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Nota di contenuto	ANTIMICROBIAL PEPTIDES; Chairman's opening remarks; Design and synthesis of antimicrobial peptides; Gene-encoded antibiotics made in bacteria; General discussion I; Biosynthesis of defensins and other antimicrobial peptides; Antimicrobial peptides from amphibian skin: an overview; Gene-encoded antimicrobial peptides from plants; Drosophila as a model system for antibacterial peptides; Function of antimicrobial proteins in insects; General discussion II; Anti bacterial peptides in insect vectors of tropical parasitic disease Structu re-f u nction relationships of tachyplesins and their analogues Bactericidal permeability-increasing protein in host defence against Gram- negative bacteria and endotoxin; General discussion III; Potential therapeutic applications of magainins and other antimicrobial agents of animal origin; Primitive vertebrate immunity: what is the

evolutionary derivation of molecules that define the adaptive immune system?; Antimicrobial proteins with homology to serine proteases; Antimicrobial peptides as agents of mucosal immunity; Closing remarks; Index of contributors; Subject index

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#### Sommario/riassunto

Describes the structure and function of important peptides from several different organisms. An exciting development is the use of these peptides or their analogues in the treatment and prevention of infectious diseases. Considers ways in which these peptides may be used to control the insect vectors of key pathogens including the malarial parasite. Discusses the role of antimicrobial peptides in the mammalian immune system and their interaction with other components of that system.

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