

## 11th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE CHEMISTRY OF NATURAL COMPOUNDS

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The 11th International Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Compounds, held every two years under the aegis of IUPAC, was held on September 17 to 23, 1978 at Varna (Bulgaria). Seven hundred delegates took part in the symposium. The Soviet delegation, headed by Academician Yu. A. Ovchinnikov, was represented by scientists from Moscow, Riga, Minsk, Irkutsk, Vladivostok, Khar'kov, Tashkent, Novosibirsk, Tbilisi, Erevan, and Ufa - a total of fifty participants. Eminent scientists from more than 20 countries of the world attended the symposium.

The work of the symposium was carried out in four sections: A - bioorganic chemistry; B and D (combined) - elucidation of the structure and chemical transformations of natural compounds, and physical methods for their investigation; and C - the synthesis of natural compounds.

The symposium was opened on September 18 in the Palace of Sport in Varna. The participants in the symposium were greeted by: the President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences A. Balevski, the Prime Minister of the Peoples' Republic of Bulgaria Stanko Todorov, and the executive secretary of the organizing committee R. Vlahov.

The participants in the symposium congratulated Nobel Laureate Professor Barton on his sixtieth birthday. Professor Herout (Czechoslovakia) gave a brief talk on Barton's scientific work. Professor Barton was awarded the Memorial Medal of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Gold Medal of Honorary Professor at Sofia University. Then Professor Barton delivered a plenary lecture on "New Reactions in Carbohydrate Chemistry."

A lecture on "The bioorganic chemistry of ionic transport through membranes" read by Lenin Prize holder Academician Yu. A. Ovchinnikov, who, together with his pupils, has made a substantial contribution to our understanding of ionic transport in connection with the action of valinomycin and the enniatins, was heard with great interest. Professor Wiesner (Canada) gave a lecture on four routes for the complete synthesis of alkaloids of the delphinine type. His investigations are the first and still the only ones on the complete synthesis of the aconite alkaloids with a lycoctonine skeleton. Great attention was attracted by the lecture of Professor Ourisson (France) on new types of natural terpenoid, the hopanoids. Professor Kametani (Japan) dwelt in detail on the complete synthesis of natural compounds by thermolysis. This method has recently come into wide use.

The lecture of Professor Herout (Czechoslovakia) was devoted to some types of terpenoids, their interaction, and their possible role in plants.

At the symposium 14 plenary lectures, 80 half-hour plenary lectures, and about 400 bench communications were heard.

It is proposed to hold the next, 12th, symposium on the chemistry of natural compounds in the Canary Islands in 1980.