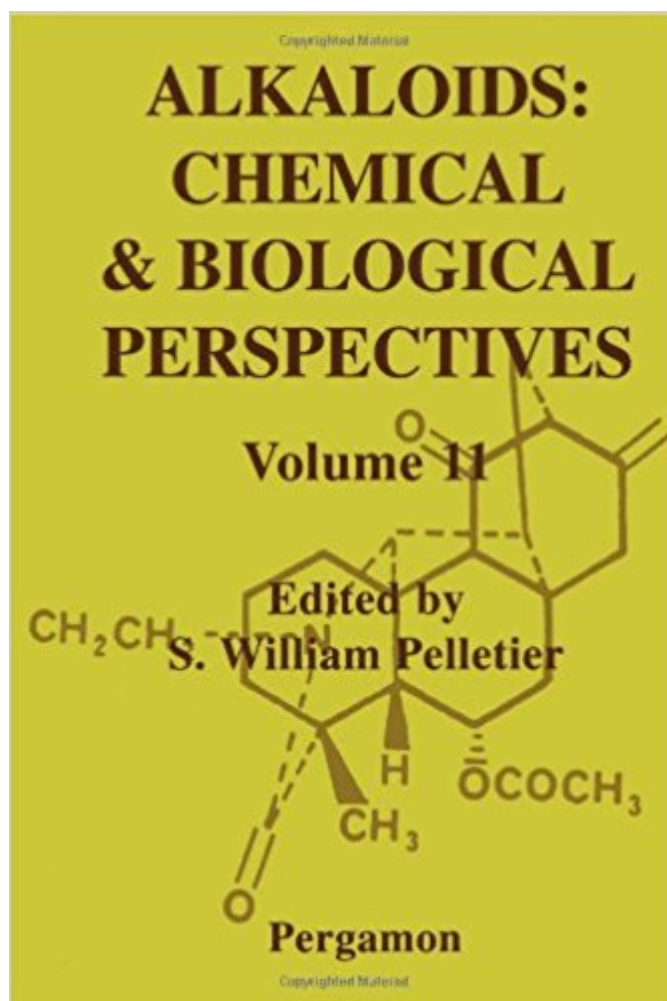


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Alkaloids: Chemical And Biological Perspectives, Volume 11



Synopsis

Volume 11 of this series presents five timely reviews on current research on alkaloids. Chapter 1 by Paul L. Schiff, Jr. is a monumental survey of research that has been carried out over the past decade on the *Thalictrum* alkaloids. Forty-six new alkaloids are described from fifteen species of the genus *Thalictrum*, as well as 116 alkaloids of known structure from thirty-six species and subspecies of the genus. The chapter includes discussions of isolation and structure elucidation, analysis, biosynthesis, cell culture, and pharmacology. Also featured are inclusive compilations of botanical sources, alkaloids by alkaloid types, and calculated molecular weights of the *Thalictrum* alkaloids. Chapter 2 by Giovanni Appendino provides a fascinating treatment of Taxine, a collective name referring to a mixture of diterpenoid alkaloids from the yew tree (genus: *Taxus*). Taxine is responsible for the toxic properties of the yew tree that has been documented in historical and fictional literature, from Julius Caesar to Shakespeare, and from Agatha Christie to T.S. Eliot. The chapter treats the history, isolation techniques, structure elucidation, chemistry, and pharmacology of Taxine. Chapter 3 by Mary D. Menachery surveys the alkaloids of South American Menispermaceae (moonseed family). Many different structural types are included in this family. The alkaloid-bearing plants are woody-vines, shrubs, or small trees. Several of these species possess potent curare activity. The chemistry as well as pharmacology of these alkaloids is summarized. Chapter 4 by Russell J. Molyneux, Robert J. Nash, and Naoki Asano treats the chemistry and biological activity of the calystegines and related nortropane alkaloids. These polyhydroxylated bicyclic alkaloids represent another class of compounds that inhibit glycosidases, producing profound effects in biological systems by disrupting the essential cellular function of glycoprotein processing. Chapter 5, a related chapter by Robert J. Nash, Naoki Asano, and Alison A. Watson, reviews polyhydroxylated alkaloids that inhibit glycosidases. Topics covered include distribution, ecological significance and toxicity, isolation, synthesis, and biosynthesis.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Geoffrey A. Cordell This is the eleventh in the series of volumes initiated in 1983 to complement The Alkaloids: Chemistry and Pharmacology series of Academic Press. This particular volume brings together five chapters, one major contribution from Paul Schiff and four shorter contributions from a distinguished group of authors, which collectively maintain the quality of the series. Schiff's marvellous tour-de-force demonstrates his preeminent knowledge of the alkaloids of *Thalictrum* species, and it is both refreshing and inspiring to see the wealth of data on these diverse alkaloid groups presented in such a lucid and well-organised manner....Overall this volume is strongly recommended for university and corporate libraries....Journal of Natural Products

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