



# PHYTOCHEMISTRY

The International Journal of Plant Chemistry, Plant Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

## AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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### DESCRIPTION

*Phytochemistry* is the international journal of pure and applied **plant chemistry**, **plant biochemistry** and **molecular biology**, published 12 times per annum by Elsevier. The majority of these publications will be Regular Issues covering research on all aspects of pure and applied plant biochemistry, especially that which leads to a deeper understanding of the factors underlying the growth, development and metabolism of plants and the chemistry of plant constituents. *Phytochemistry* is a primary source for papers dealing with plant secondary compounds, especially with regard to their biosynthesis and diverse properties. *Phytochemistry* is the official organ of [The Phytochemical Society of Europe](#) and [The Phytochemical Society of North America](#). The Journal is currently divided into several sections as indicated below, but papers which cut across these sections or which are on any other aspect of plant biochemistry will also be considered.

Review articles are published at regular intervals, ranging in scope from primary **metabolism** and regulation of **plant growth**, through plant **enzymology** to natural product chemistry and the biological activity of **plant products**. They deal with significant new areas of research and are intended to command the interest of the general reader. Authors should consult the [Editors](#) before preparing such articles, by submitting an outline of their proposed review.

Molecules of Interest are invited short reviews (3-4 printed pages) of individual compounds or macromolecules of plant, fungal or algal origin, which are currently attracting significant applied, commercial or biological interest. These can be novel compounds or newly discovered properties of familiar compounds.

The **Chemotaxonomy** section contains papers on the **comparative biochemistry** of plants. These may range from distributional studies on low molecular weight compounds in a group of fungi, algae or higher plants to the comparative amino acid sequences of related proteins within groups of species. Papers on infraspecific chemical variation are also included here.

Editorial Comment will be an occasional series where Regional Editors, Board Members or other scientists will be invited to comment on phytochemistry topics of global interest and debate.

The **Protein Biochemistry** section will contain reports on the purification of proteins directly from the organism or by heterologous expression. These will preferentially include information on enzymological properties, macromolecular structure and exploration of function, by site-directed mutagenesis and/or subcellular localisation. Reports of work that employ proteomics will be particularly welcome and are intended to complement the next section.

The **Molecular Genetics and Genomics** section contains papers on nucleic acid biochemistry, function and expression. This section will contain reports of genes and their analysis and expression, which demonstrate novelty and/or biological significance. Papers and communications that contain only sequence data or which duplicate studies of gene expression in other species will not generally be acceptable. Gene discovery using mutants and reverse genetics or exploration of functionality of genes in transgenic organisms will however be encouraged, if this provides new insight into unknown or previously known sequences.

The **Metabolism** section focuses on work in primary, intermediary and secondary metabolism. Contributions are particularly encouraged on the biosynthesis of macromolecules such as polysaccharides, lipids and other polymers such as lignin and their assembly in higher orders of structure such as membranes and cell walls. This section will also contain papers describing the further elucidation of known pathways and of newly discovered alternatives, as well as all aspects of metabolic regulation including regulatory molecules and proteins such as protein kinases and transcription factors. Studies directed toward understanding the regulation and possible cross-talk between pathways through the use of transgenic organisms are also strongly encouraged, as are those describing aspects of biochemistry regulated during growth and development at any stage of the organism.

The **Ecological Biochemistry** section contains papers on biochemical adaptations in plants to environmental stress; pollination biochemistry; plant toxins and their effects on animals, phytoecdysones, antifeedants; herbivory, plant defence and insect feeding preferences; utilization of plant substances by animals; and all aspects of biochemical plant pathology, including the production of phytotoxins and phytoalexin elicitation. Contributions on various symbiotic interactions are also welcomed. Also of considerable interest is the elucidation of the signalling molecules that govern the nature of the responses involved in the interaction between two or more organisms.

The **Bioactive Products** section contains papers on novel plant chemistry, where the biological activities of one or more of the new plant compounds are described. Descriptions of possible pharmacological, medical or therapeutic use or of dietary significance are encouraged if known. This section may also contain analysis of genetically modified plants that have been analysed for changes in their profiles of bioactive plant products. Such bioassay data should include comparable results for a known agent, so that the reader can judge the relative importance of any new finding. Full experimental details of the biological tests should be provided, and studies judged significant by the Editors may be invited to be discussed in the Molecules of Interest section before publication. In such cases, this review will appear in the same issue as the publication.

