

Phenyl  
ring

“Acidic”  
hydroxyl  
or  
phenolic  
group

**Phenol**

# The PLANT PHENOLIC COMPOUNDS

## Introduction & The Flavonoids

## *The plant phenolic compounds*

- 8,000 Phenolic structures known
- Account for 40% of organic carbon circulating in the biosphere
- Evolution of vascular plants: in cell wall structures, plant defense, features of woods and barks, flower color, flavors

# *The plant phenolic compounds*

They can be:

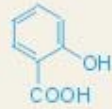
Simple, low molecular weight, single aromatic ringed compounds

**TO-**

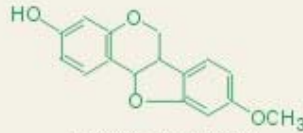
Large and complex-polyphenols



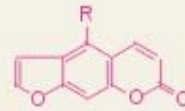
# The Plant phenolic compounds



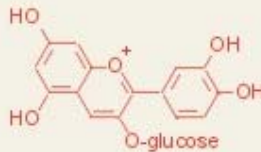
SALICYLIC ACID



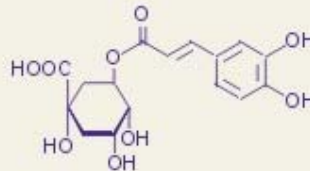
PHYTOALEXINS  
(*medicarpin*)



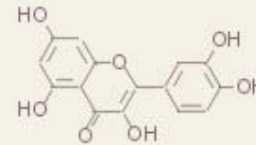
FURANOCOUMARINS  
(*psoralen*)



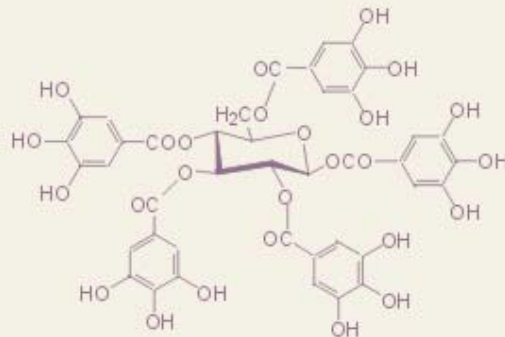
ANTHOCYANINS  
(*cyanidin glycoside*)



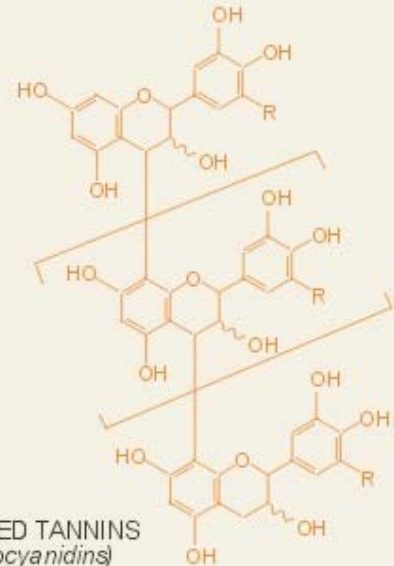
HYDROXYCINNAMOYL ESTERS  
(*chlorogenic acid*)



FLAVONOLS  
(*quercetin*)



HYDROLYZABLE TANNINS  
(*1,2,3,4,6-penta-O-galloyl-beta-D-glucose*)



CONDENSED TANNINS  
(*proanthocyanidins*)

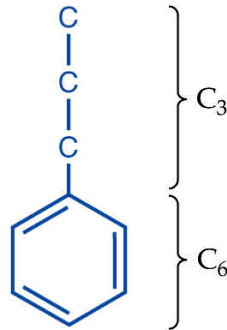
# *The plant phenolic compounds*

- Primarily derived from the:

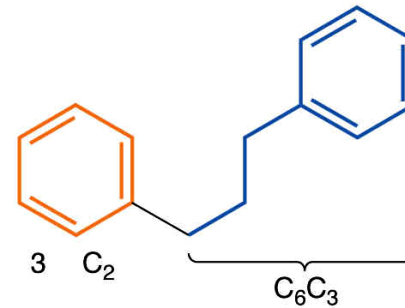
**Phenylpropanoid** pathway and  
**acetate** pathway

(and related pathways)

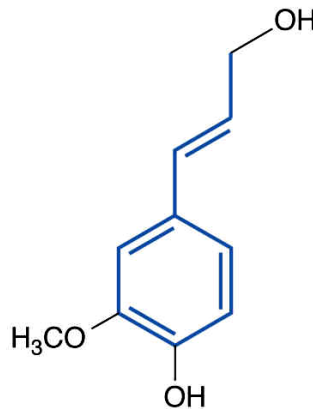
# Phenylpropanoid pathway and phenylpropanoid-acetate pathway



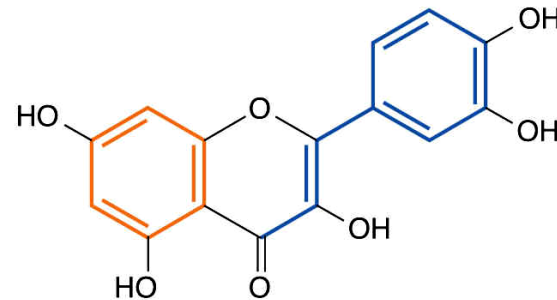
Phenylpropanoid skeleton (C<sub>6</sub>C<sub>3</sub>)



Phenylpropanoid-acetate skeleton (C<sub>6</sub>C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>), with phenylpropanoid-derived (C<sub>6</sub>C<sub>3</sub>) and acetate-derived (3 C<sub>2</sub>) rings



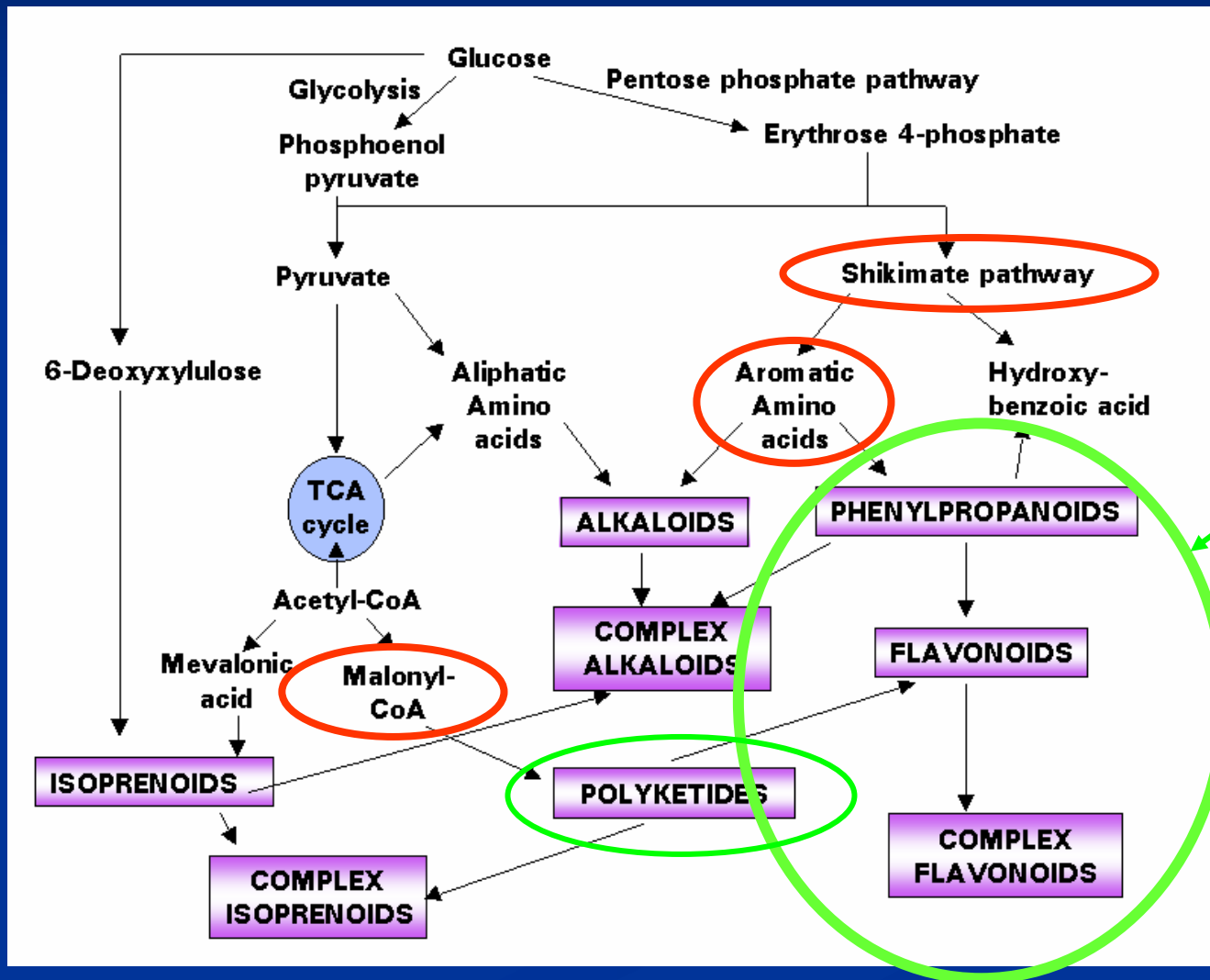
Coniferyl alcohol, a component of lignins and many lignans



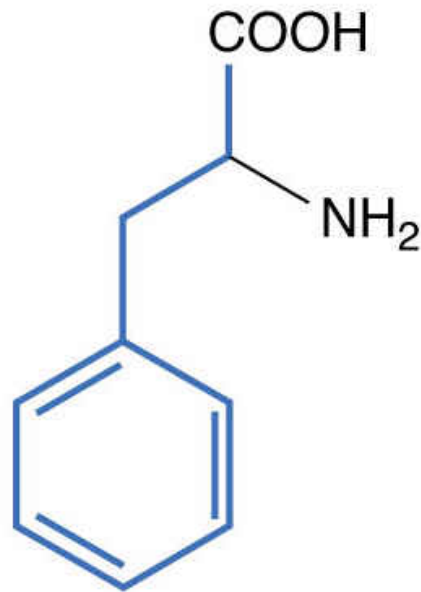
Quercetin, a flavonoid (C<sub>6</sub>C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)

— Phenylpropanoid skeleton  
— Acetate-derived rings

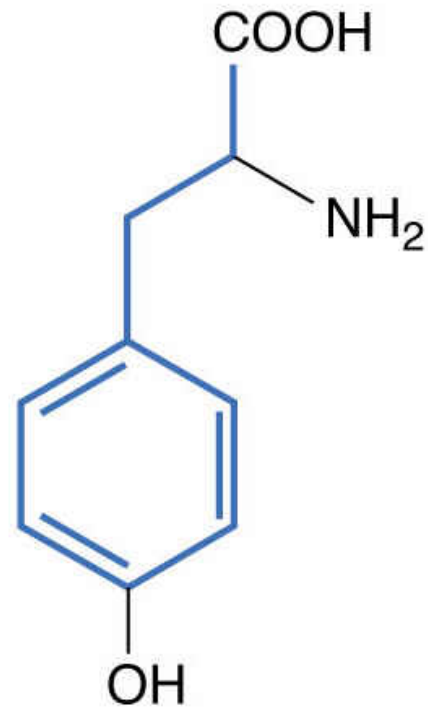
# Precursors for plant phenolic compounds



