



Secondary Metabolites in Plants

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Message from the Guest Editors

Secondary metabolites (SMs) are diverse organic compounds that are derived through pathways from primary metabolism and generally do not appear to participate directly in the growth as well as development of plants. Although the term “secondary metabolites” may imply a less important role than “primary metabolites” in plants, these compounds play a variety of roles in the interaction of plants with the environment and can be involved in the response against herbivores, microbes (bacteria, fungi), and viruses. Some of them also show the function of signal molecules to attract pollinating insects or seed-dispersing animals and interact with proteins (receptors, ion channels, enzymes, cytoskeleton, and transcription factors), DNA/RNA, and/or biomembranes. SMs are often differentially distributed among limited taxonomic groups within the plant kingdom. Regarding the functions and biosynthetic pathways of SMs, these still remain largely unknown at the moment. This Special Issue aims to reveal the functions and biosynthesis of SMs in plants, as well as biotechnological production of secondary metabolites and studies related to their biological activities.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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