The **Chemistry** section contains papers on: growth substances, macromolecules, primary metabolites, terpenoids, polyketides, phenylpropanoids, flavonoids, alkaloids and compounds of mixed biosynthetic origin. Authors investigating the chemistry of a given plant species should aim to publish their results in a single manuscript rather than in a series of papers which describe each new compound as it is found. The structural analysis of new plant substances is now so routine that papers reporting a single novel compound of expectable structure (e.g. a new triterpene fatty acid ester) are rarely acceptable, unless other novel information on the plant is included.

Symposia and Society announcements will be published, at the discretion of the Publisher. Preliminary communications will not, however, be considered.

Authors should consult the latest instructions to authors (see *Phytochemistry* Volume 66, Issue 1) before preparing their manuscripts. All contributions must be in English and should be submitted online ([www.ees.elsevier.com/phytochem](http://www.ees.elsevier.com/phytochem))

Please submit regular articles to the appropriate Regional Editor for your geographical region. For the Americas and East Asia: Professor N. G. Lewis. For the Rest of the World: Dr Richard J. Robins. • Regular articles go to the appropriate geographical editor. • MOIs go to Dr Richard J. Robins. • Review articles should be pre-arranged with one the appropriate Regional Editor. • Special Issue Papers go to the Organizing Editor/Editors. • Solicited/Commissioned Reviews go to the editor who commissioned them.

## AUDIENCE

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Organic Chemists, Plant Chemists, Plant Biochemists, Plant Molecular Biologists, Chemical Ecologists and Natural Product Chemists.

## IMPACT FACTOR

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## ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

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BIOSIS  
Elsevier BIOBASE  
Cambridge Scientific Abstracts  
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## GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

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### INTRODUCTION

*Phytochemistry* invites research articles on all aspects of pure and applied plant chemistry, plant biochemistry, plant molecular biology and chemical ecology. The Journal is currently divided up into the following sections:

Editorial Comment, Molecules of Interest, Review Articles, Structural Elucidation and Full Papers.

*Editorial Comment* will be an occasional series where Regional Editors, Board Members or other scientists will be invited to comment on phytochemistry topics of global interest and debate.

*Molecules of Interest* will consist of invited short reviews (3-4) printed pages of individual compounds or macromolecules of plant, fungal or algal origin. These can be novel compounds or newly discovered properties of familiar compounds. Please contact Dr Richard J Robins if you wish to prepare a Molecules of Interest paper.

*Review Articles* are published at regular intervals, ranging in scope from primary metabolism and regulation of plant growth, through plant enzymology to natural product chemistry and the biological activity of plant products. They deal with significant new areas of research and are intended to command the interest of the general reader. Authors should consult their Regional Editors with an outline of their proposed Review before preparing such articles. Published Reviews include a biography and picture of each author.

*Structure Elucidation* papers, accepted as full papers in the Chemistry section, should include either a substantial description of several new compounds without any conclusion as to their significance, or a description of the study of new compounds with expected structures incorporating conclusions. These papers with a minimum of 16 pages of double-spaced manuscript should follow the general style of Full Papers although the Introduction, Results and Discussion may be combined as a single narrative. Brief abstracts must be included, containing significant facts derived from the work. Reports of known compounds, however rare, from new plant sources will not generally be accepted unless they have real chemotaxonomic or other biological significance. Authors are specifically discouraged from submitting papers as fragmented analyses of particular plant constituents.

*Full Papers:* Full journal articles will be drawn from areas described in the Aims and Scope:

Bioactive Products

Chemotaxonomy

Chemistry

Ecological Biochemistry

Metabolism

Molecular Genetics & Genomics

Protein Biochemistry & Proteomics

Update in Bioinformatics

They are comprehensive papers, typically 6-8 printed pages in length (a minimum of 20 pages of double-spaced manuscript). Papers on plant chemistry must be substantial and contain convincing justification for undertaking the study, as well as having conclusions (e.g. on the biology, chemotaxonomy, new biosynthetic pathways etc.). Papers submitted under the Bioactive Products area are unlikely to be accepted if the bioactivity is measured on a mixture of compounds without further resolution.

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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### **Referees**

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### **Additional Information**

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For the Americas and East Asia: Professor N. G. Lewis.