*The phenylpropanoids: products of the shikimic acid pathway*



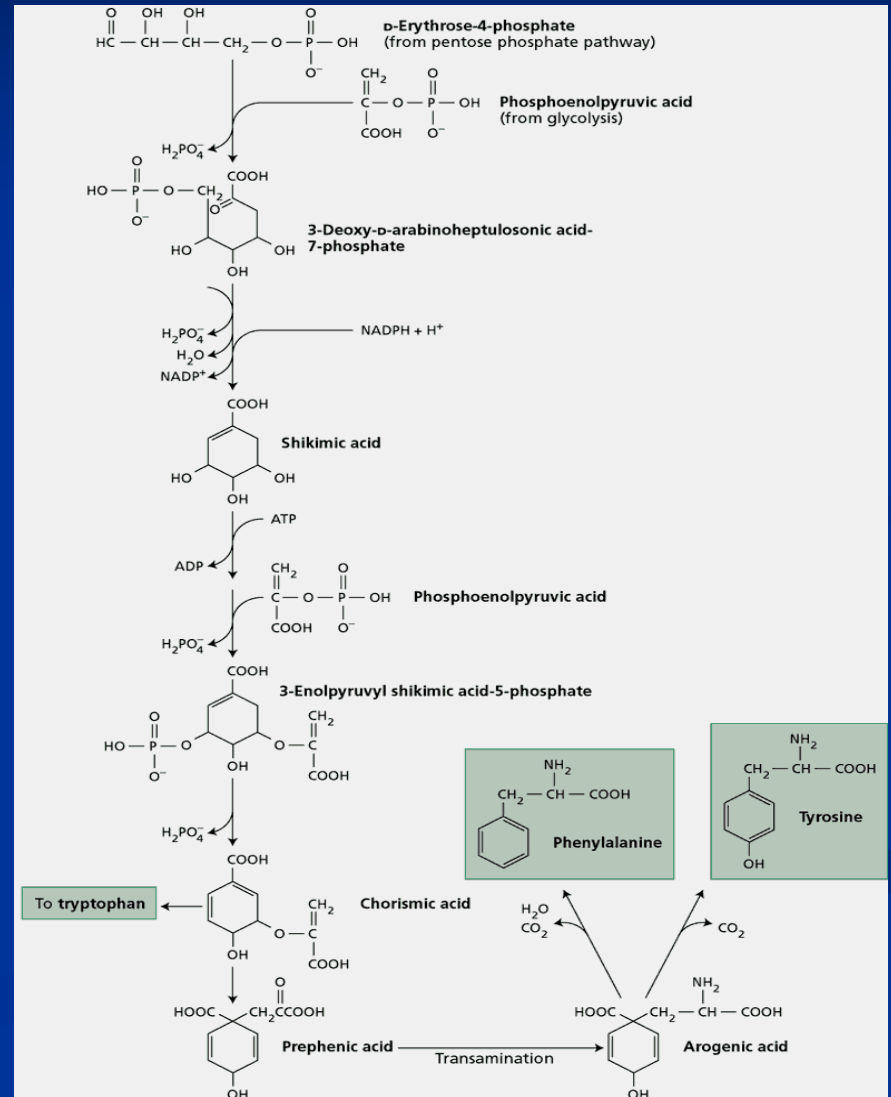
Phenylalanine



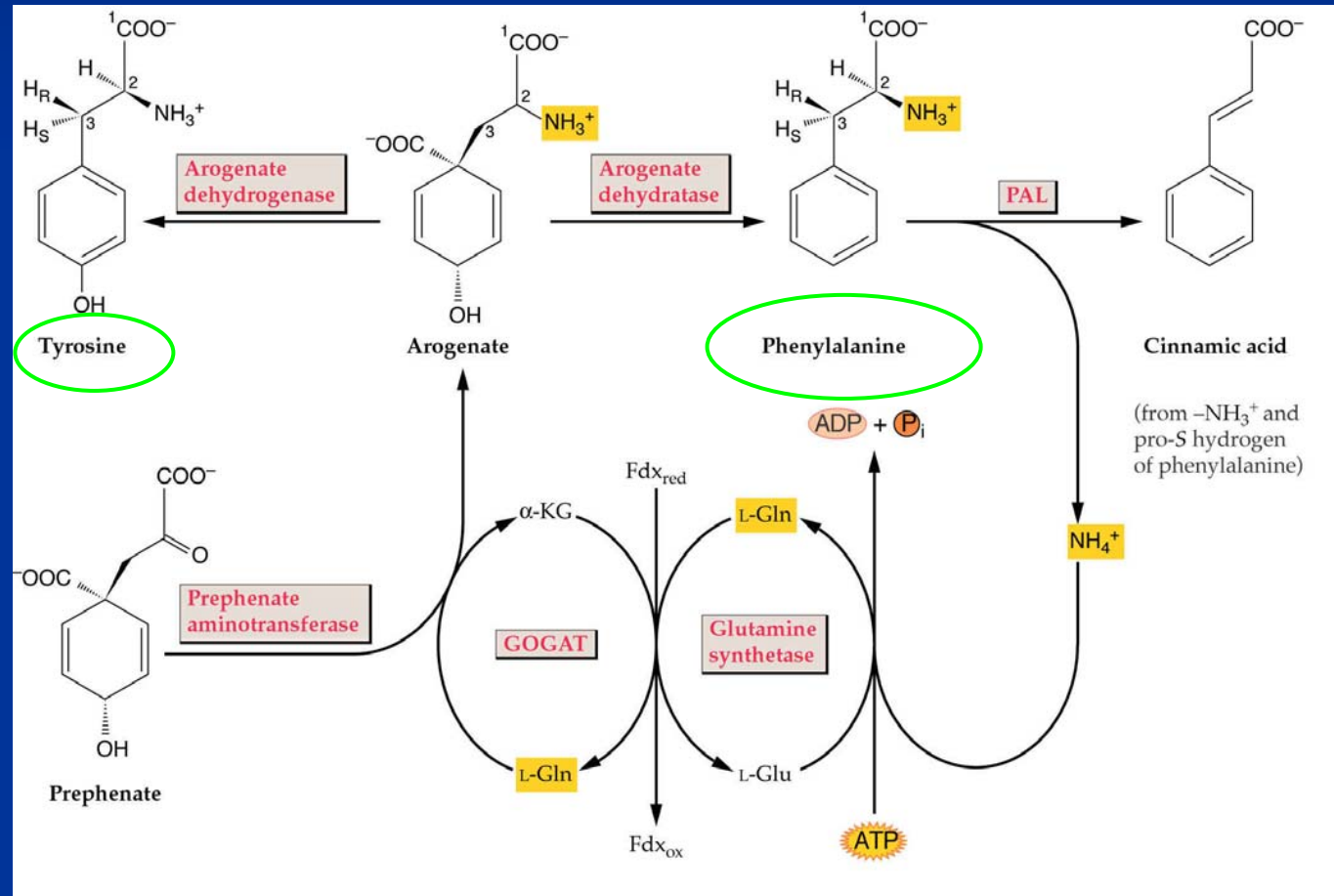
Tyrosine



# The phenylpropanoids: products of the shikimic acid pathway (phe and tyr)



# THE PHENYLPROPANOIDS: PRODUCTS OF THE SHIKIMIC ACID PATHWAY (*phe* & *tyr*)



The shikimate pathway



# *The plant phenolic compounds*

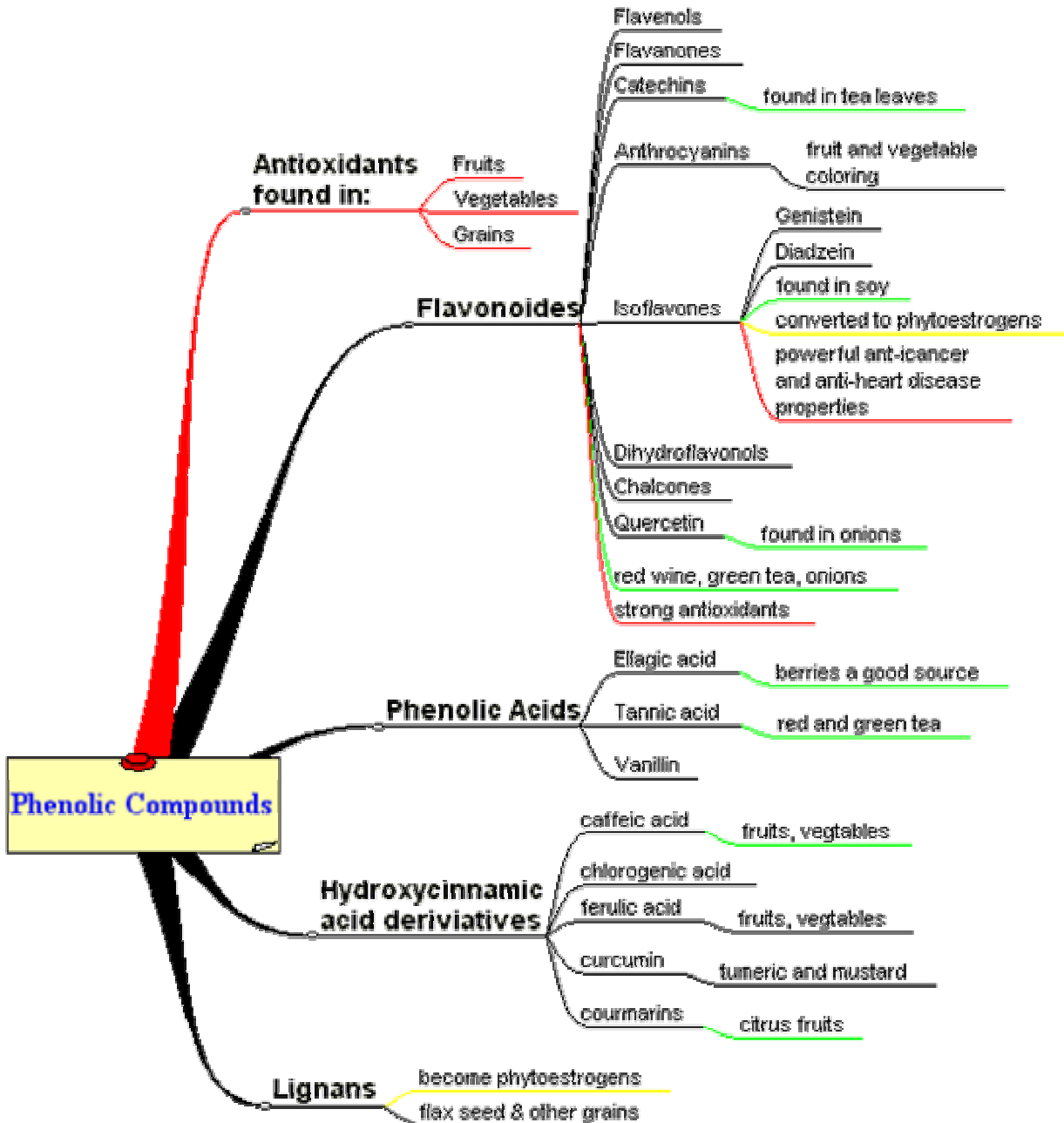
- As in other cases of SMs, branches of pathway leading to biosynthesis of phenols are found or amplified only in specific plant families
- Commonly found conjugated to sugars and organic acids

