC in all samples, but did not show matches to the NIST spectral database. These likely corresponded to minor cannabinoids with ions  $m/z = 314$ , 299, 271, and 231 amu as major features.

Olivetol has been speculated as a byproduct of cannabidiol (CBD) conversion to  $\Delta^8$ -THC,<sup>3</sup> and the presence of this compound was confirmed by spiking with a pure standard (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) which showed an increase in intensity of the phenol protons resonance (Figure S6). Given that this resonance showed overlap with another phenol resonance corresponding to a minor cannabinoid (*vide infra*) and that olivetol's other resonances were not visible due to overlap with  $\Delta^8$ -THC, the presence of olivetol was further confirmed by enriching the olivetol content of a sample via acid/base extraction. ~650 mg of  $\Delta^8$ -THC CEC oil was dissolved in 10 mL dichloromethane (DCM), extracted thrice in 15 mL 5% NaOH, the combined aqueous layers acidified to  $pH < 1$ , added with brine, extracted thrice in 15 mL DCM, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered by gravity filtration, then evaporated under a gently stream of  $N_2$ . 11 mg were isolated. <sup>1</sup>H NMR determined that this extract was 1:1.9  $\Delta^8$ -THC:olivetol. The presence of olivetol was confirmed by spiking (Figure S7), and by examination of the GC-MS chromatogram of this sample as compared with a sample of pure olivetol, allowing for full confirmation of the presence on olivetol (Figure S8). Quantification of olivetol by <sup>1</sup>H NMR was not possible due to spectral overlap.

In order to ascertain the identify of minor cannabinoids that are isomeric with major cannabinoids present in all  $\Delta^8$ -THC CECs, column chromatography was used to enrich minor cannabinoids visible by thin layer chromatography (TLC) in 8:2 hexanes:diethyl ether (H:E).  $\sim$  650 mg of  $\Delta^8$ -THC CEC oil was separated over 100 mL silica gel using a gradient elution of 400 mL 9:1 H:E, 200 mL 8:2 H:E, 200 mL 4:2 H:E, then 100 mL 3:2 H:E. Notable fractions corresponding to TLC spots of  $R_f = 0.65$  (292 mg),  $R_f = 0.35$  (10.4 mg), and  $R_f = 0.3$  (6.2 mg) were isolated and NMR spectra were acquired in CDCl<sub>3</sub> and DMSO- $d_6$ . Other fractions contained putative flavorants and other cannabinoids and were not investigated and discarded. The major fraction of  $R_f = 0.65$  was determined to contain  $\Delta^8$ -THC,  $\Delta^{4(8)}$ -*iso*tetrahydrocannabinol  $(\Delta^{4(8)}$ -*iso*-THC), and an unidentified cannabinoid in a ~1:0.4:0.15 ratio, respectively (Figure S9).  $\Delta^{4(8)}$ -iso-THC was predicted by Marzullo *et al.* (2020) to be present in samples similar these as an artefact of the acid-catalyzed cyclization of CBD to tetrahydrocannabinols that results from phenol lone pairs forming a bond with a carbocation on C1 instead of C9, resulting in the iso-tetrahydrocannabinol  $\Delta^8$ -iso-THC that isomerizes to the

