



Handbook of Plant Lectins: Properties and Biomedical Applications

Els. J. M. Van Damme, Willy J. Peumans, Arpad Pusztai, Susan Bardocz

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Plant lectins are extensively used as tools and as bioactive proteins in different areas of biomedical and biological research. The Handbook of Plant Lectins provides a comprehensive yet concise overview of the biochemical properties, carbohydrate-binding specificity, biological activities and applications of most of the currently known plant lectins. This handbook consists of two major sections: an introductory guide and a quick reference dictionary. Part I acquaints the newcomer to the lectin field with the essential information on lectins and their importance to biomedicine:

- * what are lectins?
- * their carbohydrate-binding specificity
- * effects on nutrition and immunology
- * use in histochemistry
- * application as therapeutic agents

Part II lists approximately 200 lectin entries in alphabetical order. Each entry deals with the lectin(s) of a particular plant and provides, (where known), details of:

- * isolation and characterisation;
- * sugar binding specificity;
- * biological activities;
- * applications;
- * commercial availability; and,
- * a bibliography.

Useful summary tables list lectins according to their specificity, thereby allowing the user to choose the best lectin for their application. A list of suppliers is also provided. Handbook of Plant Lectins will be of interest to biologists and biomedical researchers studying cell biology, cancer research, nutrition, immunology, pathology and physiology.

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