# *The plant phenolic compounds*

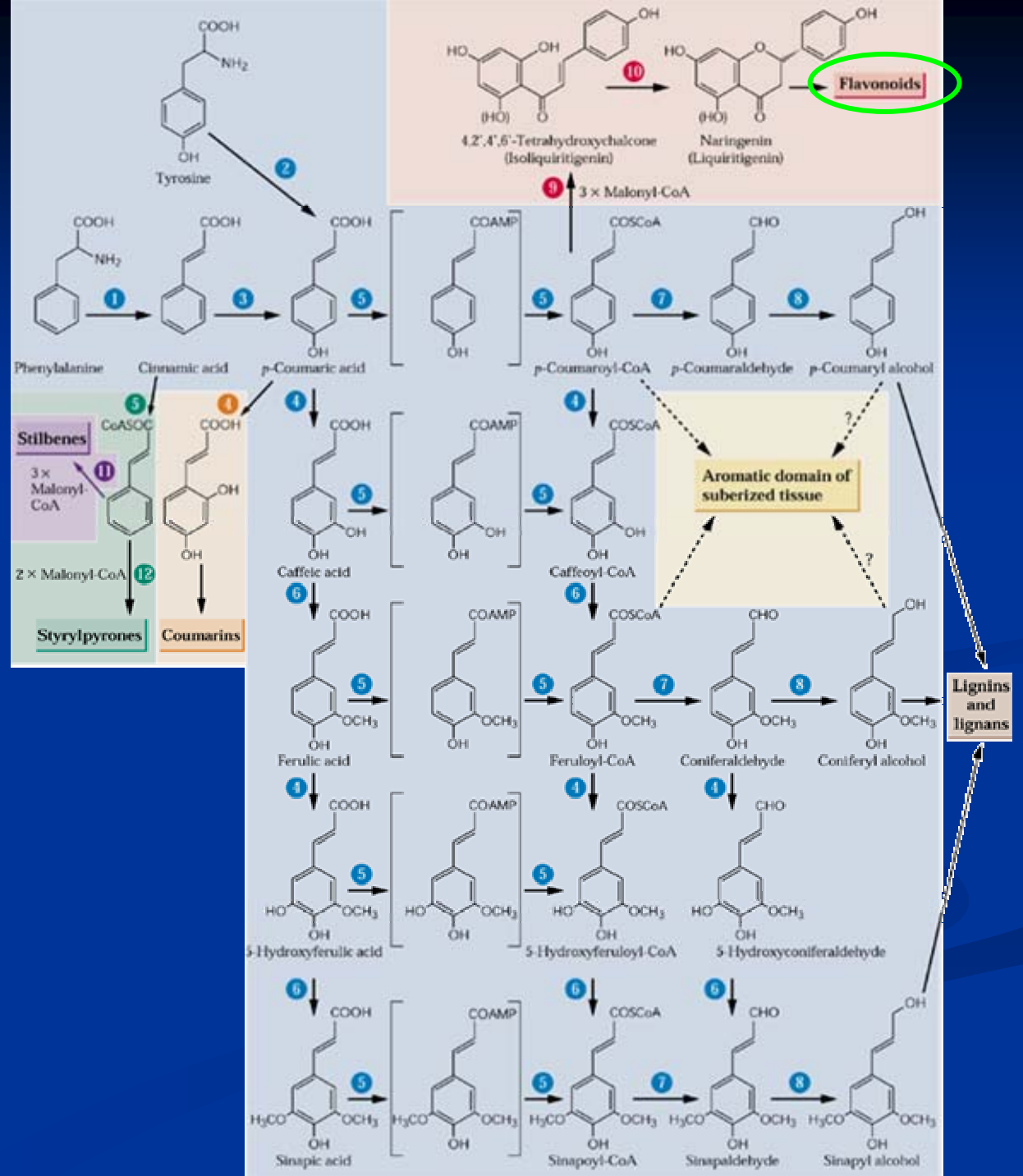
Phenolics can be classified into 2 groups:

1. The **FLAVONOIDS**

2. The **NON-FLAVONOIDS**



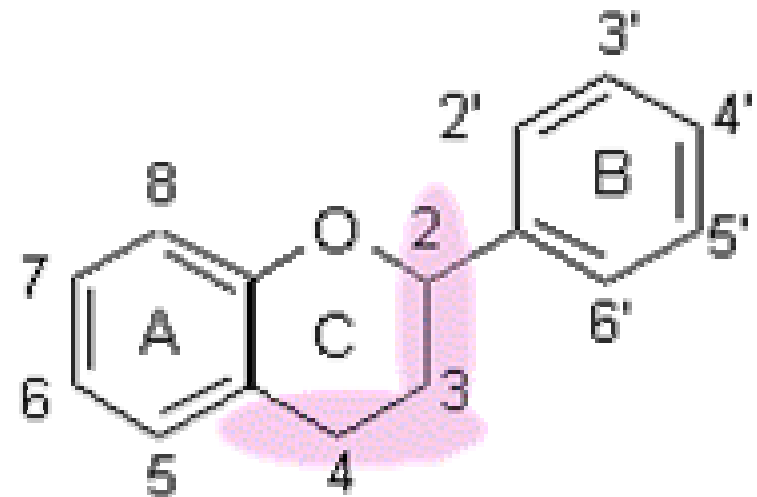
# The plant phenolic compounds



# THE FLAVONOIDS

- Polyphenolic compounds
- Comprise:  
15 carbons + 2 aromatic rings  
connected with a 3 carbon  
bridge

The Flavane Nucleus

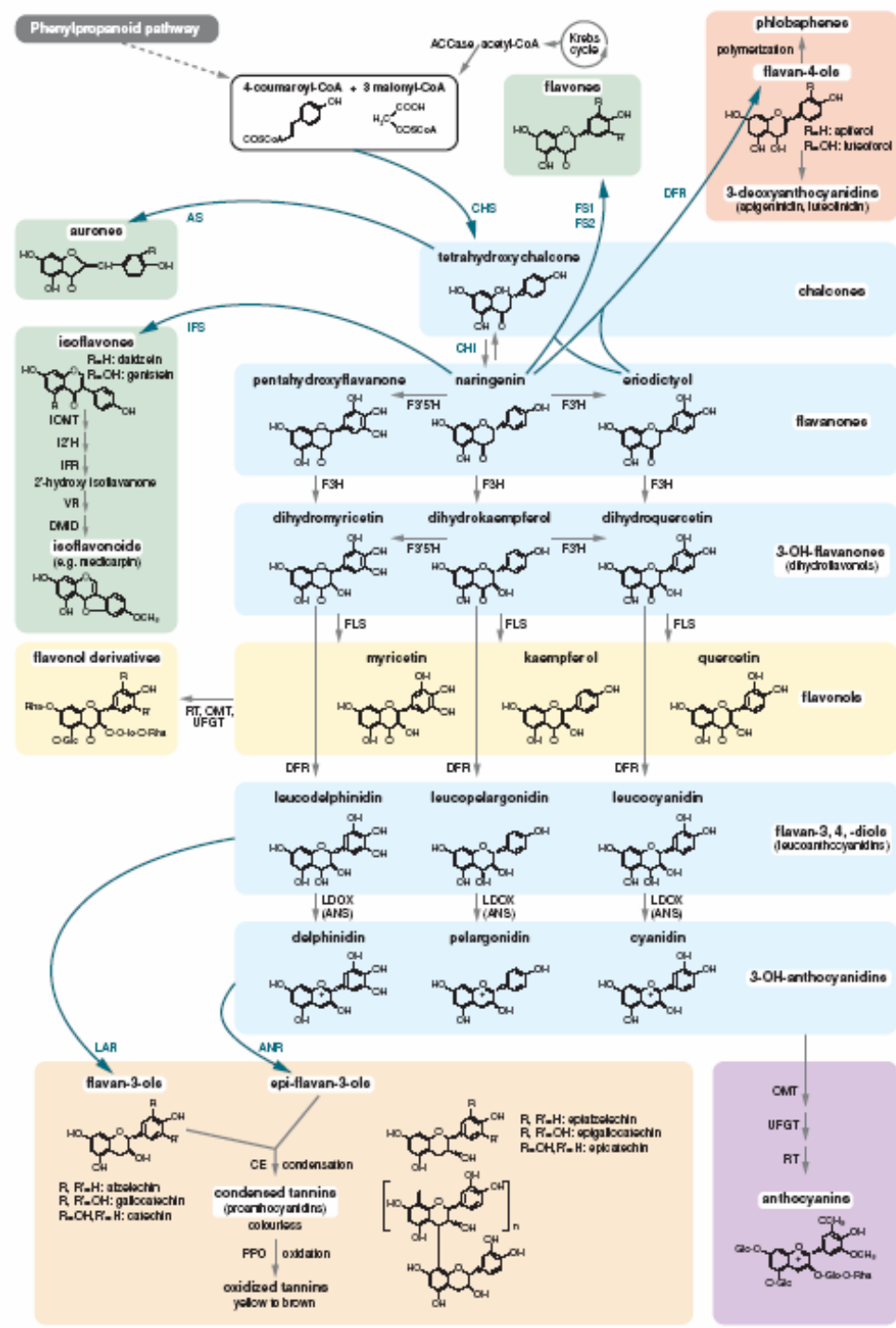


# *THE FLAVONOIDS*

- Largest group of phenols: 4500
- Major role in plants: color, pathogens, light stress
- Very often in epidermis of leaves and fruit skin
- Potential health promoting compounds-antioxidants
- A large number of genes known



