

## BOOK REVIEW

**Chemistry and Chemical Taxonomy of the Rutales:** edited by PETER G. WATERMAN and MICHAEL F. GRUNDON. Phytochemical Society of Europe Symposia Series No. 22. Academic Press, London, 1983, £ 54.

This volume covers review lectures given at the Symposium of the Phytochemical Society of Europe held at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow in April 1982. It consists of 16 chapters contributed by leading authorities on the various classes of compounds found in the Rutales, especially coumarins, quinoline and acridone alkaloids, flavonoids, limonoids, quassinoids and lignans.

Chapter 1 deals briefly with the concept of the Rutales and its botanic delimitation. Chapters 2–10 describe the major features of the biosynthesis, structural diversity and distribution of these compounds throughout the order; in several cases the biological activity of the metabolites is described. The central theme of chapter 11 is biological

activity, whilst chapter 12 refers to chemistry of *Citrus* limonoids and flavonoids. Chapters 13–16 are concerned with chemotaxonomic and phylogenetic problems within the order and its relationship to other taxa.

This book, besides its price, is an excellent, clear and up-to-date review of numerous and structurally diverse secondary metabolites of Rutales. We greatly recommend this volume, especially to all of those who are working on these compounds, and also to any researcher interested in phytochemical, chemotaxonomic and biosynthetic studies.

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