For the Rest of the World: Dr Richard J Robins.

Regular articles go to the appropriate geographical editor. MOIs go to Dr Richard Robins. Review articles should be pre-arranged with one of the appropriate Regional Editor. Special Issue Papers go to the Organizing Editor/Editors. Solicited/Commissioned Reviews go to the editor who commissioned them.

## **PREPARATION**

### **Use of word processing software**

It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier: <http://www.elsevier.com/guidepublication>). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

### **Article Structure**

The content of manuscripts **must** be arranged as follows: (1) a *Graphical Abstract*; (2) a *Title Page* with authors name(s) and address(es); (3) and *Abstract*, in which contents are briefly stated; (4) *Keywords*; (5) *Introduction*, and (6) the *Results* and *Discussion* (preferably combined). Although each section may be separated by headings, they should form one continuous narrative and only include details essential to the arguments presented. If a discussion is separately provided, it should not include a repetition of the results, but only indicate conclusions reached on the basis of them, and those from other referred works; (7) *Conclusions* or *Concluding Remarks*; (8) the *Experimental* should include brief details of the methods used such that a competent researcher in the field may be able to repeat the work; (9) *Acknowledgments*; (10) *Figures* and *Legends, Formulae, Tables* and *References*. Authors have to include pagination.



### *Subdivision - numbered sections*

Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1. (then 1.1.1., 1.1.2., ...), 1.2., etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to "the text". Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

### **Introduction**

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

Specific names (genus, species, authority for the binomial) of all experimental plants must be given at first mention according to the *Index Kewensis* (searchable online at <http://www.ipni.org>) or similar authority (The Plant-Book: A Portable Dictionary of the Vascular Plants, by D.J. Mabberley, 2nd ed., June 1997, Cambridge University Press; ISBN: 0521414210), and preferably be in the form recommended by the [International Code of Botanical Nomenclature](#). Named varieties of cultivars are given, e.g. *Lactuca sativa* cv. Grand Rapids. (The official printed version of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature has been published as International Code of Botanical Nomenclature {Tokyo Code}. Regnum Vegetabile 131. Koeltz Scientific Books, Königstein. ISBN 3-87429-367-X or 1-878762-66-4 or 80-901699-1-0.)

### *Theory/calculation*

A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. In contrast, a Calculation section represents a practical development from a theoretical basis.

### *Results*

Results should be clear and concise.

### **Discussion**

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

### **Experimental**

Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference: only relevant modifications should be described.

Subsections on the Experimental Procedures should be italicized and inserted as part of the first line of the text to which they apply. *Phytochemistry* encourages an extensive use of abbreviations (these are listed at the back of the Instructions to Authors, or the reader is referred to other sources). The Experimental should begin with a subsection entitled General Experimental Procedures. This subsection will typically contain brief details of instruments used, and identification of sources of specialized chemicals, biochemicals and molecular biology kits.

The next subsection describes the source(s) and documentation of biological materials used, whether in reference to whole plants or parts therefrom, crude drugs, or any other plant material from which identifiable chemical substances are obtained for the first time. Documentation must also include a reference to voucher specimen(s) and voucher number(s) of the plants or other material examined. If available, authors should quote the name and address of the authority who identified each non-cultivated plant investigated. Specimens should preferentially be deposited in a major regional herbarium where the collection is maintained by state or private institution and which permits loan of such materials.

With other microorganisms, the culture collection from which they were either accessed and/or deposited should be included, together with identification of the strain designation code. The Experimental Procedures employed should be concise but sufficiently detailed that a qualified researcher will be able to repeat the studies undertaken, and these should emphasize either truly new procedures or essential modifications of existing procedures. Experimental details normally omitted include: (1) method of preparation of common chemical and biochemical derivatives, (2) excessive details of separation of compounds, proteins and enzymes, e.g. preparation of columns, TLC plates, column and fraction size.

Compound characterization: Physical and spectroscopic data for new compounds must be comprehensive, and follow the order shown below: compound name (and assigned number in text); physical state of compound (e.g. oil, crystal, liquid, etc.), melting and/or boiling point; optical rotation and/or circular dichroism measurements, if optically active; UV; IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR; <sup>13</sup>C NMR; MS. For all new compounds, either high-resolution mass spectral or elemental analysis data are required.

### Conclusions

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

### Essential title page information

• **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible. "New" and "novel" are not allowed within title and abstract.

