

D-Amino Acids

in Chemistry, Life Sciences,
and Biotechnology

Although still considered as 'exotic' or 'unphysiological' mirror images of the prevalent L-amino acids, D-amino acids in their free or conjugated forms act as neurotransmitters, and they are also involved in age-related protein disorders and malfunctions. This field gains increasing impact also in pharmaceutical chemistry including peptide-drug design, food science, natural product and biopolymer chemistry, recombinant protein technology, and it culminates in fundamental questions on the origin of biological chirality.

The rapidly emerging relevance of D-amino acids led to the foundation of the 'D-Amino Acid Research Society' in Japan a few years ago and resulted in the 'First International Conference on D-Amino Acid Research' held in 2009. In addition to the contributions to this conference, this volume contains further state-of-the-art reviews and articles from renowned scientists in the field.

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