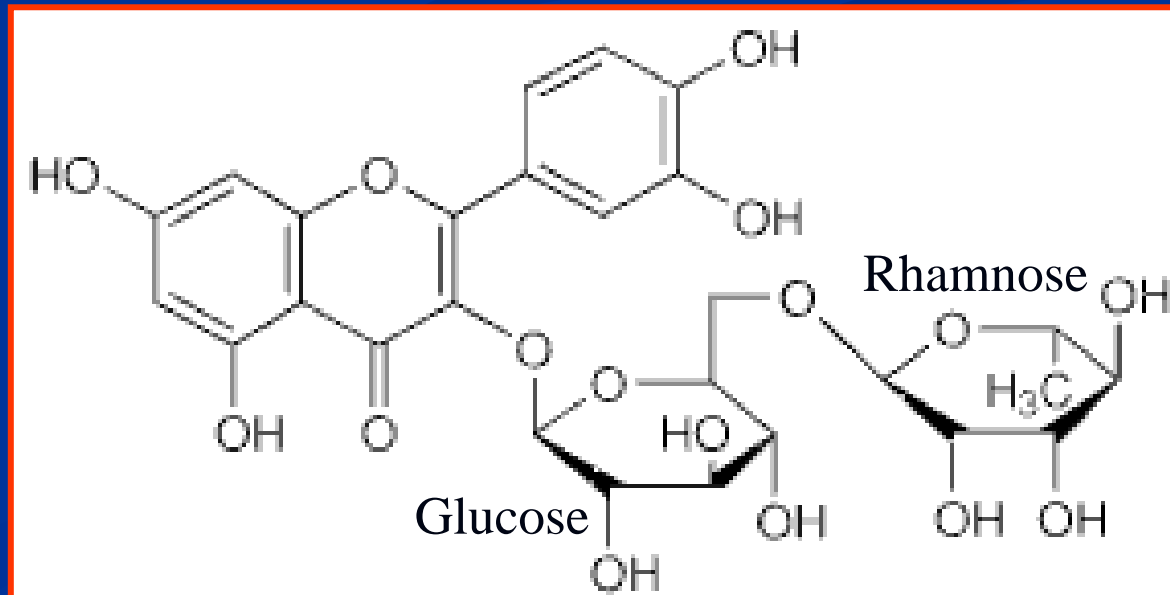
# THE Flavonoids- classes



# *THE Flavonoids*

- The basic flavonoid skeleton can have a large number of substitutions on it:
- **Hydroxyl** groups
- **Sugars** - e.g. glucose, galactose, rhamnose.  
most structures are glycosylated

- **Methylated**
- **Prenylated**  
(farnesylated)
- **Acylated**



# *THE Flavonoids*

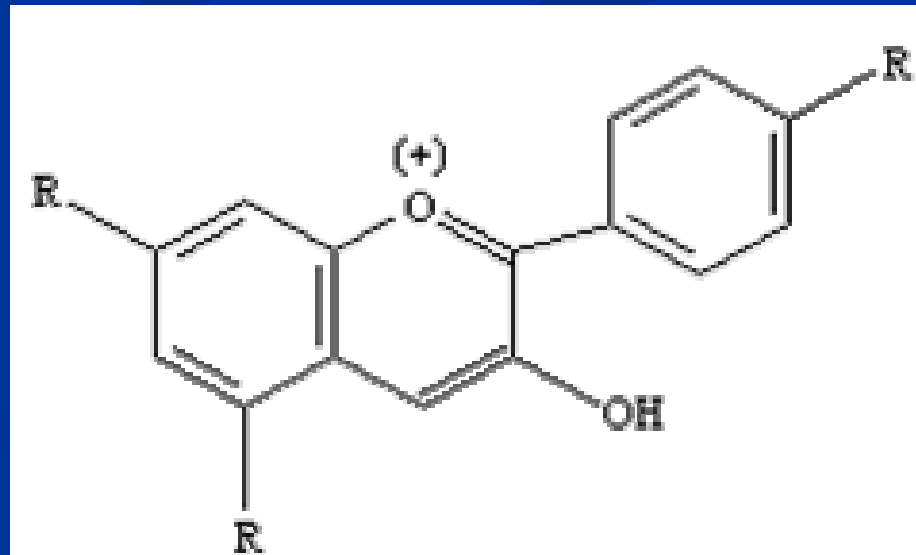
- Sugars and hydroxyl groups increase the water solubility of flavonoids
- Methyl and isopentyl groups make flavonoids lipophilic
- If no sugar- AGLYCONES
- With sugar- GLYCOSIDES

# *Anthocyanins, Carotenoids, Chlorophylls*

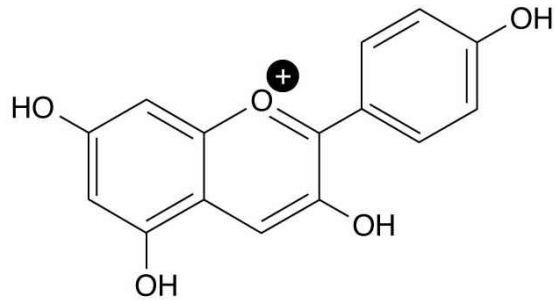


# *Anthocyanidins*

- A positive charge the **C** ring
- Two double bonds in the **C** ring



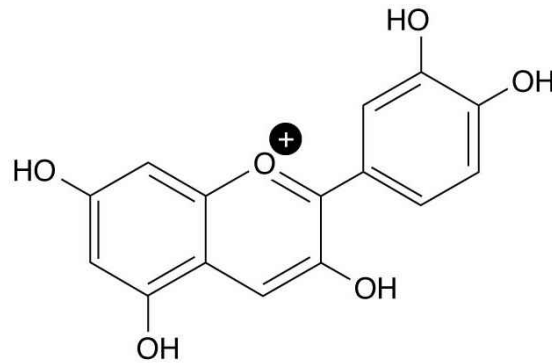
# Anthocyanidins



Pelargonidin



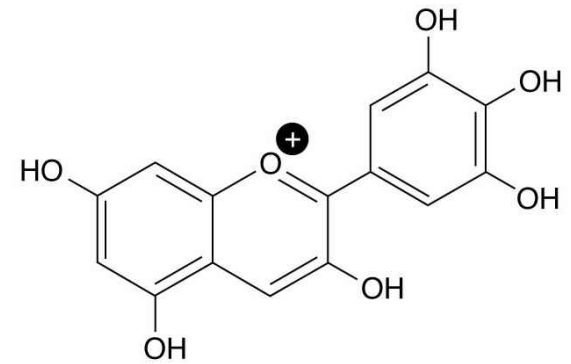
*Pelargonium*  
(Geranium)



Cyanidin



*Rosa*  
(Rose)

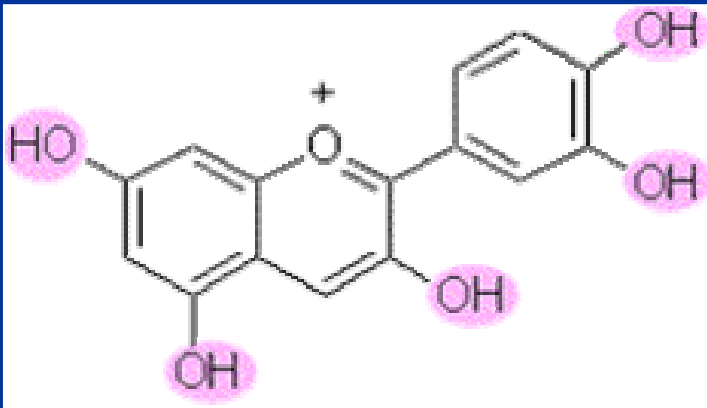
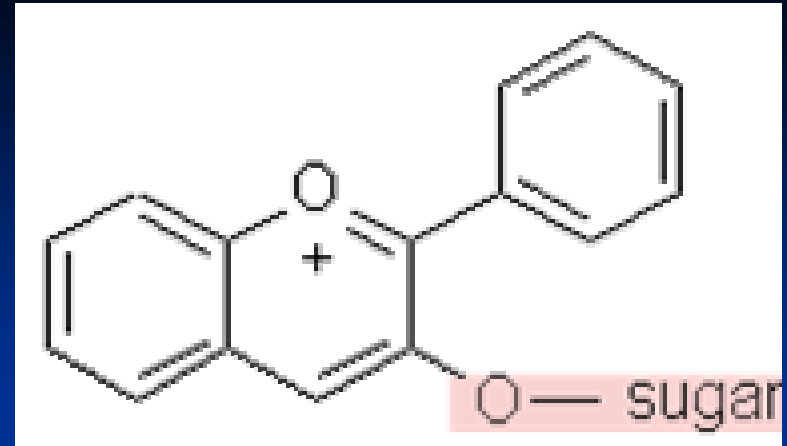


Delphinidin

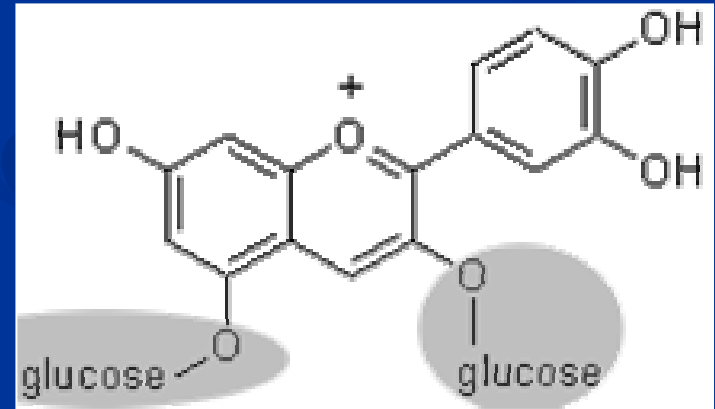


*Delphinium*  
(Larkspur)

# *Anthocyanines*



Cyanidin



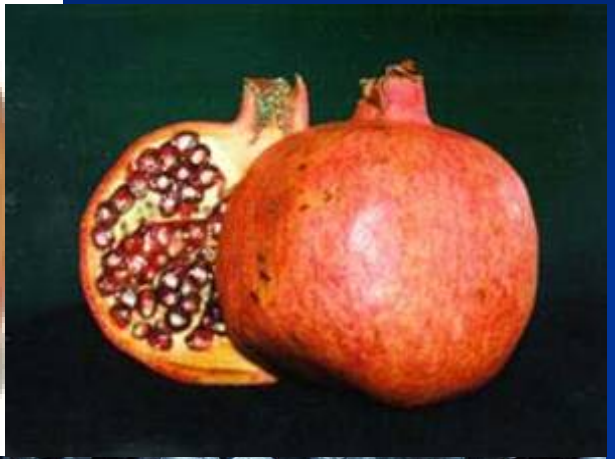
Cyanin

# Anthocyanidins

| Anthocyanidin | R <sub>1</sub>    | R <sub>2</sub> | R <sub>3</sub>    | R <sub>4</sub> | R <sub>5</sub>    | R <sub>6</sub> | R <sub>7</sub>    | main colour    |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Apigeninidin  | -H                | -OH            | -H                | -H             | -OH               | -H             | -OH               | orange         |
| Aurantidin    | -H                | -OH            | -H                | -OH            | -OH               | -OH            | -OH               | orange         |
| Capensinidin  | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -OH            | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -OH            | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -H             | -OH               | bluish-red     |
| Cyanidin      | -OH               | -OH            | -H                | -OH            | -OH               | -H             | -OH               | magenta        |
| Delphinidin   | -OH               | -OH            | -OH               | -OH            | -OH               | -H             | -OH               | purple, blue   |
| Europinidin   | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -OH            | -OH               | -OH            | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -H             | -OH               | bluish red     |
| Hirsutidin    | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -OH            | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -OH            | -OH               | -H             | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | bluish-red     |
| Luteolinidin  | -OH               | -OH            | -H                | -H             | -OH               | -H             | -OH               | orange         |
| Pelargonidin  | -H                | -OH            | -H                | -OH            | -OH               | -H             | -OH               | orange, salmon |
| Malvidin      | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -OH            | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -OH            | -OH               | -H             | -OH               | purple         |
| Peonidin      | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -OH            | -H                | -OH            | -OH               | -H             | -OH               | magenta        |
| Petunidin     | -OH               | -OH            | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -OH            | -OH               | -H             | -OH               | purple         |
| Pulchellidin  | -OH               | -OH            | -OH               | -OH            | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -H             | -OH               | bluish-red     |
| Rosinidin     | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | -OH            | -H                | -OH            | -OH               | -H             | -OCH <sub>3</sub> | red            |
| Triacetidin   | -OH               | -OH            | -OH               | -H             | -OH               | -H             | -OH               | red            |



