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Book Review

***Natural Products Isolation*; Edited by Richard Cannell, *Methods in Biotechnology* volume 4, Humana Press, Totowa, New Jersey, 1998. 480 pp. ISBN 0-89603-362-7 \$89.50**

Scientists from both industry and university provide a series of chapters reviewing the many techniques available for the isolation of natural products in the pure state. Most chromatographic methods available for quantitative isolation are described. There is a disappointing chapter on supercritical fluid methods which suggests that this is still mainly a procedure for decaffeinating coffee beans. There is emphasis in many chapters on isolating the secondary metabolites from microbial sources. However, there are individual chapters devoted to marine natural products (A.E. Wright) and to higher plant products (Douglas Kinghorn and co-workers).

The purpose of this volume, then, is to provide industrial research workers with the means of obtaining sufficient material for biological screening and practical application. Perhaps the most generally useful chapters are those written by the editor, R.J.P. Cannell, from Glaxo, who provides an excellent introductory review on how to approach the isolation of a natural product, and a closing chapter on following up on the isolation process. The book is well produced, very adequately illustrated with chemical formulae and specific procedure examples and each chapter has a bibliography.

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