

Foreword

Bio-organic Chemistry is a proliferating interdisciplinary life science in which many eminent scientists all over the world are carrying out research on the understanding of life processes and molecular dynamics of many physiological systems. The main principle of this discipline is to apply the techniques of organic chemistry to biological systems.

One of the advantages of studying this science bordering on chemistry and biochemistry is that it cuts across disciplinary boundaries enabling chemists to know more about the nature of biological systems and biologists to understand the language and logic of chemistry. Nature carries out many complex reactions with the help of enzymes where there is a precise relationship between an enzyme's chemical function and its substrates. Chemists are now giving considerable emphasis to biogenetic type syntheses of various complex natural products. Some spectacular successes have recently been achieved in the synthesis of some of the steroids and terpenes mimicing reactions found in nature. Bio-organic chemistry is certainly a valuable tool in understanding biology.

The national symposium on bio-organic chemistry which was the first of its kind was held at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore from July 22–25, 1982 sponsored by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay. The symposium was timed to coincide with the retirement of Prof. P. K. Bhattacharyya, one of the pioneers in bio-organic chemistry in the country. In fact, he was mainly responsible for starting the centre for bio-organic chemistry at the Department of Organic Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The other objective of this symposium has been to bring together scientists working in different parts of India in order to discuss and exchange notes on the various facets of this interdisciplinary science. More than 100 delegates from all over the country participated in the deliberations of this symposium.

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