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The Mysterious Tale of the Psychedelic Toad

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NOTE: The original 1,000+ page manuscript for *Slaying the Dragon: The History of Addiction Treatment and Recovery in America* had to be cut by more than half before its first publication in 1998. This is an edited excerpt that was deleted from the original manuscript.

American citizens have ingested an enormous range of exotic substances to alter consciousness but perhaps none equals the tale of the Colorado River Toad and its hallucinogenic venom. In April, 1994, two persons in Sonora, California were charged with possession of psychedelic toad juice. They had been caught squeezing the venom from their Colorado River toad, drying it and then smoking it to achieve an intense hallucinogenic experience. The man and woman pleaded guilty and agreed to

attend a drug education program in lieu of prison. The disposition of the toad was not disclosed.

Reference

"Couple Avoid Jail In Toad Extract Case". New York Times. 1 May 1994. Accessed August 22, 2014 at <http://www.nytimes.com/1994/05/01/us/couple-avoid-jail-in-toad-extract-case.html>