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Perspective

Various Biochemical Constituents Found in Plants

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DESCRIPTION

The study of autotrophic biochemistry, such as photosynthesis and other processes unique to plants, is known as plant biochemistry. Topics covered by plant biochemistry range from the cellular to the ecological and evolutionary levels, and they are all discussed in the context of the entire plant [1].

The chemical components of a plant, which primarily consist of carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulphur, are the same as those found in all other living things, such as bacteria, fungi, and even viruses. Only the specifics of each molecular structure are different. Plants produce a variety of substances with distinctive properties that they use to adapt to their environment despite this fundamental similarity. Plants use dyes to absorb or detect light; humans extract these dyes for use in dyes. Rubber and biofuels, both of which are crucial for commerce, can be made from other plants.

The pharmacologically active components of plants, like salicylic acid, morphine, and digoxin that are used to make aspirin, may be the most significant ones. Each year, pharmaceutical companies invest billions of dollars in the investigation of plant compounds' potential therapeutic benefits [2].

Nitrogen and carbon are two nutrients that plants require in large quantities to survive. Some nutrients are classified as macronutrients; the large prefix macro denotes the necessary quantity rather than the size of the nutrient particles. Only traces of other nutrients, referred to as micronutrients, are required to maintain plant health. Carnivorous plants receive some of these micronutrients from their prey, but they are typically absorbed as ions dissolved in water drawn from the soil [3].

One of the most crucial molecules for plant function is pigment. Different kinds of molecules, such as porphyrins, carotenoids, and anthocyanins, are found in plant pigments. Each and every biological pigment preferentially absorbs light of a particular wavelength while reflecting light of other wavelengths. Plants can use the absorbed light to quicken chemical processes, but the visible colour of the dye is determined by the light's reflected wave length.

Red, orange, or yellow tetraterpenoids are known as carotenoids. They serve as auxiliary pigments in plants and aid in the promotion of photosynthesis by absorbing light waves that chlorophyll finds difficult to absorb. Carotene (the orange pigment found in carrots), lutein (the yellow pigment found in fruits and vegetables), and lycopene are the most well-known carotenoids (the red pigment that causes the colour of tomatoes). It has been demonstrated that carotenoids function as antioxidants and support healthy human vision [4].

Hormones and other growth regulators are produced by plants, and these substances cause physiological changes in the tissues. Additionally, they create photosensitive substances like phytochrome, which aid in stimulating growth or development in response to environmental cues.

Chemicals that control plant growth are referred to as plant hormones, or plant growth regulators (PGRs). According to the standard definition of an animal, hormones are regional signalling molecules that exist in very small concentrations and alter target cells' internal processes. Some tissues and organs that produce hormones are absent in plants, in contrast to animals. Plant hormones frequently do not travel to other areas of the plant, and their production is not confined to one area.

Plant hormones are chemicals that influence and promote cell growth, differentiation, and development in small doses. Hormones are necessary for the growth of plants. From flowering to seed development, dormancy, and germination, plants influence these processes. They regularly predict which tissues will grow and which ones won't, as well as leaf and stem development, fruit maturation, leaf shedding, and even plant death [5].

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