

US alone, pharmaceutical products originating from plants still make up some 25% of prescription drugs (Chapter 14). The role of biological metal chelators in wood degradation is reviewed in Chapter 15.

Biological control can be generally described as the introduced use of organisms or their products to keep in check the numbers or activities of a particular species (Chapters 16 and 17). Genetic improvement to trees is a long and slow process owing to the long reproductive cycle of these plants. A discussion of transgenic trees is outlined in Chapter 18. The book concludes with a discussion of the use of molecular methods for the detection and identification of wood decay fungi.

This book would be a valuable reference source for students and researchers in the area of forest products, wood science, timber technology, environmental biotechnology and biomaterials.

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PII: S0144-8617(98)00149-0

***Glycoscience: Synthesis of Oligosaccharides and Glyconjugates*, pp. VIII + 239, Price £129 ISBN 3-540-62033-8**

***Glycoscience: Synthesis of Substrate Analogues and Mimetics*, pp. VIII + 231, Price £129 ISBN 3-540-62032-X**

Topics in Current Chemistry Volumes 186 and 187 H. Driguez, J. Thiem (Eds.)

The formulation of complex saccharide structures by classical organic synthetic means are often restrained by complex protection group chemistry, leading to time consuming multistep synthesis with low overall yields. Where enzymes are readily available for such synthesis, their use can often be hampered by the low regioselectivity of such reactions.

Glycoscience: Synthesis of Oligosaccharides and Glyconjugates, Volume 186 in the Topics in Current chemistry series places special emphasis on the formulation of complex saccharide structures employing various enzymes found in carbohydrate metabolism.

The book begins with a review of glycosidases, and glucosyltransferases. Next, the formation of special ergiot glycosides is described. Protein conjugates have a key role in the passing of chemical signals across the cell membrane and beyond to the cell nucleus. This biological importance has created considerable demand for these complex macromolecules, the synthesis of which is also discussed. The

remainder of the book is concerned with certain classical synthetic strategies for which novel findings have contributed to or have even improved upon, specifically in the synthesis of sialic acids and pyruvated saccharides.

Glycoscience: Synthesis of Oligosaccharides and Glyconjugates, Volume 187 in the topics in Current Chemistry series places particular emphasis on the demanding synthetic approaches to and on the biological implications of carbohydrate derived modulators or inhibitors.

Carbohydrate analogues in which a carbon atom substitutes the glycosidic oxygen are defined as C-glycosides, and the book begins with a review of their synthesis. The book moves on to examine the synthesis of thio-oligosaccharides (oliosaccharides in which at least one intersidic oxygen atom is substituted by a sulphur atom). Carbohydrate lactones have proven to be versatile starting materials which do not require the use of protecting groups (article 4). The book continues with a review of glycosidase and glycan hydrolyses. Heparinoid polysaccharides such as heparan sulphate and heparin are sulfated polysaccharides of the glycosaminoglycan family. Heparinoid mimetics (as discussed in article 5) were prepared to reduce the structural complexity of heparinoids and to obtain selectivities.

Together these books are a useful reference source for researchers in the field of glycoscience especially those which involves in the natural or life sciences.

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PII: S0144-8617(98)00150-7

***Yeast in Natural and Artificial Habitats*, J.F.T. Spencer and D.M. Spencer (Eds.) Springer, Berlin, 1997 pp. Viii + 381, Price £ 81.50 ISBN 3-540-56820-4**

Yeasts are newcomers to the economic life of man, and among his oldest associates. As newcomers, they are used as vehicles for production of heterologous proteins of many types (e.g. hormones and antigens). As old associates, yeasts have been used in the oldest of the yeast industries, baking, brewing and winemaking, from the earliest days of recorded history. They play a role as spoilage agents, if the "wrong" species of yeast invade food, converting it into undesirable products which are inedible or toxic. They also may invade human tissues with serious or fatal results.

"Yeasts in Natural and Artificial Habitats" is a guide to the world of yeasts. It is impossible for one book to describe adequately everything about every yeast. However, this book brings together a concise assessment of the yeasts in their natural and more artificial habitats, their use by human