

Chemistry of Natural Products

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ABSTRACT

Natural product is a chemical compound or substance produced by a living organism that is found in nature. Natural products can also be prepared by chemical synthesis (both semi synthesis and total synthesis) and have played a central role in development of the field of organic chemistry. The term natural products has also been extended for commercial purposes to refer to cosmetics, dietary supplements, foods produced from natural sources without added artificial ingredients. Within the field of organic chemistry natural sources are produced by primary or secondary metabolism. In the field of medical chemistry many secondary metabolites are cytotoxic and have been selected and optimized through evolution for use as "chemical warfare" against prey, predators etc. Natural products sometimes have therapeutic benefit as traditional medicines for treating diseases, components as lead compounds for drug discovery. Natural product has inspired numerous U.S food and Drug administration approved drugs. Drug development has received declining attention by pharmaceutical companies' intellectual property concerns, seasonal or environmental variability of composition and loss of sources due to rising extinction rates.