# *Anthocyanins- Fruit color*



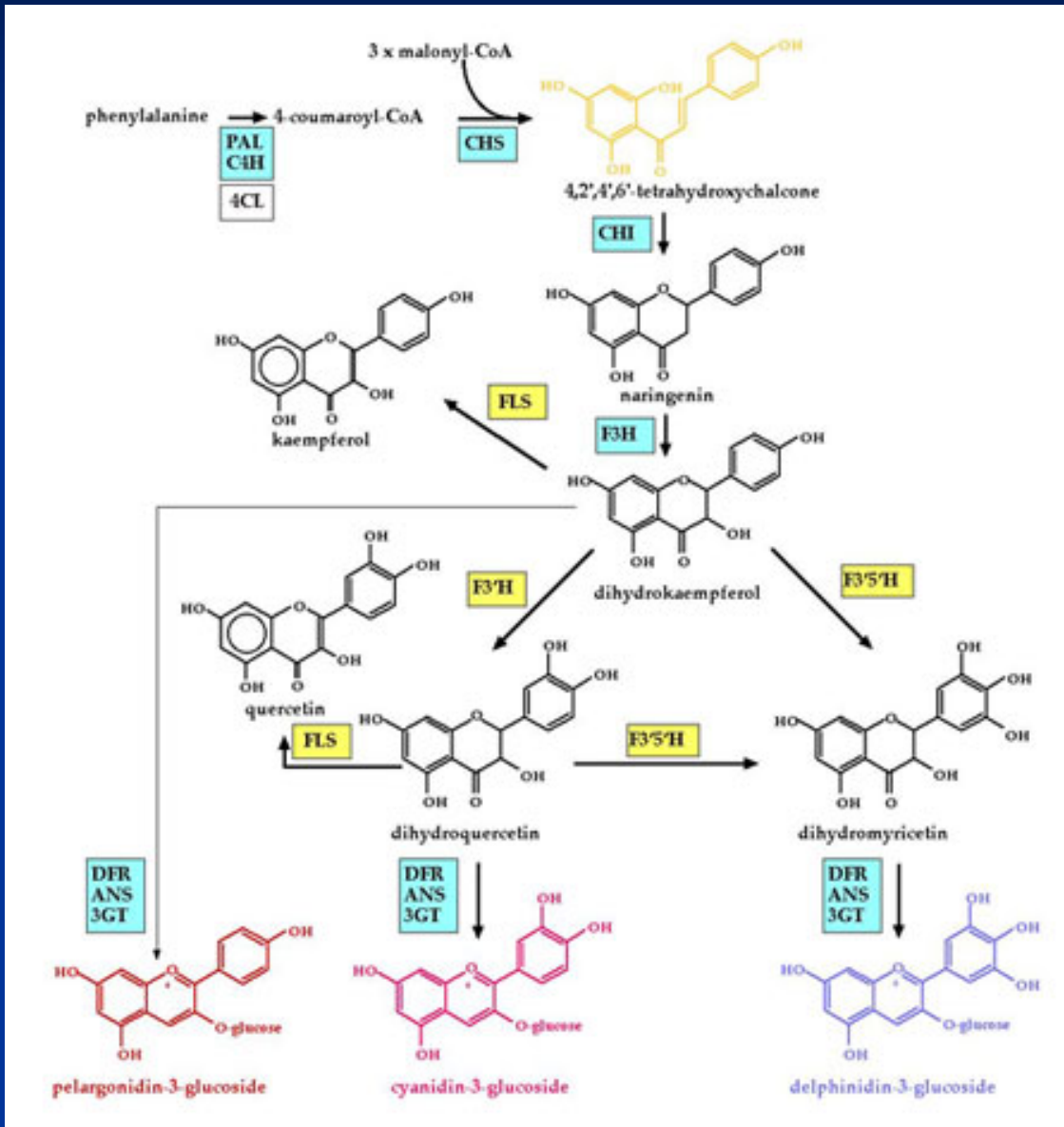
# *Anthocyanins- Flower color*



# *Anthocyanins- leaves and root color*



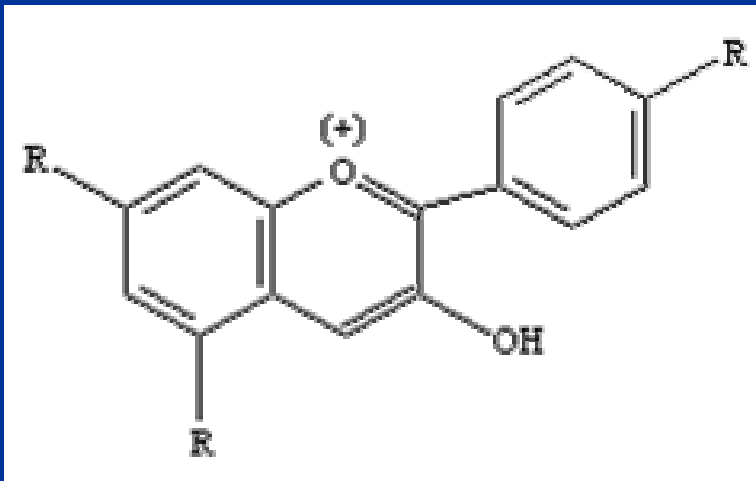
# Anthocyanins biosynthesis



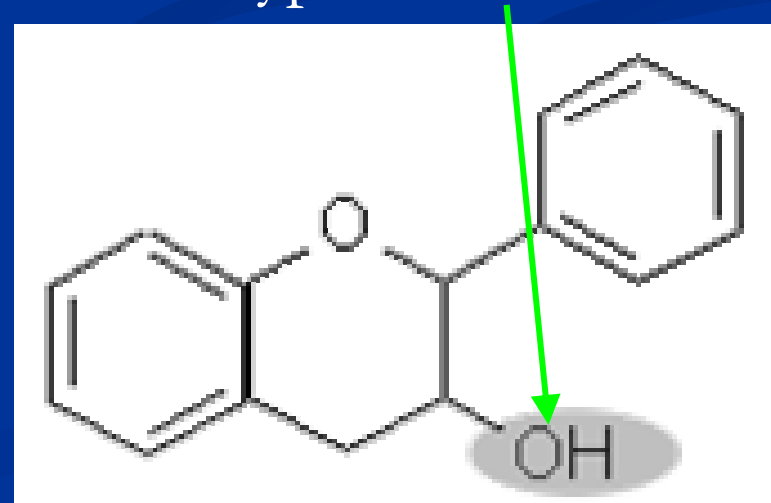
# *The flavAnols*

- Structures are very similar to those of anthocyanidins: **But** no positive charge on the oxygen atom and no double bonds in the C ring.

Anthocyanidin



One type: Flavan-3-ol

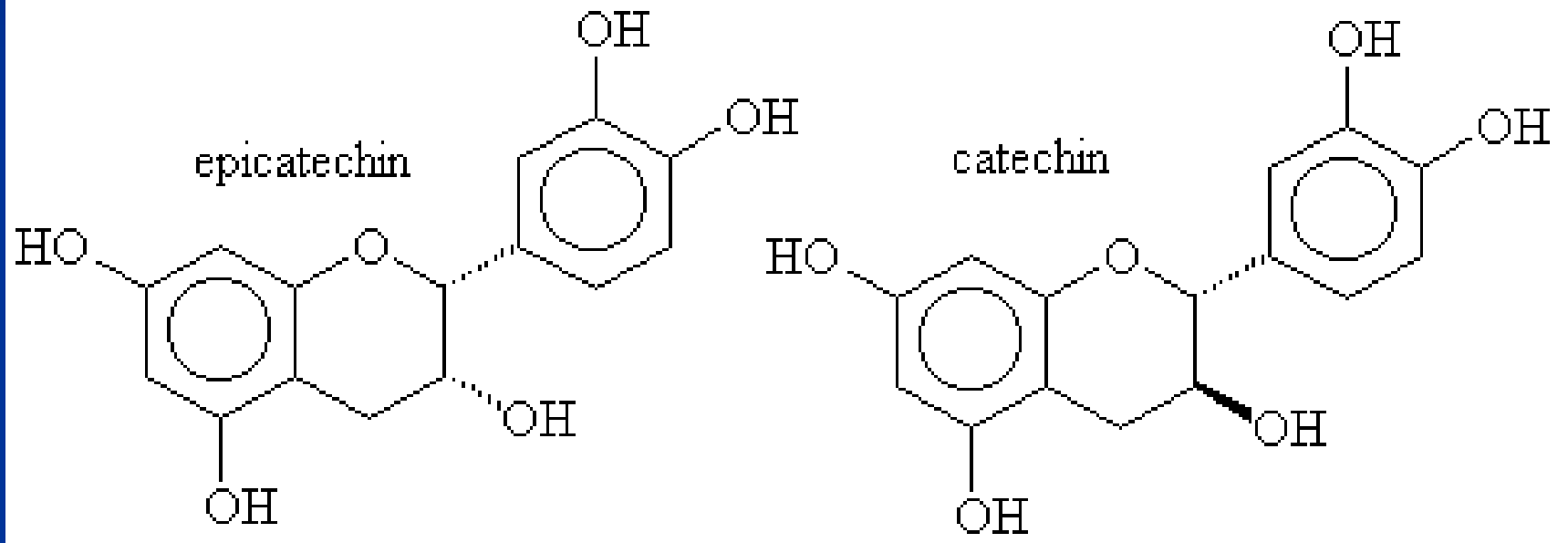


# *The flavAnols: Catechin & Epicatechin*

## **Catechin-**

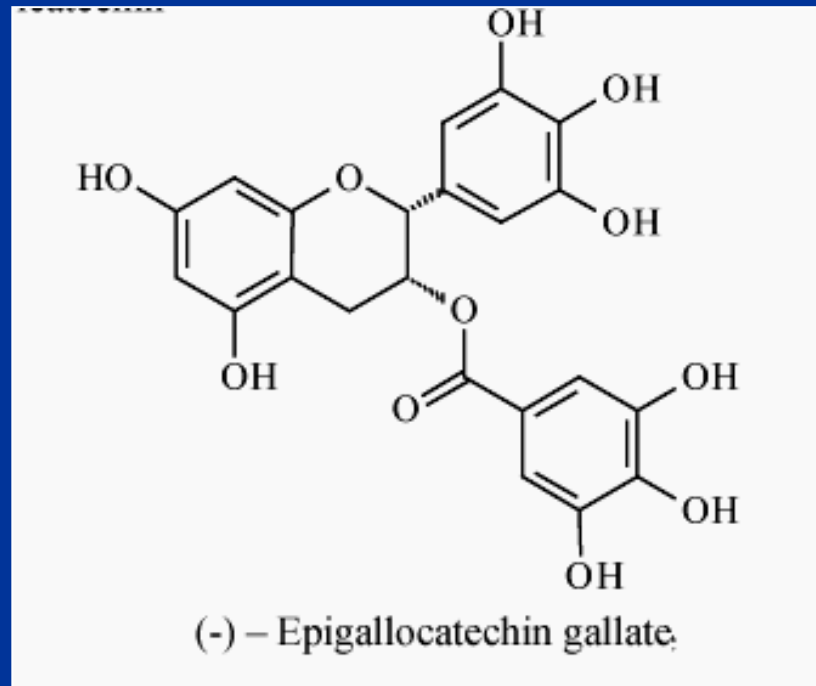
1. A common flavan-3-ol that occurs in many plants.
2. It's found in Green tea, Cocoa powder, Red wine
3. It is also a common subunit of proanthocyanidin polymers such as Procyanidin C2.
4. **Epicatechin** is another common example; it differs from Catechin only in the spatial orientation of its -OH group.

