



Chemistry and Biology of Ellagitannins

An Underestimated Class of
Bioactive Plant Polyphenols

This book is the first of its kind to focus on the chemistry and biology of ellagitannins, a special class of naturally occurring polyphenols that have so far not received the attention they deserve. These polyphenolic substances are found in many plants, including numerous food sources. They exhibit unique structural features and express remarkable biological activities, but have yet to attract the general interest of the pharmaceutical industry. This is surprising considering that ellagitannins have been identified as active principles in traditional Asian medicines.

The principal aim of this book is to set the record straight. Most, if not all, worldwide experts in each aspect of the chemistry and biology of this underestimated class of natural products have contributed to this book. Beginning with a foreword written by one of the pioneers in modern polyphenol research, Professor Edwin Haslam, it covers topics such as the structural determination and natural occurrence of ellagitannins, the most up-to-date knowledge of their biosynthesis, the current state of the art of their total chemical synthesis, their main physicochemical properties and principal biological activities, their presence in food and beverages, and their related health effects. This book will be useful not only to scientists involved in natural product research, but also to lecturers and their students as a source of key references and/or a textbook.

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