

FOREWORD

At the 3rd International Conference on Natural Products co-hosted in October 2004 by the International Society for the Development of Natural Products and Nanjing University, participants from 37 countries including natural product scientists of international renown scientists came to a conclusion that the great biochemical potentials of plants and microorganisms generate various arrays of chemically complex and/or biologically active natural products, some of them being a MUST for human survival.

This book is edited to provide international readers with the major progress in natural products research. The topics include biosynthesis, chemical synthesis (or modification) and bio-transformation and the diverse range of bioactivity of natural products, and the role of biotechnology to enhance the quality of natural products and their development around the world. The on-going efforts in natural drug discovery, validation, and commercial utilization are a great plus. The editors of the book - Dr Benny K. H. Tan, Dr. Y. Z. Zhu, Dr. B. H. Bay and Dr. C. H. Liu - are leading scientists in different fields of natural product research. The publicity for this monograph certainly highlights well the importance of natural products, and their applications to human disease.

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