

Cinnamon, nutmeg and black pepper: Chemistry of spices and a world of interactions

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The search for new navigation routes to the East to bring valuable spices to Europe led to the discovery of the New World and an astonishing biodiversity of plants, animals, and their medicinal uses by indigenous people. Modern studies of tropical plants revealed novel natural products, such as neolignans as a class by Gottlieb. The specificity of interactions between host plants and insects pose intriguing question as to whether insects have preferences for spices in their diets.

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