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### Abstract

A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself. The abstract should not contain compound numbers which refer to other parts of the manuscript, full chemical or known trivial names of compounds should be given.

### Graphical abstract

Please provide, when submitting your article, a graphical abstract. This comprises the title, authors, identical to the article itself, a summary of about 25 words, and a pictogram: one figure representative of the work described. Maximum final dimensions of the pictogram are 5 x 5 cm: bear in mind readability after reduction, especially if using one of the figures from the article itself. Compound numbers can be given in the graphical abstract if they refer to a graphic also shown there. Graphical abstracts will be collated to provide a contents list for rapid scanning. For an example of recent graphical abstracts please download this pdf file. [pdf link](#)

### Highlights

Highlights are mandatory for this journal. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point). See <http://www.elsevier.com/highlights> for examples.

### Keywords

Authors must give 3-10 keywords or phrases, which identify the most important subjects covered by the paper. They should be placed at the beginning of the manuscript in the following order: name of plant species examined (Latin binomial); plant family; common epithet (where applicable); type of investigation; class of compound; protein or gene; name of compound(s); protein(s) and gene(s).

### Abbreviations

About, approximately: ca.

Anhydrous: dry (not anhyd.)

Aqueous: aq.

Circular dichroism: CD

Concentrated (or mineral acids): conc.

Concentrations: ppm (never ppb!),  $\mu\text{M}$ , mM, M, %

Dry weight: dry wt; fresh weight: fr. wt

Electricity: V, mA, eV

Force due to gravity (centrifugation): g; rpm (revolutions/min)

Gas chromatography: GC  
Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry: GC-MS  
trimethylsilyl derivative: TMSi (TMS cannot be used as this refers to the internal standard tetramethylsilane used in  $^1\text{H}$  NMR)  
High performance liquid chromatography: HPLC  
Infrared spectroscopy: IR  
Length: nm,  $\mu\text{m}$ , mm, cm, m  
Literature: lit.  
Mass: pg, ng,  $\mu\text{g}$ , mg, g, kg  
Mass spectrometry:  $m/z$  [M]<sup>+</sup> (molecular ion, parent ion)  
Melting points: uncorr. (uncorrected)  
Molecular mass: Da (daltons), kDa  
Molecular weight:  $M_r$   
Nuclear magnetic resonance:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, Hz,  $\delta$   
Numbers: e.g. 1, 10, 100, 1000, 10,000: per or -1  
Optical rotatory dispersion: ORD  
Paper chromatography: PC  
Precipitate: ppt.  
Preparative thin-layer chromatography: prep. TLC  
Radioactivity: dpm (disintegrations per min), Ci (curie), sp. act (specific activity), Bq (1 becquerel = 1 nuclear transformation/sec)  
Repetitive manipulations: once, twice,  $\times 3$ ,  $\times 4$ , etc.  
 $RR_t$  (relative retention time),  $R_t$  (Kovat's retention index), ECL (equivalent chain length - term frequently used in fatty acid work)  
Saturated: satd.  
Solution: soln.  
Solvent mixtures including chromatographic solvents: abbreviate as follows  $n\text{-BuOH-HOAc-H}_2\text{O}$  (4:1:5)  
Statistics: LSD (least significant difference), s.d. (standard deviation), s.e. (standard error)  
Temperature: (with centigrade), mp, mps, mmp, bp  
Temperature: temp.  
Thin-layer chromatography: TLC,  $R_f$   
Time: s, min, h, day, week, month, year  
Ultraviolet spectrophotometry: UV,  $A$  (absorbance, not OD - optical density)  
Volume: l (litre),  $\mu\text{l}$ , ml  
Weight: wt

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For further terms used in biochemistry and molecular biology the authors should see the websites of the nomenclature committees. <http://www.chem.qmul.ac.uk/iubmb/>.

### **Acknowledgements**

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

### **Nomenclature and Units**

Chemical nomenclature, abbreviations and symbols must follow IUPAC rules. Whenever possible, avoid coining new trivial names; every effort should be made to modify an existing name. For example, when a new compound is described, it should be given a full systematic name according to IUPAC nomenclature and this should be cited in the Abstract or in the Experimental section. Isotopically-labeled substances should be written with the correct chemical name of the compound. The symbol for the isotope should be placed in square brackets and should precede that part of the name to which it refers, e.g. sodium [ $^{14}\text{C}$ ]formate.