more thermodynamically stable  $\Delta^{4(8)}$ -iso-THC.<sup>4</sup> While Marzullo *et al.* (2020) reported <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts for this molecule in acetone- $d_6$ , Gaoni and Mechoulam (1966)<sup>5</sup> reported shifts in CDCl3 which match closely to those observed herein (Figure S10). In particular, the chemical shift corresponding to  $H_3$  (4.17 ppm in CDCl<sub>3</sub> and 4.13 in DMSO- $d_6$ , see Figure S10) is very unique for a tetrahydrocannabinol benzyl proton due to it being nearly in the plane of the aromatic ring whose ring current deshields it. <sup>5</sup> A COSY experiment shows this proton couples only to a resonance at  $\sim$ 1.83 ppm, and though it suffers from overlap, this serves as further confirmation this proton is not a shielded alkene or phenol proton (Figure S11). Given the unique chemical shift of H<sub>3</sub> it was possible to quantify  $\Delta^{4(8)}$ -iso-THC in samples not containing MCT oil, given that the glyceryl methylene protons overlap with H3. However, in samples with MCT oil, it is still possible to confirm the presence of  $\Delta^{4(8)}$ -iso-THC by examination of its phenol and aromatic protons resonances (Figure S12).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of the fraction corresponding to  $R_f = 0.35$  showed a pair of resonances indicative of an electron-rich aromatic ring typical for cannabinoids, suggesting this molecule is a cannabinoid or cannabinoid-derivative, in addition to the presence of 21 unique resonances in the 13C NMR spectrum. However, other resonances showed chemical shifts that were unfamiliar to the authors upon review of available literature. Integration of all the 1H resonances indicated the sample was reasonably pure  $(\sim 90\%)$ , and GC-MS analysis also displayed a single chromatographic peak. The mass spectrum showed prominent ions of  $m/z = 314$  and 271 amu, indicating this molecule readily loses a propyl or isopropyl group (Figure S13) and is isomeric with the major tetrahydrocannabinols. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showed prominent peaks indicative of an isopropyl group adjacent to a quaternary carbon, a heptet  $(\delta 1.95$  ppm,  $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H) and a pair of doublets ( $\delta$  0.98 ppm,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H;  $\delta$  0.94 ppm,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H). Benzoxocin and benzoxonin are cannabinoid-derived molecules with isopropyl groups (adjacent to tertiary carbons) have been previously reported, <sup>6</sup> but do not share similar spectral features to the compound herein. A structure for *iso*-tetrahydrocannabifuran (Chart 1) was suggested on the basis of the 1H NMR and mass spectral data, and the structure was confirmed by correlating data from 13C NMR, DEPT-135 13C NMR, COSY, HSQC, HMBC, and NOESY experiments, results of which are displayed in Figures S14-19 and  ${}^{1}H$  and  ${}^{13}C$  chemical shifts are reported therein. Connectivity in the *p*-menthyl ring is confirmed by the appearance of a coupling system of 4

unique protons on positions 6 and 7 which show coupling to each other but to no other protons, as shown in the COSY. An HMBC correlation between a  $H_6$  with  $C_{5a}$  which, in turn, also shows an HMBC correlation with the heptet  $H_{11}$ , which in turn shows COSY crosspeaks with the two methyl doublets confirms the position of the isopropyl group. The HMBC correlation between  $H_{9a}$  and  $C_{5a}$  are further proof for this connectivity. A strong NOE correlation between  $H_{9a}$  and the isopropyl methyl groups  $H_{13}$  and  $H_{12}$  (and a correspondingly weaker one between  $H_{9a}$  and  $H_{11}$ ) suggest the *cis* configuration of the two groups, which is the only possible conformation for a dibenzofuran-based structure as such. The strong COSY crosspeak between H9a and H9 are further evidence for the position of the double bond in the *p*-menthyl ring, which is also confirmed by the weak, but existent, HMBC correlation between  $H_9$  and  $C_8$ . Though the (5a*R*,9a*S*) configuration is the configuration expected if the stereochemistry of CBD C3 position is maintained during its proposed mechanism of formation (Scheme 1), the present spectral data is not conclusive as to whether the molecule isolated is this, its (5a*S*,9a*R*) enantiomer, or a mixture of the two at some level of enantiomeric excess. Molecules with identical C-C bond connectivity but with a fully saturated cyclohexane ring were described by Arnone *et al.* (1975),<sup>7</sup> but these were not named or described in detail.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR and GC-MS analysis of the fraction corresponding to  $R_f = 0.3$  showed evidence of 9ethoxy-hexahydrocannabinol (9-EtO-HHC). The GC-MS chromatogram of this fraction showed only one peak, the mass spectrum for which is displayed in Figure S20. The appearance of a molecular ion  $m/z = 360$  amu, and fragment ion  $m/z = 314$  amu is suggestive of loss of a neutral ethanol to form a  $\Delta^9$ -THC molecular ion fragment. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (Figure S21), shows a set of resonances consistent with an ethoxy group with diastereotopic methylene protons (as would be expected for the 9-EtO-HHC structure): two doublets of quartets ( $\delta$  3.58 ppm,  $J = 8.8$ , 7.0 Hz, 1H and  $\delta$  3.43 ppm,  $J = 8.8$ , 7.0 Hz, 1H) and a triplet ( $\delta$  1.21 ppm,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, 3H), the connectivity of which is confirmed with the COSY (Figure S22).



**Table S1.** ICP-MS Total Quant analysis data in ppb. Experimental error of the reported values is approximately  $±50%$ .

