

## **Personal experiences with betel quid/*Areca* and gutka**

Even though Gutkha is banned in India in certain states, it's still smuggled into the state and sold on the black market, same as here, it's still sold in the Indian grocery stores. Even some Bollywood award shows, Cricket matches, Celebrities are sponsored by the same manufacturer who only advertises "Pan Masala," but when you go to the stores the "Pan Masala" is not ever available, only the gutka version. It's like seeing ads for a nonalcoholic Heineken beer and going to the store and only finding alcoholic Heineken.

Anyway thank you again and we live in Ocala we are available to meet and definitely willing to share information, anything that will help.

> Parul Patel

Just another anecdote: I asked the Indian proprietor of my local liquor store "What do you know about gutka? His reply was, "You mean chewing tobacco?" I said, "Yes but isn't there something else in it?" "Just breath freshener." he replied. I asked, "Is it addictive?" His reply to that was something like, "No more than chewing gum, people just like to do it."

>Roger Papke

I just got my new eBay shipment of Pan Masala, one box for the Research purposes in the lab and another to spare. I had some friends over for a drinking party last night, a symposium if you will. At the end of the evening I offered packets to my guests and tried one myself. Two others took my offer and one took a packet home. The muscarinic effects on salivation were apparent but I can't say I experienced much else except some ongoing indigestion. Perhaps the background effects of whiskey and wine were too high, but I will also say that at times in the past when I dabbled with tobacco products I never felt any attraction.

>Roger Papke