

BOOK REVIEW

ANTICANCER DRUGS FROM ANIMALS, PLANTS AND MICROORGANISMS

AUTHORS: George R. Pettit, Fiona Hogan Pierson, and Cherry L. Herald

Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.  
605 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10158

Publication Date: 5/27/94  
Cloth Price \$89.95 Cloth ISBN: 0471036579

This text is a tabular survey of constituents isolated and identified primarily from natural and a few from man-made sources. The authors anticipate that the depicted constituents, either single-handedly, in combination, or as their respective derivatives, may provide - or lead to - new drug entities to combat cancer or viral diseases. The literature coverage is from January 1986 to January 1989.

The format of this text is patterned after the series *Biosynthetic Products for Cancer Chemotherapy*, Volumes 3-6. Chapter 1 of this book brings to light some very interesting and timely information on viral diseases with emphasis on HIV-1 infections. It updates (to January 1991) the section in Volume 6 of the aforementioned series. Chapter 2 summarizes certain, known tumor promoters and carcinogens. Structures are provided as well as the organ/human site. Each entry is referenced. The remaining chapters contain the compilation of constituents. Chapters 4-12 which cover compounds isolated from plant, fungal, and marine sources comprise Section A, which is entitled, "New Biosynthetic Antineoplastic and/or Cell Growth Inhibitory Agents." Section B, "Marine Animal Biosynthetic Products," contains chapters 13-19 and these chapters are categorized according to functional groups. Section C is devoted to Marine Plant Biosynthetic Products and follows the same format described for B.

Each entry found in chapters 4-19 is listed by molecular formula and contains the structure, molecular weight, bioactivity (if known), pertinent physical data, and its literature reference. In addition to this vast body of tabulated information, there is a subject index, molecular weight index, and bibliography.

This text is definitely a valuable resource for all those who are interested in drug discovery. It puts a wealth of data conveniently at one's fingertips. The book is moderately priced and this reviewer recommends its inclusion in your personal library.

Raymond P. Panzica, Ph.D.  
Chairman of Medicinal Chemistry  
and Pharmacognosy and  
Professor of Medicinal Chemistry  
and Chemistry

University of Rhode Island