

“Biochemical Targets of Plant Bioactive compounds.

A pharmacological reference guide to sites of action and biological effects”

By Gideon Polya

864 pages, 14 chapters (including summaries of natural product chemistry, biochemistry in general and specific areas of biochemistry e.g. ligandgated ion channels, protein kinases etc.), over 500 pages of details cross-referencing Tables (compound, cultural & historical snippets), 4 huge indexes (chemical compounds index, plant genus index, plant common name index, general subject index), chemical structure appendix and abbreviations index.

How do plant compounds affect our bodies? Plants defend themselves from other organisms through the production of bioactive metabolites. Introduced to the body, these compounds bind to particular biochemical targets, most notably proteins involved in signalling by hormones and neurotransmitters. This, essentially, is the basis for the effects of herbal medicine. Though whilst herbal medicine preparations may act by complex synergistic interactions, molecular explanations of herbal medicine efficacy and side-effects will ultimately require definition of the biochemical targets of individual plant bioactive constituents.

This volume is a comprehensive and user friendly reference guide to biochemical targets of plant defensive compounds. It presents a mine of succinctly summarized information relating to bioactive compound structures, plant sources, biochemical targets and physiological effects which can be readily accessed via the plant genus index and chemical compound index. With introductory chapters providing reviews of the structural diversity of plant defensive compounds and biochemistry, Biochemical Targets of Plant Bioactive Compounds is an invaluable reference for biochemical professionals in the fields of complementary medicine, natural product chemistry, toxicology and pharmacology.

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