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CARBOHYDRATE RESEARCH

Announcement

Databank of 3-dimensional structures of lectins

The structures of many lectins have been studied by X-ray diffractometry, NMR and molecular modeling and more than a hundred 3D-structures are available. About half of these lectins were crystallized in complexed form, allowing studies at the atomic level of the interaction between protein and sugars. A database is now available that provides an extensive list of the known 3D-structures of lectins. The different families are classified based upon their mode of folding. Useful links permit retrieval of bibliographic information, and also atomic coordinates at the Protein Data Bank and other protein databases with structural information. Images are provided to illustrate the details of protein/carbohydrate interactions.

Contents of the 3D-lectin database:

Species	Lectins	Free	Complexed	Total
Plant	Legume	22	33	55
	Cytotoxin	3	2	5
	Agglutinin (hevein type)	6	6	12
	Monocot	1	3	4
	β-prism	0	1	1
Animal	S-lectins	0	6	6
	C-lectins	11	12	23
Bacterial	AB_5 toxins	7	4	11
	Others	0	1	1
Virus	Hemagglutinins	8	5	13
	Tailspike proteins	2	3	5
	Coat proteins	1	3	4
Total		61	79	140

This database should be of value to glycobiologists. It was developed by Anne Imberty and Emmanuel Bettler (CERMAV-CNRS, Grenoble, France) together with Remy Loris (IMBB, Sint-Genesius-Rode, Belgium) and is available on the Internet at the following address:

http://www.cermav.cnrs.fr/databank/lectine/

For futher information, please contact

Anne Imberty
CERMAV-CNRS
BP 53
F-38041 Grenoble cedex 09
France
Email: imberty@cermav.cnrs.fr

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9th Fechem (Federation of European Chemical Societies) Conference on Heterocycles in Bio-organic Chemistry

The Conference will be held in Aussois-France, on the border between Italy and France, from August 30–September 2, 1998.

The aim of the Conference is to bring together a group of specialists (100–150) who will focus attention on diverse aspects of the role of heterocyclic systems in biological processes.

The scope of the meeting will include biomimetic synthesis and biosynthesis as well as mechanism of action and structure determination of biologically important heterocycles. Special emphasis will be given on heterocyclic chemistry, structure–activity relationships, molecular modeling and combinatorial chemistry, among other topics. The following scientists have already agreed to give lectures: M. Botta, M. Giardina, G. Heinisch, H.P. Husson, J.A. Joule, A. Leonardi, P. Mailliet, G. Maksay, J.D. Martin, H.C.J. Ottenheijm, E. Vogel, P. Vogel.

Additional information can be obtained from:

Prof. G. Leclerc

Université Joseph Fourier Grenoble-1, Faculté de Pharmacie

B.P. 138

F-38243 Meylan cedex-France

Tél.: 33 4 76 04 10 06 Fax: 33 4 76 04 1007

E-mail:gerard.leclerc@ujf-grenoble.fr

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