

Special Issue

Plant Lectins and Lectin Receptor Kinases

Message from the Guest Editors

Lectins are widespread proteins, especially throughout the green lineage, and have been recognized as carbohydrate-binding proteins for a long time. They are intra- or extracellular proteins and are either soluble or associated with membranes. In plants, lectins are often part of multidomain proteins, such as lectin receptor-like kinases and lectin receptor-like proteins, in which the lectin domains are extracellular, facing the cell wall. Lectins are key components in a vast array of biological processes in plants, including cell-to-cell communication, development, and defense against biotic and abiotic stress. Glycans, the potential ligands of lectins, are also present inside and outside cells. While protein–glycan interactions govern important recognition events in plants, the ligands of lectins are not exclusively glycan in nature. For instance, peptides and nucleotides were also described as ligands for lectin receptor-like kinases. However, for these receptors, a firm grasp of ligand perception and downstream processes is still lacking and remains to be elucidated.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (28 February 2019)



International Journal of Molecular Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.9
CiteScore 9.0
Indexed in PubMed



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*International Journal of
Molecular Sciences*
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