K2 - Spice

The organic material found in products sold as Spice and K-2 are not the “active” ingredient. The organic material is sprayed with a synthetic chemical (synthetic cannabinoid) and it is the chemical that is causing the euphoric effects rather than the organic material. These chemicals have been identified as HU-210; HU-211; JWH-043; JWH-018and CP47,947. Some of the products are sold as Spice Gold or Spice Diamond, Spice Blend. It is believed that the different names reflect different chemicals. Of the chemicals listed above only HU-210 is federally a controlled substance. The reason is that HU-210 is both chemically and pharmacologically similar to Delta-9 THC. HU-211 is chemically similar to Delta-9 THC but not pharmacologically similar and therefore not controlled. JWH-073; JWH-018 and CP47,947 are pharmacologically similar to Delta 9 THC but not chemically similar.

Spice is typically sold across Europe with some “sightings” in the U.S. Several European countries have recently made some or all of these chemical illegal.

As a bonus: HU-210 was synthesized in the late 1980s at the Hebrew University, hence “HU”. “JWH” stands for John W. Huffman the organic chemist that isolated some of the chemicals. (I think he teaches at Clemson University).

THC-like Substances ("Spice")

- An herbal mixture called "Spice" is sold in European countries mainly via Internet shops. It is also encountered in the U.S. as K-2
- "Spice" is purported to contain substances with marijuana-like psychoactive effects (e.g., HU-210, HU-211, JWH-018, JWH-073 and CP 47,947 & homologues) and it may be abused via smoking.

THC-like Substances ("Spice")

- HU-210 is both chemically and pharmacologically similar to Δ9-THC, the main active ingredient in marijuana.
- HU-211 is chemically, but not pharmacologically similar to Δ9-THC
- JWH-018, JWH-073 and CP 47,497 are pharmacologically, but not chemically, similar to Δ9-THC