

Catalogue of Works — Albert Hofmann

Appendix to FORSCH-0331 — Reconstruction of the Series, Findings, Corrections

Identifier: FORSCH-0331 Appendix W · **Version:** v0.2 · **Date:** 2026-10-13 **Author:** Thomas Schüller · Syntagma Forschung · Vienna · ORCID 0009-0003-9799-6747 · **Licence:** CC BY 4.0
Dataset: FORSCH-0331_werkverzeichnis_v0.2_2026-10-13_daten.csv (semicolon-separated, UTF-8, 113 records)

1. State

Part B7 of the main work recorded that no published complete catalogue of Albert Hofmann's scientific papers exists. That still holds — a targeted search for a Festschrift, an obituary carrying a list of works, the materials of the 2006 centennial symposium, or any bibliography turned up nothing.

The state of reconstruction has shifted considerably since v0.1:

Measure	v0.1	v0.2
Records in total	19	113
Numbers of the ergot series recorded	9	79
of which with Hofmann as author or co-author	7	44
Cardiac-glycoside papers	0 (line named only)	8
Patents	0	11
Status established / probable / open	—	64 / 43 / 6

2. Reliability of the data

Wiley's publisher server and the Crossref and Semantic Scholar interfaces refused automated queries. Author order and page numbers for part of the entries therefore come from three substitute sources: Wiley search-result excerpts, reference lists in later papers, and a user-uploaded reference list on the Internet Archive.

The status field in the dataset records this:

Status	Meaning	Count
G	checked against a publisher or database record	64

Status	Meaning	Count
W	taken from a secondary record, to be verified against the printed page	43
O	not established	6

The 43 **W** entries are usable but not citable without comparison against the printed volume. That is not a defect of the research but of the access situation.

3. Structural finding: the series ran across several journals

The series “Mitteilung über Mutterkornalkaloide” did **not** appear exclusively in *Helvetica Chimica Acta*. At least twelve numbers ran elsewhere:

Journal	Numbers
Hoppe-Seyler’s Z. physiol. Chem.	2, 3
Experientia	49, 50, 56, 66
Pharmaceutica Acta Helvetiae	51, 67
Archiv der Pharmazie	54 (Brack 1962)
Journal of the American Chemical Society	65
Tetrahedron	71
Monatshefte für Chemie	82

A search confined to *Helvetica Chimica Acta* would have missed these. This is the methodologically most important single finding of this version: the series is a publication strand of the Sandoz house, not of a journal.

4. The three phases of Hofmann’s participation

Across the 79 recorded numbers, Hofmann’s authorship is not evenly distributed but falls into three clearly separated phases.

Phase	Numbers	Years	Hofmann’s participation	Character
I — build-up	2–15	1937–1949	almost throughout, Stoll & Hofmann	partial syntheses, dihydro derivatives, lysergic acid isomerism
II — structural elucidation	16–40	1950–1955	only 9 of 25	led by Stoll with Petržilka and Rutschmann
III — direction	42–73	1957–1970	on most	Hofmann as

Phase	Numbers	Years	Hofmann's participation numbers	Character
				senior author and head of department

This distribution corrects the picture drawn by the reception. During the most intensive phase of structural elucidation of the peptide moiety — phase II — Hofmann is **not** involved in two thirds of the papers. The heavy structural-chemical work was done by Theodor Petrzilka and Jakob Rutschmann under Arthur Stoll.

The only sole authorship in the entire series is No. 12 (1947), the Curtius degradation.

No. 73 (1970) is the last documented entry with Hofmann; from No. 74 (1972) the series continues without him, to at least No. 83 (1976), which is dedicated to him on his 70th birthday.

5. Six corrections to main work v1.0

5.1 The dissertation is documented — V1 settled

A. Hofmann, “Über den enzymatischen Abbau des Chitins und Chitosans”, dissertation, University of Zurich, 1929. [G] With the first publication Karrer P. / Hofmann A., *Helvetica Chimica Acta* 12 (1929) 616–637. [G] Part B1 is thereby documented rather than merely plausible.

5.2 The fifth line of work is dated — and shorter than assumed

The cardiac-glycoside line appeared as a series of its own, “**Mitteilung über Herzglucoside**”. Eight papers with Hofmann are documented, all between **1933 and 1935**, with Stoll as first author throughout. Central entries: the isolation of scillaren A from squill (No. 1, 1933), scillarenase (No. 3, 1935), and the structural work on scillaridin A (Nos. 6, 7, 11, 13).

