

ples of the use of NMR spectroscopy, as well as mention of combined techniques such as liquid chromatography-mass spectroscopy (LC-MS) and LC-NMR. Nevertheless this is a minor observation and should not be allowed to detract from what is overall a very valuable book. The style remains clear and consistent, and an attractive additional feature of interest is the commentary provided by the author on the distribution and uses of many of the plant compounds introduced in the text.

The paperback version of this new edition is reasonably priced, and a hardback version is also available, albeit at a considerable premium. We have seriously considered

chaining one copy of the new edition to a bench in our laboratory, thus ensuring that it will always be available for reference! Although the book is most relevant to practical research and teaching in phytochemistry, it can also be recommended to research workers in related disciplines who require access to methods for analysis of the seemingly endless variety of interesting molecules found in plants.

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Induced responses to herbivory by R. Karban and I.T. Baldwin, University of Chicago Press, 5801 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60637. 1997. 319 pp. ISBN 0-226-42496-0

Although the fact that plants can respond to herbivory by changes in their biochemistry has been recognised for some time, extensive studies of this phenomenon in plants only became a dominant theme in ecological biochemistry in the last decade. A seminal paper by one of the authors of this book, Ian Baldwin, on alkaloid responses in wild tobacco, could be said to have launched an avalanche of papers on similar topics. Some of the pioneering workers in the field summarised the results of their experiments in a book “Phytochemical induction by herbivores”, edited by D.W. Tallamy and M.J. Raupp and published in 1991. What we have in this book is a more up-to-date, coherent and critical overview of this exciting new area of chemical ecology.

The book is divided into six chapters, which consider in turn: the phenomenology of induction; how plants perceive damage; mechanisms of induced responses; induced resistance against herbivores; evolution of induced resistance; and using induced resistance in agriculture. Each chapter contains a variety of tabular material listing the results of many recent experiments and there is a 50 page bibliography at the end. I found this book to be a most attractive and thought-provoking account of this burgeoning field. It provides, in effect, key reviews of many other aspects of ecological biochemistry besides induced defence and with its focus on the plant rather than the herbivore will be of much interest to a wide range of plant scientists.

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