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PLANT VOLATILE COMPOUNDS – STRUCTURE, BIOSYNTHESIS AND FUNCTION IN ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS

Summary

Plants synthesize and emit to the environment a variety of volatile organic compounds. For these immobile, rooted in one place organisms, the secretion of volatile substances gives the unique possibility of long-distance communication. Floral volatiles serve as attractants to pollinators, whereas the compounds released from vegetative parts can deter pathogens and herbivores, attract the enemies of herbivores and transmit a signal of danger to the distant parts of the infected plant or the neighboring plants. The emitted volatiles create an invisible but very effective net of information exchange in the environment.