



Biological Activities of Ribosome Inactivating Proteins II

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Message from the Guest Editors

The exact biological role that RIPs play remains unknown, but it is thought to represent a defense mechanism of a plant against pathogens and predators.

As a consequence of their enzymatic action, RIPs display several biological activities, including antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal, antifeedant, and antiproliferative activities, which may be relevant to their functions and biotechnological applications.

The most promising applications of RIPs in experimental medicine, especially in anticancer therapy, are related to their use as a component of immunotoxins, in which the RIP is linked to antibodies that mediate their binding and internalization by malignant cells. In agriculture, RIPs have been shown to increase resistance against viruses, fungi, and insects in transgenic plants.

The focus of this Special Issue of *Toxins* will be on the biological activities of RIPs that may be relevant to their biological functions and biotechnological applications, as well as on the elucidation of the structure-activity relationships of these proteins.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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