# *The flavAnols: Catechin & Epicatechin*



# *The flavAnols in green tea*

-Green tea contains high levels of flav-3-ols such as (-) Epigallocatechin gallate





# *The flavAnols in green tea*

- Flav-3-ols, such as epicatechin, catechin and epigallocatechin (and procyanidins their polymers) **are:**

1. Powerful antioxidants
2. Have beneficial effects on cardiac health, immunity and longevity
3. Levels of flav-3-ols decline in roasting

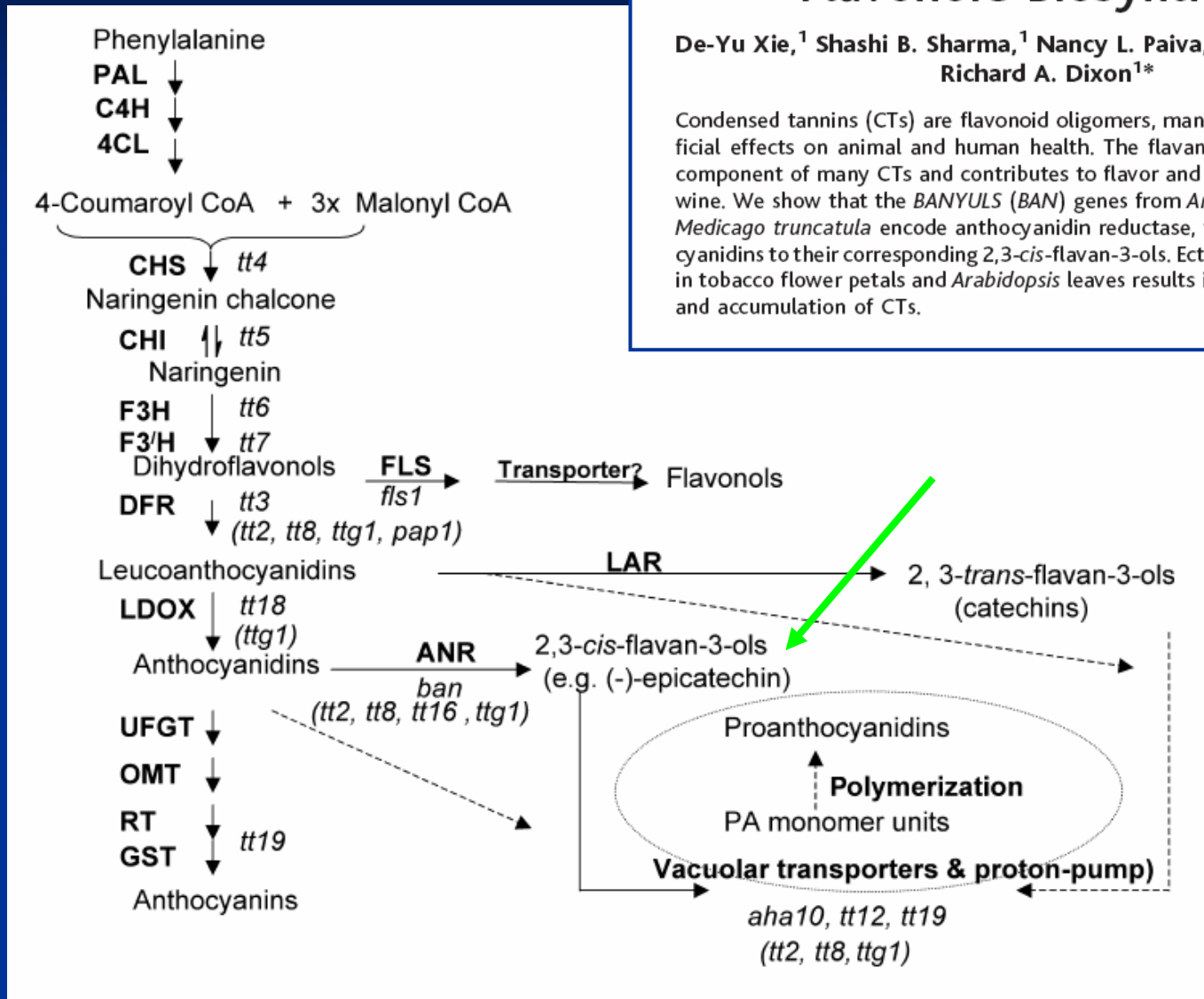


# FlavAnols Biosynthesis

## Role of Anthocyanidin Reductase, Encoded by *BANYULS* in Plant Flavonoid Biosynthesis

De-Yu Xie,<sup>1</sup> Shashi B. Sharma,<sup>1</sup> Nancy L. Paiva,<sup>1</sup> Daneel Ferreira,<sup>2</sup> Richard A. Dixon<sup>1\*</sup>

Condensed tannins (CTs) are flavonoid oligomers, many of which have beneficial effects on animal and human health. The flavanol (-)-epicatechin is a component of many CTs and contributes to flavor and astringency in tea and wine. We show that the *BANYULS* (*BAN*) genes from *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Medicago truncatula* encode anthocyanidin reductase, which converts anthocyanidins to their corresponding 2,3-*cis*-flavan-3-ols. Ectopic expression of *BAN* in tobacco flower petals and *Arabidopsis* leaves results in loss of anthocyanins and accumulation of CTs.



# *Proanthocyanidines or Condensed Tannins*

- **Polymers** made from multiple **flavAnols**
- They are called proanthocyanidins because, if broken apart with acid treatment, they yield anthocyanidins such as Cyanidin
- Proanthocyanidin **polymers** consisting of up to 50 subunits
- **Oligomeric** proanthocyanidins (OPCs) are the water-soluble, short-chain polymers

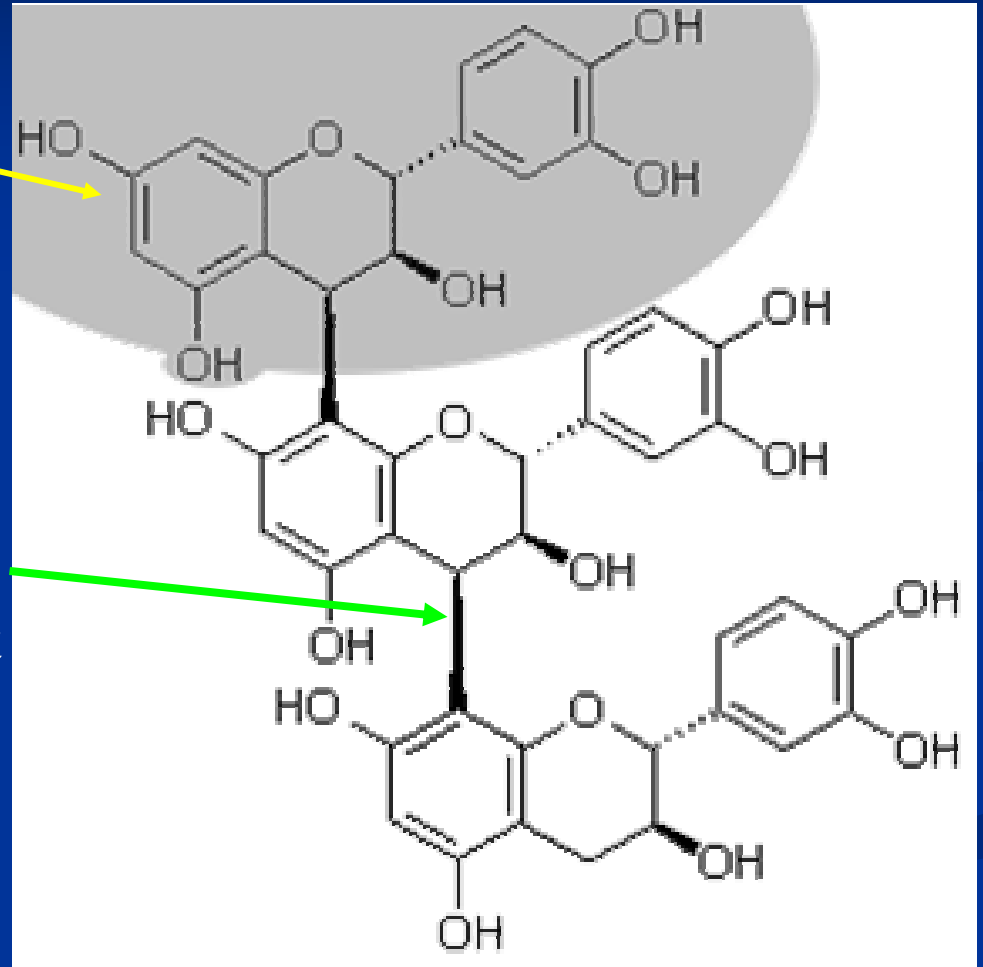
## *Proanthocyanidines or Condensed Tannins*

- Sometimes referred to as "condensed tannins"
- Responsible for astringency in many foods and medicinal herbs
- Red wine contains many complex proanthocyanidins (extracted from grape skins and seeds); so do blueberries, blackberries, strawberries, elderberries, and other red/blue/purple colored plant parts

# *Type-B proanthocyanidins (formed from -epicatechin and + catechin)*

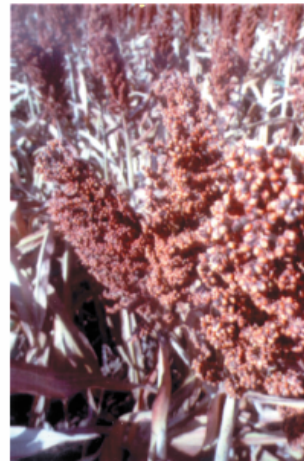
Catechin subunit

Oxidative coupling between C-4 of the heterocycle and the C-6 or C-8 positions of the adjacent unit