Two refinements relative to v0.1 of this appendix:

- There are **no Hofmann papers on digitalis aglycones of his own**. The digitalis work in the series belongs to Stoll and Kreis.
- There is **no paper of his own on toad-skin toxin**. The attribution “bufadienolide” refers to scillaridin A, the squill aglycone, which belongs structurally to that class.

The finding is thereby sharper, not weaker: **the cardiac-glycoside line ends in 1935, the same year Hofmann receives his own laboratory and the ergot line begins**. This is not a side line but the apprenticeship — six years of natural-product chemistry on a different subject before the work he is known for began.

5.3 LSD entered the literature as a uterotonic

Series No. 6, *Helvetica Chimica Acta* 26 (3), 944–965 (1943), describes the partial synthesis of several alkaloids of the ergobasine type including LSD and records the **oxytotic effect of LSD on the rabbit uterus in situ**. [G] The psychic effect is not a topic in the first publication. Part B4 is to be made precise accordingly.

5.4 Methylergometrine has been on the WHO Model List since 2021 — V8 settled

Added in **2021** (TRS 1035), indication post-partum haemorrhage; ergometrine listed as therapeutically equivalent. [G] Part C4 holds; the phrase “to this day” was too comfortable.

5.5 Stoll 1947 is confirmed — V7 settled

W. A. Stoll, “Lysergsäure-diäthylamid, ein Phantastikum aus der Mutterkorngruppe”, *Schweizer Archiv für Neurologie und Psychiatrie* **60: 279–323** (1947). [G] Content: 29 administrations to 16 healthy subjects, 20 to 6 patients with schizophrenia. The issue number (1–2) rests on a single secondary source and remains [V].

5.6 The Mas Castellar finding is weaker than Part D suggests — V6 settled

The archaeological support for the Eleusis thesis rests on two short contributions by J. Juan-Tresserras in the excavation monograph edited by E. Pons, *Mas Castellar de Pontós*, Museu d’Arqueologia de Catalunya, Girona 2002 — pp. 477–481 (ergot at p. 481) and pp. 548–556. What was detected: remains of ergot sclerotia in the dental calculus of a human mandible, and sclerotia in a miniature vessel together with beer- and yeast-related residues; grinding stones from the site tested *Claviceps*-negative. [W]

Decisive: Guerra Doce & López Sáez (2006, *Complutum*, pp. 7–25) hold that the hallucinogen reading requires thorough review, and point to the Grauballe Man, whose gut contents held hundreds of sclerotia, attributed to unintentional ingestion. No re-analysis of the Mas Castellar residues exists. The analytical method used is not named in the accessible sources. [O]

Part D3 of the main work is therefore to be supplemented: the 2026 study demonstrated **chemical** feasibility; the **archaeological** support remains thin and contested.

Full citation of the 2026 study: Antonopoulos, Dadiotis, Magiatis et al., *Scientific Reports* 16, 8757 (13 Feb 2026), DOI 10.1038/s41598-026-39568-3. Yield: 0.54 mg LSA and 0.48 mg iso-LSA per gram of ergot. [G]

6. One finding that relieves a sub-paper

The reference list of Petersen 2025, chapter 10 (48 items), cites **only two** papers from the *Periglandula* complex: Steiner & Leistner 2012 (*Fungal Ecology* 5, 316) and Steiner et al. 2006 (*Planta* 224, 533).

Not cited: Kucht et al. 2004 (the fungicide experiment), Markert et al. 2008 (biosynthesis within the symbiotum), and the 2011 description of the genus. No philosophy-of-science literature appears in the list.

For FORSCH-PROV0462 this means: Petersen narrates the overthrow of the “only fungi” dogma as a discovery story, without carrying the chain of evidence in full and without drawing the methodological point. The contribution of 0462 — measurability before explicability, the organism boundary as a methodological stipulation — stands. The novelty claim is to be made precise, not withdrawn: 0462 is not a first account of the discovery history but its evaluation in the theory of science.

Reservation: this judgement rests on the abstract and reference list, not the full text. Chapter 10 is paywalled. The German edition appeared as *Das Mystrium im Roggen* (Springer, DOI stem 10.1007/978-3-662-69508-1).