<b>Brand</b>	Si	S
	$1.1E + 0.5$	$1.4E + 0.5$
2	$2.1E + 0.5$	$5.0E + 04$
3	$3.0E + 0.5$	$6.1E + 04$
	$2.7E + 0.5$	$8.9E + 04$
5	$4.0E + 0.5$	$8.2E + 04$
6	$2.8E + 0.5$	$8.0E + 04$
	$1.1E + 0.5$	$2.0E + 0.5$
8	$6.1E + 04$	$6.6E + 04$
9	$1.9E + 0.5$	$1.5E + 0.5$
10	$1.0E + 0.5$	$1.4E + 04$

**Table S2.** ICP-MS data obtained from Si and S calibrations in ppb. Experimental error for reported values is  $± 5\%$ .



**Figure S1.** Overlay of a  $\Delta^8$ -THC CEC (upper) and a pure standard of  $\Delta^8$ -THC (lower) in DMSO- $d_6$ . The phenol proton suffers from considerable broadening in the lower spectrum due to elevated levels of residual water that was absorbed during evaporation of the methanol solution.



**Figure S2.** Overlaid <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra in DMSO- $d_6$  of all  $\Delta^8$ -THC CECs tested. Major resonances visible correspond to  $\Delta^8$ -THC. Other resonances correspond to cutting agents such as MCT oil and TEC, the internal standard used for quantification, benzoic acid, and water.



**Figure S3.** An amplified image of the overlaid spectra in Figure S2 to highlight the abundance of minor components including flavorants, cutting agents, and reaction byproducts.



**Figure S4.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of an MCT oil-containing  $\Delta^8$ -THC CEC containing 14.3 mg of the same in 500 µL DMSO-*d*<sup>6</sup> (bold) overlaid with a spectrum of the same sample spiked with 0.4 µL of a commercially available MCT oil which is quoted for use as a "carrier oil." 1 H NMR analysis of this MCT oil using peak integrations of glyceryl and alkyl resonances indicates a molecular formula of C30H56O6 and a molar mass of 512 g/mol, indicating the fatty acid content is approximately 1:1 capric and caprylic acids, based on an average chain length of 9 carbons. Spiking shows an increase in intensity of the following resonances from the MCT oil:  $H_1$ , the proton  $\alpha$  to the central glycerol ester which is split by the adjacent protons into a triplet of triplets ( $\delta$  5.19 ppm,  $J = 6.7$ , 3.6 Hz); H<sub>2</sub>, the two chemically-equivalent protons  $\beta$  and cis to H<sub>1</sub> ( $\delta$  4.26 ppm, dd,  $J = 12, 3.6$  Hz); and H<sub>3</sub>, the two chemically equivalent protons  $\beta$  and trans to H<sub>1</sub> ( $\delta$  4.12 ppm, dd,  $J = 12, 6.7$  Hz). The other resonances are not visible due to overlap with  $\Delta^8$ -THC.



alcohol ( $\delta$  2.86 ppm, d,  $J = 15.1$  Hz, 2H); and H<sub>5</sub>, the two other chemically equivalent methylene protons  $\beta$  to the alcohol ( $\delta$  2.71 ppm, d,  $J = 15.1$  Hz, 2H). The other resonances are not visible due to overlap with  $\Delta^8$ -THC.



**Figure S6.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of ~20 mg  $\Delta^8$ -THC CEC in 500 µL DMSO- $d_6$  (bold) overlaid with a spectrum of the same sample spiked with 2 µL of a 48.98 mg/mL solution of olivetol in DMSO- $d_6$ . This shows an increase in intensity of the resonance corresponding to the two chemically-equivalent phenol protons ( $\delta$  9.0 ppm, s, 2H). The other resonances are not visible due to overlap with  $\Delta^8$ -THC.



resonances.



**Figure S8.** Comparison of the mass spectrum of the peak eluting at  $RT = 9.967$  min. from an injection of ~1000 ng/uL acid/base extract sample (upper) with the mass spectrum of a peak eluting at RT = 9.5 min. from an injection of ~1000 ng/uL pure olivetol. The appearance of  $m/z = 180$  amu corresponding to  $[C_{11}H_{16}O_2]^+$  molecular ion and  $m/z$  $= 124$  amu corresponding to  $[C_7H_8O_2]^+$  in both spectra confirm the presence of olivetol.



**Figure S9.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in CDCl<sub>3</sub> of the aromatic region of the column fraction corresponding to  $R_f = 0.65$ . The largest resonances correspond to the aromatic protons on  $\Delta^8$ -THC, H<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>1</sub>, the chemical shifts of which, 6.27 and 6.10 ppm. The second largest pair of resonances correspond to the aromatic protons on  $\Delta^{4(8)}$ -*iso*-THC, H<sub>3</sub> and

H4. The smallest pair of highlighted resonances likely correspond to a minor, unidentified cannabinoid.