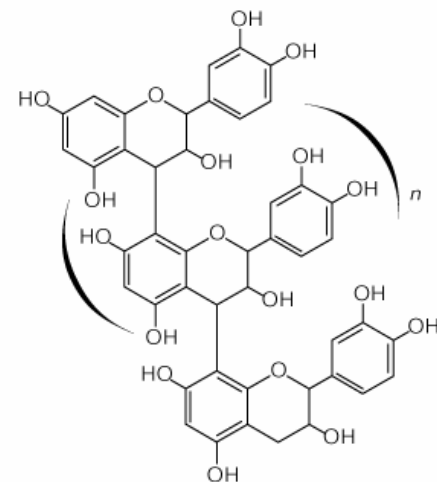


# *Type-B proanthocyanidins (formed from - epicatechin and + catechin)*

- Antifeedant proanthocyanidin in red sorghum
- These condensed tannins deter birds from feeding on the seed
- White sorghum deficient in these compounds is eaten by birds

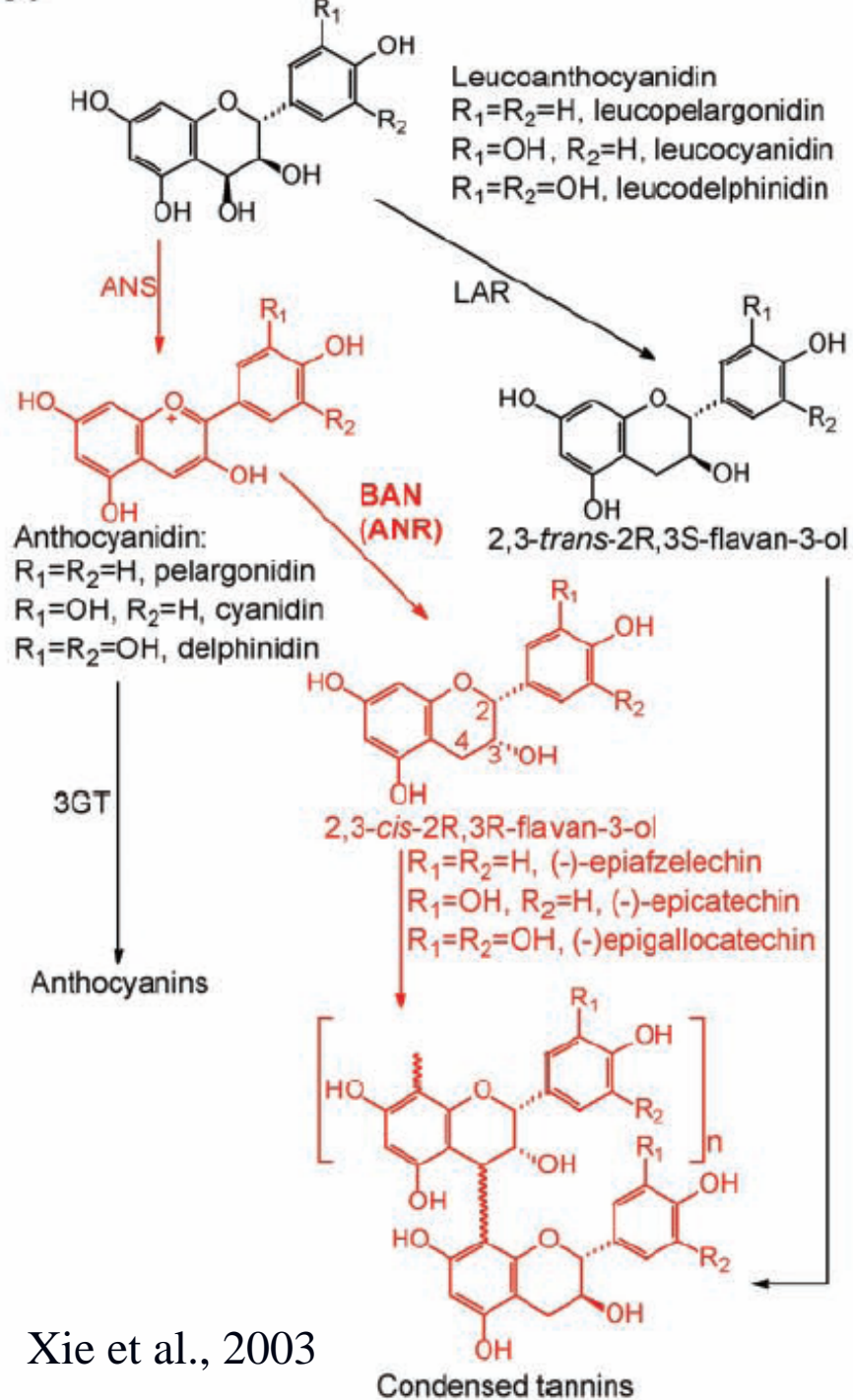


Red sorghum



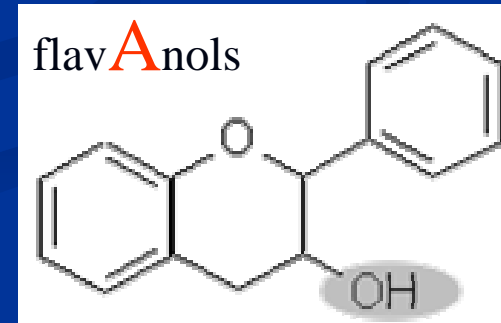
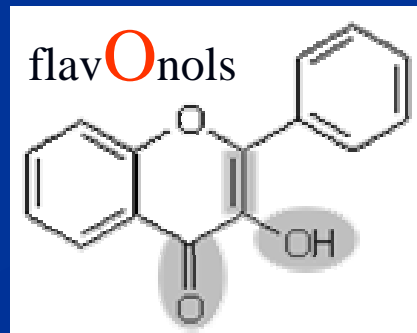
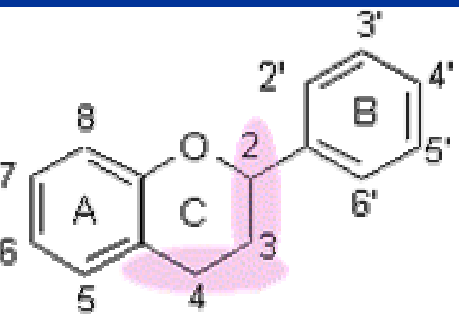
Proanthocyanidin ( $n = 1-30$ )

# Proanthocyanidins (or condensed tannins) Biosynthesis



# The FlavOnols

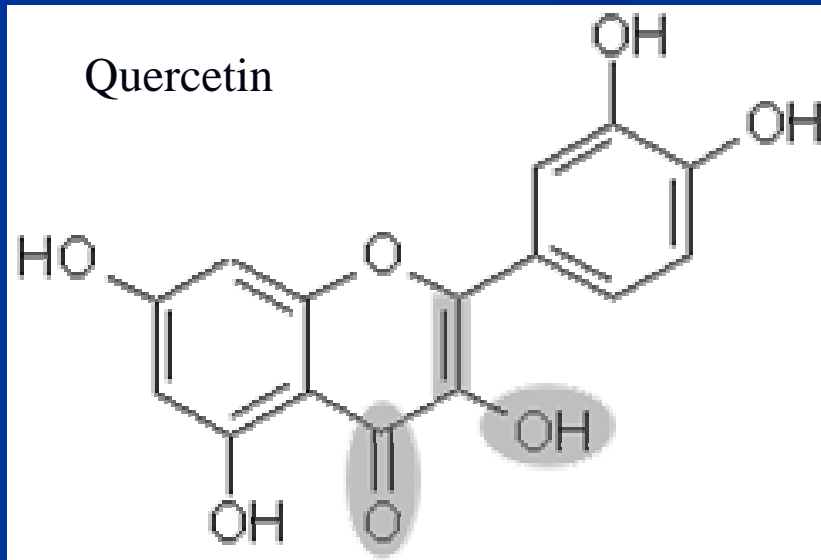
- The molecule has a double-bonded oxygen atom attached to position 4 (that's why flavOnols).
- They're still "-ols" because they retain the -OH group at position 3 like the flavAnols
- The double-bonded oxygen atom, makes them like another class of flavonoids known as "flavones" (next)
- Double bond in between C2 and C3 (C ring)
- Involved in UV screening, due to their strong absorbance in UV-A (325-400nm) and UV-B (280-325 nm) wavelengths





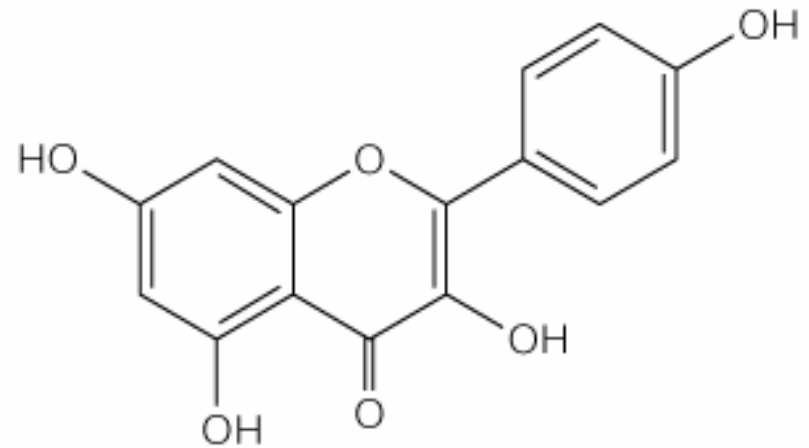
# *The FlavOnols- Quercetin*

- The most abundant flavonol in the diet and is found in hundreds of herbs and foods.
- Onions are especially rich in *Quercetin*.
- It has proven antioxidant effects



