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Autore	Bates David M.
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### Sommario/riassunto

The cucurbits (Cucurbitaceae, or gourd family), which include squash, pumpkin, melon, cucumber, and watermelon, have long been of economic significance. As sources of vegetables, fruit, and seeds rich in oils and protein, they have the potential of making an even larger contribution toward meeting the needs of humankind. This book, consisting of 37 papers by 50 cucurbit specialists, emphasizes the practical importance of cucurbit investigation, and also provides a broad overview of the family.

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