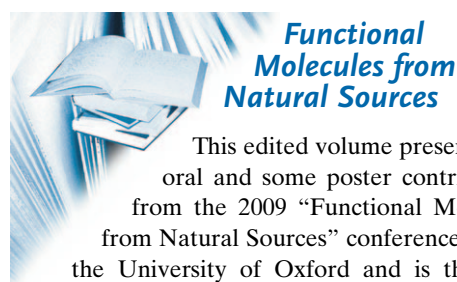


convert sunlight into electricity, the most important achievement will be artificial photosynthesis, a carbon-neutral process through which solar energy, combined with water and carbon dioxide, can be converted into fuels, hydrogen, methanol, and hydrocarbons. This is currently an extremely active field, but more research should be devoted to improving conversion efficiencies and overcoming the limitations of the low intensity and intermittency of sunlight.

There is no future other than a sustainable world. That is what we learn from Armaroli and Balzani, who have produced a reference book on this complex but essential question of future energy supplies.

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Functional Molecules from Natural Sources

This edited volume presents both oral and some poster contributions from the 2009 “Functional Molecules from Natural Sources” conference held at the University of Oxford and is the third edited volume in this series. The book consists of five sections that include eighteen chapters written by some of the leading researchers that work in the area of natural product chemistry and its applications.

Natural product chemistry continues to be very topical and has delivered the majority of frame-

works for a number of clinically useful drugs, as well as providing valuable chemical leads in the agrochemical sector. Consequently, the value of this edited volume is indeed high and provides the expert and non-expert reader a snapshot of some of the latest developments in this area.

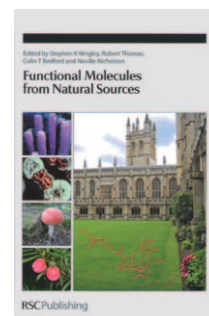
The range of topics covered in this volume will be of interest to those within the field of natural product science, as well as those engaged in medicinal chemistry and drug discovery. In general, the chapters are well written and presented, although additional referencing for some chapters would have improved the contribution. Section 1 of the volume provides a valuable perspective on the significance of natural products in the area of anticancer agent development as well as natural products in modulation of neurological disease. Sections 2 and 3 cover aspects of natural product exploitation and enhancement for use as antimicrobial agents particularly antibiotics and antimalarial agents. Section 4 provides a number of interesting contributions on natural product biosynthetic pathways that will give the reader insight to how nature constructs these valuable materials and how chemists may access and manipulate these pathways. Section 5 provides an overview of a number of contributions from the 2009 conference that have not been captured in other sections.

The editors have prepared a valuable contribution on natural product chemistry that will make a valuable addition to the broader chemistry community. The volume should be a must-read for those particularly involved in the area of medicinal chemistry.

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