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**Front cover illustration:** Picture 1 (left) Color change in sepals of *H. Macrophylla* cv. HovariaTM 'Homigo' during maturation and senescence periods. A: 1st stage, B: 2nd stage, C: 3rd stage, D: 4th stage. Bar: 1.0 cm. Kumi Yoshida, K., Ito, D., Shinkai, Y., Kondo, T., 2008. Change of color and components in sepals of chameleon hydrangea during maturation and senescence. *Phytochemistry* 69, 3159–3165. Picture 2 (centre right) Outline of mechanistic models of AhR-mediated in vitro bioassay used in this study. (a) CALUX assay, (b) Ah-immunoassay. Picture 2 (centre left) Molecular models of AhR-activating polyphenols obtained as MM2-minimized structures, (a) TCDD; (b) daidzein (1); (c) resveratrol (15); (d) alizarin (10); (e) baicalein (12). Energy-minimized structures were calculated by molecular mechanics using MM2 in CS Chem 3D. Amakura, Y., Tsutsumi, T., Sasaki, K., Nakamura, M., Yoshida, T., Maitani, T., 2008. *Phytochemistry* 3117–3130. Picture 4 (right) An in situ mRNA hybridization approach enabled detection of dirigent protein transcripts in cork cambia, vascular cambia and ray parenchyma cells of the sapwood of western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*); 18s RNA transcript localization was also observed in heartwood parenchyma cells. Pattern, A. M., Davin, L. B., 2008. Relationship of dirigent protein and 18s RNA transcript localization to heartwood formation in western red cedar. *Phytochemistry* 69, 3032–3037.