1. Record Nr. UNINA9910456878203321

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Titolo	Biotemplating [[electronic resource]] : complex structures from natural materials / / Simon R. Hall
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Singapore ; ; Hackensack, NJ, : Imperial College Press, c2009
ISBN	1-282-44172-8 9786612441721 1-61344-083-9 1-84816-404-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (216 p.)
Disciplina	624.1/8
Soggetti	Bioengineering Biology Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; 1. Introduction; 2. Simple Mono- and Oligosaccharides; 3. Complex Polysaccharides; 4. Hydrocolloids; 5. Chitin/Chitosan; 6. Proteins and Lipids; 7. Viruses and Bacteria; 8. Complex Biostructures as Templates; 9. Into the Future - Genetic Engineering and Beyond; Index
Sommario/riassunto	In terms of structural complexity, the natural world presents innumerable examples of stunning beauty and high functionality, usually with the minimum of material and energy expenditure. Materials chemists can harness these amazing structures as ready-made scaffolds on which to grow inorganic phases which replicate the underlying complexity, thereby producing materials with greatly enhanced physical properties. This book comprehensively describes the entire range of natural materials that have been used in this way and the inorganic phases which result from them. The book covers simple molecul