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Roles for secondary metabolites in plants; Defensins: endogenous antibiotic peptides from human leukocytes

Final discussion: Metabolism and cell individualizationOrigins of secondary metabolism; Index of contributors; Subject index

Sommario/riassunto

A comprehensive review of current thinking on the biosynthesis, function and evolution of secondary metabolites in animals, plants and microorganisms. Examines the traditional context of secondary metabolites as natural products having no obvious part to play in the producing organism's life cycle. Covers issues related to genetic and antibiotic applications.