**Figure S10.** Full <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the column fraction corresponding to  $R_f = 0.65$ . While the major resonances present correspond to  $\Delta^8$ -THC, certain resonances corresponding to  $\Delta^{4(8)}$ -iso-THC are visible, specifically: the two aromatic protons H<sub>4</sub>' ( $\delta$  6.29 ppm, m, 1H) and H<sub>2</sub>' ( $\delta$  6.13 ppm, m, 1H), the benzyl proton H<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  4.17 ppm, m, 1H), the two olefinic protons H<sub>9</sub> ( $\delta$  1.93 ppm, s, 3H) and H<sub>10</sub> ( $\delta$  1.66 ppm, s, 3H), and the protons  $\alpha$  to the ether linkage H<sub>7</sub> ( $\delta$  1.35 ppm, s, 3H). The chemical shifts reported by Gaoni and Mechoulam (1966)<sup>5</sup> for  $\Delta^{4(8)}$ -iso-THC match well with the above: H<sub>3</sub> (4.19 ppm), H<sub>9</sub> ( $\delta$  1.94 ppm), H<sub>10</sub> (1.69 ppm), ( $\delta$  1.36 ppm). The aromatic protons' chemical shifts, reported Taylor *et al.* (1966)<sup>8</sup> as  $\delta$  6.31 ppm and  $\delta$  6.13 ppm, also match well with those shown above, despite the fact that this publication had erroneously assigned them to  $\Delta^8$ -cis-THC, as shown by Gaoni and Mechoulam

 $(1966)^5$ 



1.83 ppm is similar to that reported by Marzullo *et al.*<sup>4</sup> despite differences in chemical shift due to it being reported in acetone- $d_6$  therein, and CDCl<sub>3</sub> herein.



**Figure S12.** Overlay of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra in DMSO- $d_6$  of the column fraction corresponding to  $R_f = 0.65$  that contains  $\Delta^{4(8)}$ -*iso*-THC (bottom), a  $\Delta^8$ -THC CEC that does not contain MCT oil (middle), and one that does contain MCT oil (top). In the top spectrum, the  $\Delta^{4(8)}$ -*iso*-THC benzyl proton (4.13 ppm) is obscured by the MCT oil glyceryl methylene protons, but its phenol protons resonance (9.02 ppm) is still plainly visible despite partial overlap with the olivetol phenol proton resonance (see Figure S4), as are its aromatic protons resonances despite partial overlap with those from  $\Delta^8$ -THC.







that overlap with *iso*-THCBF.



**Figure S15.** 13C NMR (lower) and DEPT-135 (upper) of *iso*-THCBF in CDCl3. C4a, 160.70 ppm; C1, 151.96 ppm; C<sub>3</sub>, 144.67 ppm; C<sub>8</sub>, 135.89 ppm; C<sub>9</sub>, 120.47 ppm; C<sub>9b</sub>, 115.05 ppm; C<sub>2</sub>, 107.56 ppm; C<sub>4</sub>, 102.83 ppm; C<sub>5a</sub>, 92.15 ppm; C<sub>9</sub>, 42.46 ppm; C<sub>1</sub>', 36.13 ppm; C<sub>11</sub>, 35.57 ppm; C<sub>3</sub>', 31.76 ppm; C<sub>2</sub>', 31.04 ppm; C<sub>6</sub>, 26.69 ppm; C<sub>7</sub>, 25.74 ppm; C<sub>10</sub>, 24.05 ppm; C<sub>4'</sub>, 22.69 ppm; C<sub>12</sub> & C<sub>13</sub>, 17.73 & 17.04 ppm; C<sub>5'</sub>, 14.17 ppm.



**Figure S16.** *iso*-THCBF COSY spectrum full (a) and of alkyl region (b) in CDCl3.



**Figure S17.** *iso*-THCBF HSQC spectrum full (a) and of alkyl region (b) in CDCl3.







**Figure S19.** NOESY spectrum of *iso*-THCBF in CDCl3. This spectrum must be viewed in full color in order to differentiate in-phase (blue) from out-of-phase (red) signals.



S29



Figure S21. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 9-EtO-HHC.







**Figure S23.** Mass spectrum tentatively identified as bornyl chloride in products 2 and 3 from brand 1. This eluted at 4.95 & 4.93 min., respectively, with match qualities to NIST spectral database of 80 & 81 %.

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