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Plant Polyphenols 2

Chemistry, Biology, Pharmacology, Ecology

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PREFACE

This book has been developed from the proceedings of the 3rd Tannin Conference honoring Professor Edwin Haslam, Department of Chemistry, University of Sheffield, for his efforts and outstanding contributions to the field of plant polyphenols. The meeting was held in Bend, Oregon, July 20–25, 1998, with the objective of promoting collaboration between chemists and biologists to improve our understanding of the biological significance and to expand possibilities for use of plant polyphenols. Special efforts were made to summarize current research on the influence of these compounds on human health. As in our 2nd Tannin Conference held in Houghton, Michigan, June 1991, we strove to build the “international” character of this meeting and were rewarded by an attendance of over 150 guests from 23 countries who enjoyed more than 50 lectures and 60 presentations. Our thanks go to all those who contributed to our meeting.

A special thanks is extended to Professor G. Wayne McGraw, Department of Chemistry, Louisiana College, Pineville, Louisiana, who served as the financial manager of our meeting. He, his wife Bobbie McGraw, and Helen Hemingway worked hard to make this meeting run as smoothly as possible. We also would like to thank the Bend Chamber of Commerce, Central Oregon Community College, The Riverhouse, Interstate Tours, Wanderlust Tours, and the people of Bend for welcoming our group to Central Oregon.

In an attempt to keep this volume a manageable size, we were forced to select about 50 of the contributions for this publication under the following topics: Hydrolyzable Tannins; Condensed Tannins and Related Compounds; Biotechnology; Antioxidant Properties and Heart Disease; Conformation, Complexation, and Antimicrobial Properties; Polyphenols and Cancer; Polyphenols in Commerce; Polyphenols and Ecology. We thank all the authors who have patiently worked with us to develop this book. Janie Gurgainers worked especially hard organizing files and correspondence. Dr. Hemingway thanks Dr. Bénédicte Berké and Dr. Timothy G. Rials for their help and patience. We also would like to thank Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers for their willingness to help build a continuing series of books that bring together the work of chemists and biologists from a wide array of disciplines, but with a common interest in plant polyphenols.

A comparison of the contributions to the proceedings of our 1st Tannin Conference, published by Plenum Press as “Chemistry and Significance of Condensed Tannins” in 1989, the 2nd Tannin Conference published by Plenum Press as
“Plant Polyphenols; Synthesis, Properties, Significance” in 1992, and the contents of this book show recognition of the significance of these compounds on the part of biologists and biochemists and increasing relevance in medically oriented disciplines.

To be a difference, a difference must make a difference. Over the past twelve years, our science has grown to clearly demonstrate that plant polyphenols make real differences to people’s lives.

Georg G. Gross
Richard W. Hemingway
Takashi Yoshida
Susan J. Branham
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