7. Patents

Eleven patents naming Hofmann as inventor are recorded, four of them checked in full text.

Patent	Subject	Dates	Status
US 2,090,430	lysergic acid amides, ergometrine type, via azide	granted 17 Aug 1937	G
US 2,438,259	d-lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD)	CH priority 30 Apr 1943, granted 23 Mar 1948	G
US 2,810,723	lysergic acid derivatives acylated at the indole nitrogen	granted 22 Oct 1957	G
US 3,075,992	esters of indoles (psilocybin type)	priority 12 Sep 1958, granted 29 Jan 1963	G
US 3,183,172	obtaining psilocybin and psilocin from fungal material	priority 21 Feb 1958, granted 11 May 1965	G
CH 393637	psilocybin and psilocin	priority 21 Feb 1958	W
US 2,265,217; US 2,359,688; US 2,809,920; US 3,336,311; US 3,755,328	lysergamides, hydrazides, fermentation, total synthesis	—	W

Gap: product patents for Methergine, Dihydergot or Hydergine naming Hofmann as inventor were **not** found. The methylergometrine compound patent (US 2,265,207) appears in citation lists only as “Stoll et al.” A total count across all national families is undetermined; that requires a direct Espacenet count. **[0]**

This finding bears on Part C4 of the main work: the thesis about the economic load-bearing capacity of the ergot line holds, but Hofmann’s personal position as inventor on the load-bearing products is **not documented**. That is normal for an industrial research department, and for the ρ/δ reading in Part E it is directly on point: disposal over the protective right lies with the company, not with the chemist.

8. The archive in Bern

Item	State
Signature	N 65

Item	State
Holding body	Institute of the History of Medicine, University of Bern, ISIL CH-000956-2, Bühlstrasse 26, 3012 Bern
Cataloguing	recorded in the institute archive's online database; no separately published finding aid found
Transfer	2013, accessible to researchers since 2014
Extent	one rolling-shelf unit of binders and boxes: lectures, correspondence, records of self- experiments
Additionally	the institute library holds documentation collections on LSD and on psilocybin compiled by Hofmann
Researcher	Beat Bächli, beat.baechli@img.unibe.ch, since 2015
File level	not inspected [0]

Access: in writing to the institute archive, citing signature N 65.

9. Estimate of total output

Roughly 130 to 170 scientific publications, plus about ten books as well as essays and lectures after 1971. This is an estimate, not a census.

Basis: 44 documented series papers, at least 8 cardiac-glycoside papers, 6 to 8 papers of the Mexican line, review articles, the 1964 monograph, and the figure “more than one hundred scientific articles” from the University of Zurich and HerbalGram obituaries as a lower bound.

The figure “over 100” circulated in the reception is thereby confirmed as a **lower bound** and refuted as an upper one.

10. What remains open

#	Gap	Access
1	Series numbers 1, 41, 53 and 75, 76, 78, 79	annual indexes in the printed volumes
2	Numbering conflict 54/55 (Brack, Arch. Pharm. vs. Stadler & Hofmann, HCA)	original issues
3	Titles of Nos. 50, 51, 62, 65, 67	original issues
4	43 entries with status W	comparison against the printed page
5	Total patent count; product patents	Espacenet, Swissreg

#	Gap	Access
	Methergine/Dihydergot/Hyd ergine	
6	List of works and file level of archive N 65	Institute of the History of Medicine, Bern
7	Full text of Petersen 2025 chapter 10	library access or the German edition
8	Analytical method behind the Mas Castellar ergot identification	excavation monograph, Pons 2002

Point 6 remains the key: without the list of works kept by the author himself there is no criterion for when the reconstruction is complete.

11. Form of the dataset

FORSCH-0331_werkverzeichnis_v0.2_2026-10-13_daten.csv, semicolon-separated, UTF-8, 15 columns, 113 records. Author names within a field are separated by / so that the semicolon remains unambiguous as the column delimiter.

Column	Content
nr	identifier: D dissertation, P first publication, H Herzglucoside, M Mutterkornalkaloide, X individual paper, B book, PAT patent, L open line
reihe, reihe_nr	series membership and number within it
jahr, autoren, titel	as documented
quelle, band, seiten, doi	bibliographic details
ah	Hofmann as author or co-author: ja / nein / offen
linie	line of work
status	G / W / O per section 2
beleg	where the datum comes from
anmerkung	reservations and checking notes