

Special Issue

Phytochemical Compounds with Health Beneficial Activity in Crop Extracts

Message from the Guest Editors

Phytochemicals are valuable bioactive compounds that provide numerous health benefits and pharmaceutical and industrial uses. Over the past few decades, the use of phytochemicals derived from plants has been investigated for their positive beneficial effects on human health that could play an important role in chronic disease prevention. Flavonoids, carotenoids, nitrates, alkaloids, glucosinolates, anthocyanins and other secondary metabolites identified from plants have been reported to exhibit beneficial properties. However, the claims were often based on a mixture of multiple more or less similar substances, where the function and mechanism of action of a single component remained unknown, and the suggested functions lacked an underlying molecular mechanism or were based on outdated concepts such as 'antioxidant activity'. Moreover, the desired phytochemicals are biosynthesized and accumulate in crops in developmentally and tissue-specific ways. Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of the functional, molecular and cellular basis of their beneficial effects is needed.

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