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Alkaloids as Neuropharmacological ProbesAlkaloids and the Insect Nervous System; Some Conclusions; 5 The Rewarding or Addictive Drugs; Morphine; Ecological Roles of Opiates and Brain Function; The Psychostimulants (Cocaine, Ephedrine, Cathinone, Amphetamine, Methamphetamine); Cocaine; Ephedrine; Amphetamine/Methamphetamine; Cathinone; Ecological Roles of Psychostimulant Secondary Metabolites and Brain Function; Caffeine; Ecological Roles of Caffeine and Brain Function; The Paradox of Drug Reward; 6 The Hallucinogens; A Common Mechanism of Action? Ecological Roles of Hallucinogens-Some General ObservationsThe Phenethylamines; Mescaline (3,4,5-Trimethoxy-phenethylamine); Ergot Alkaloids: Lysergic Acid Derivatives; Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD); Lysergic Acid Amide; Ecological Roles of Ergot Alkaloids and Brain Function; Simple Tryptamines; Psilocybin/Psilocin; Dimethyltryptamine and Derivatives; Ibogaine; Ecological Roles of Simple Tryptamines and Brain Function; 7 The Deliriants-The Nightshade (Solanaceae) Family; Nicotine; Ecological Roles of Nicotine and Brain Function; Hyoscyamine, Scopolamine, and Atropine
Ecological Roles of the Tropane Alkaloids and Brain Function

Sommario/riassunto

We're all familiar with the idea that plant-derived chemicals can have an impact on the functioning of the human brain. Most of us reach for a cup of coffee or tea in the morning, many of us occasionally eat some chocolate, some smoke a cigarette or take an herbal supplement, and some people use illicit drugs. We know a great deal about the mechanisms by which the psychoactive components of these various products have their effects on human brain function, but the question of why they have these effects has been almost totally ignored. This book sets out to describe not only how, but more impo