In Table headings and legends on graph axes numerical data should be identified in the form data name/units.

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Mass spectral data should be presented in full as Supplementary Information for all newly identified compounds. If the data are already published elsewhere then relevant references should be quoted. Presentation of mass spectral data should in general follow the recommendations given in Int. J. Mass Spectrom. Ion Processes, 142, 211-240 (1995), and must indicate the method used (EIMS, CIMS, GC-MS, TOFMS, FABMS, SIMS, APCI etc.) and the relevant experimental details (ionizing energy, voltages etc). The data should give only diagnostically important ions, the character of the fragmentation ions in relation to the molecular ion and the intensity relative to the major ion. For example-EIMS (probe) 70 eV,  $m/z$  (rel. int.): 386 [M]<sup>+</sup> (36), 368 [M - H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup> (100), 353 [M - H<sub>2</sub>O - Me]<sup>+</sup> (23), 275 [M - 111]<sup>+</sup> (35), etc. CIMS (*iso*-butane, probe), 200 eV,  $m/z$  (rel. int.): 387 [M + H]<sup>+</sup> (100), 369 [(M + H) - H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup> (23), etc. High-resolution spectra can be given in more detail if necessary for [M]<sup>+</sup> and the more important fragment ions.

#### X-ray crystallography

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#### Thin-layer chromatography

- For analytical TLC, dimensions of the plates can be deleted if layer thickness is 0.25 mm.
- Abbreviate common adsorbents: (but use silica gel, not SiO<sub>2</sub> as this does not describe the material accurately), Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (alumina).
- Preparative forms of the technique should include details of (i) layer thickness (preparative TLC only), (ii) amount of sample applied to the layer, (iii) method of detection used to locate the bands and (iv) the solvent used to recover the compounds from the adsorbent after development.
- Special forms of TLC on impregnated adsorbents can be abbreviated, e.g. AgNO<sub>3</sub>-silica gel (1:9), by wt can be assumed.
- Solvent mixtures should be specified as under **Abbreviations** above.

#### Gas chromatography

- Detector used should be specified, e.g. dual FID, EC, etc.
- Carrier gas and flow rate or inlet pressure should be given, e.g. N<sub>2</sub> at 3 ml min<sup>-1</sup>/10 psi.
- Operating conditions, such as injector and detector heater temperatures, oven temperature programme, should be included.
- Packed columns, e.g. 6 m x 3 mm (i.d. measurement only) packed with 1% SE-30 (support material and mesh size can be omitted unless unusual).
- Capillary columns the type (e.g. WCOT, SCOT), manufacturer's designation (e.g. DB5) and dimensions (length, internal/external diameter, film thickness) should be specified.

#### High performance liquid chromatography

- Solvent or solvent gradients used together with flow rate should be given.
- Column dimensions (length x i.d. only) and packing used.
- Method of detection employed, e.g. UV or refractive index.

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Enzyme names are typically not abbreviated, unless there are accepted abbreviations, such as ATPase. Where possible, E.C. numbers should be used for enzymes, and the recommendations of the Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) should be used (see below).

#### Enzyme characterization

(a) Enzyme activity is expressed in units of katal (symbol kat), the conversion of one mol of substrate per sec. It should be made clear that the measurements were made under specified optimum conditions and were not seriously affected by losses during extraction and analysis.

(b) pH optima should be given together with pH values for half maximal activity.

(c) Kinetic parameters should be expressed as  $V_{max}$ ,  $K_m$  etc.

(d) Enzyme inhibitors-effectiveness should be expressed as  $K_i$  or concentration for half-maximal activity.

(e) Optimal temperature of enzymes should not be given. This should be expressed in terms of "Energy of Activation" and "Energy of Activation for Denaturation".

(f) Enzyme nomenclature is now given in "Enzyme Nomenclature, Recommendations", Academic Press (1992) (<http://www.chem.qmul.ac.uk/iubmb>).

(g) Labeling of proteins and nucleic acids-use of labeled precursors in assessing the rate of synthesis of macromolecules must be validated by evidence of real, direct incorporation. The possibility of occlusion or adsorption of isotopic material should be noted and it should be shown that the labeled precursor is incorporated without prior catabolism.

#### Protein and nucleotide sequences

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