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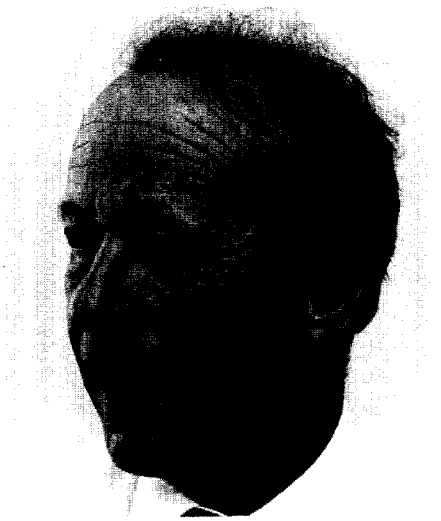
The Editors and Editorial Board of *Phytochemistry*, together with co-workers past and present and his many friends are pleased to dedicate this issue of the journal to Professor Thomas Hartmann on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday.



Born in Berlin on 2 February 1937, Thomas Hartmann attended primary and secondary schools in Berlin, Bielefeld, Bethel and Herchen, and obtained his Abitur in February 1957. He moved on to study biology, chemistry and sports at Bonn University until 1962. Under the supervision of the late Professor Maximilian Steiner, Thomas Hartmann then carried out his doctoral dissertation on the analysis of amines by paper chromatography and on amine biogenesis in *Claviceps purpurea* (1964). In the following years he held an assistantship at the 'Pharmakognostisches Institut' of Bonn University and successfully addressed the question of amine formation in higher plants and algae. He consequently obtained his 'Habilitation' (a prerequisite in Germany for a professorship) with a thesis on the occurrence and function of leucine carboxylase in marine red algae (1969). In due course (1973) he was promoted to an associate professorship at the Botanisches Institut of Bonn University. Besides continuing his studies on plant amines, Thomas Hartmann and co-workers turned to glutamate dehydrogenase and ammonium metabolism during the next years.

In 1976, Thomas Hartmann accepted the chair of 'Pharmazeutische Biologie' at the Technische Universität Braunschweig and has been director of the corresponding institute ever since. At Braunschweig, he shifted his research interests to alkaloids, a field to which he and his co-workers have made many significant contributions. Following a study on the biochemistry, physiology and function of quinolizidine alkaloids in plants and cell suspension cultures (together with the author of these lines), pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) were to become the major topic of his research after 1982. Besides elucidating the enzymology of PA biosynthesis, Thomas Hartmann successfully analysed the compartmentation, transport and the function of PAs in plants and insects. Professor Hartmann is the author and co-author of well over 120 scientific publications, including several scholarly reviews on PAs and chemical ecology. He is a distinguished academic teacher and over 20 scientists have carried out their doctoral dissertations under his supervision and, so far, two of his former co-workers (M. Wink and P. Proksch) have obtained professorships in 'Pharmazeutische Biologie'. As a botanist Thomas Hartmann has wide-ranging interests, from floristics to biochemistry and chemoecology. He is a person who has always been able to confer his enthusiasm for biology at large to his students and co-workers. Professor Hartmann has taken various academic responsibilities, including serving as dean and even vice-president of the Technische Universität Braunschweig. All his co-workers, past and present, wish him Happy Birthday—ad multos annos!

M. WINK
Heidelberg