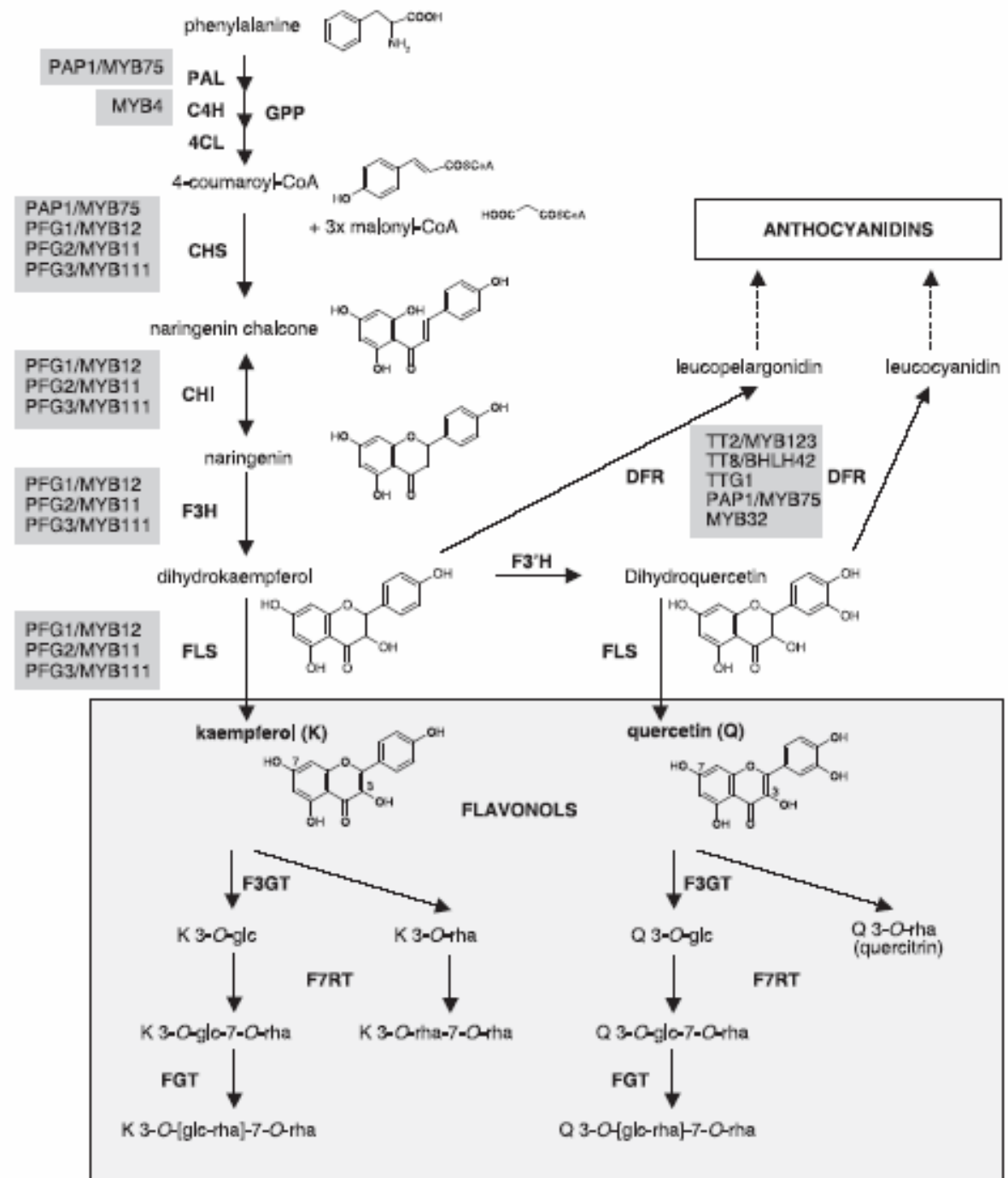
# *The FlavOnols- Quercetin*

- FlavOnols are mostly found as *O*-glycosides
- Aglycons- 300
- Total- 1030
- More than **200** different sugar conjugates of Kaempferol !!



Kaempferol

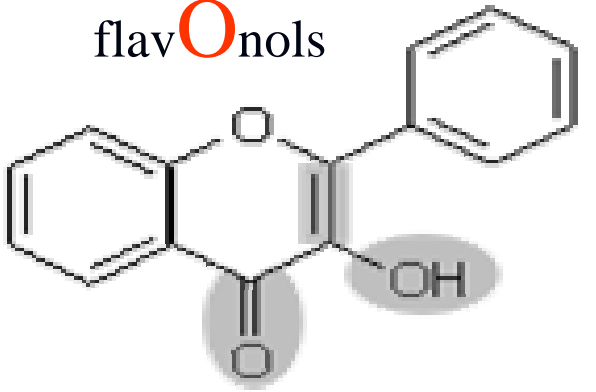
# FlavOnols Biosynthesis



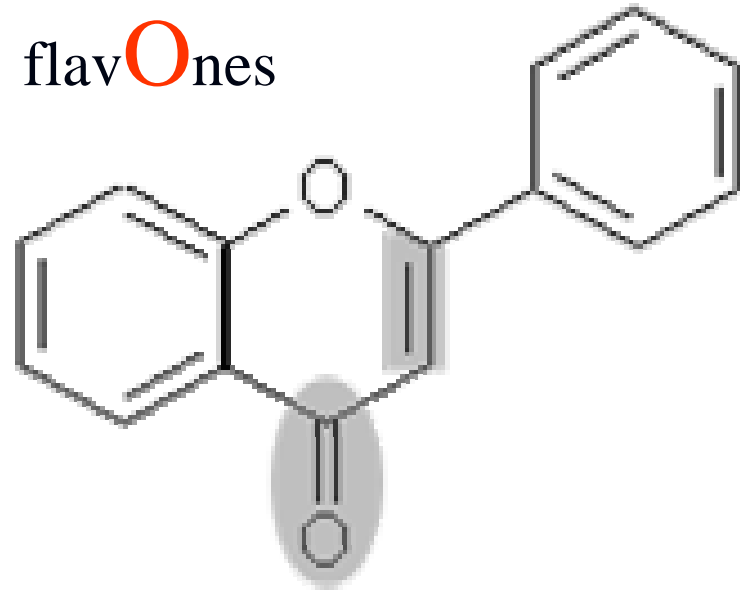
# *The Flavones*

- Close to the flavOnols but not so widespread (celery, parsley and some herbs)
- BUT Without the "-ol." there is no longer an -OH group at position 3 on the central ring

flavOnols

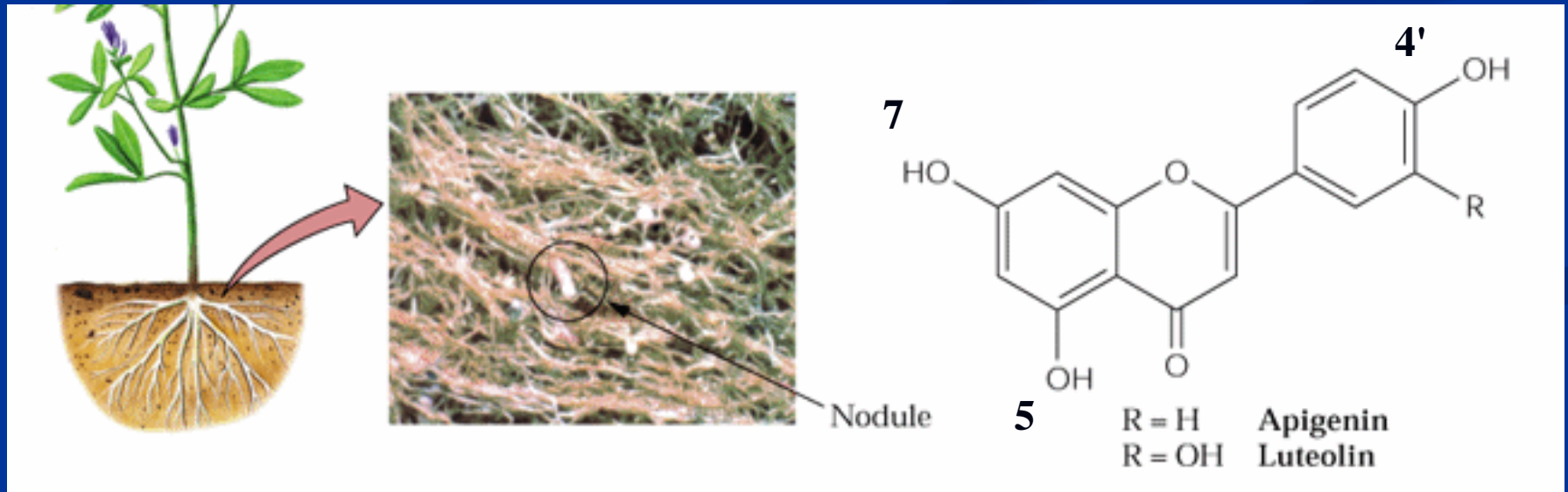


flavOnes



# The Flavones- Apigenin

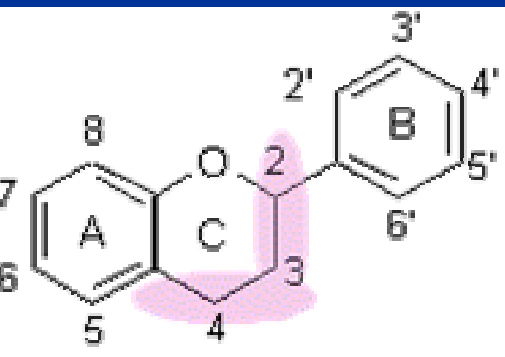
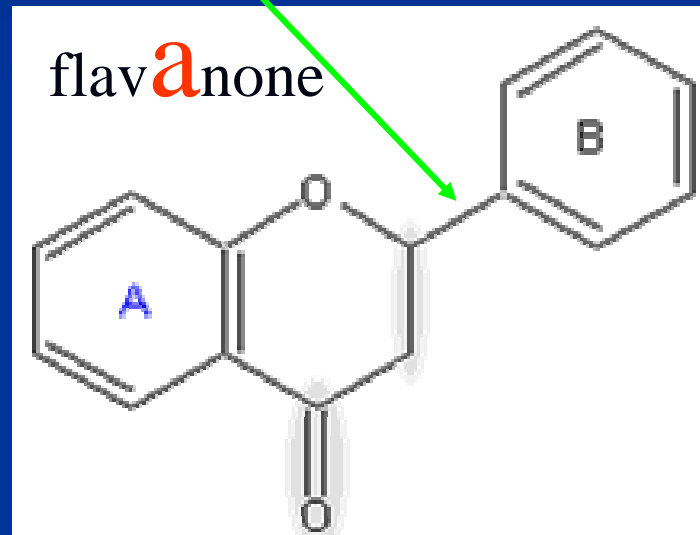
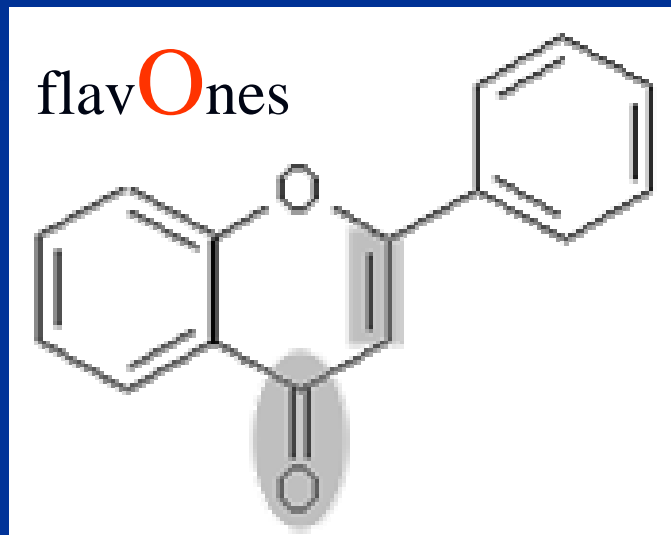
- **Apigenin**, a flavone with - OH groups added to positions 5, 7, and 4'
- Another flavone is **luteolin**, found in sweet red peppers
- Both act as signaling molecules that induce NOD factors in compatible interaction with Rhizobium bacteria (nitrogen fixing root nodules) in legumes (e.g. alfalfa)





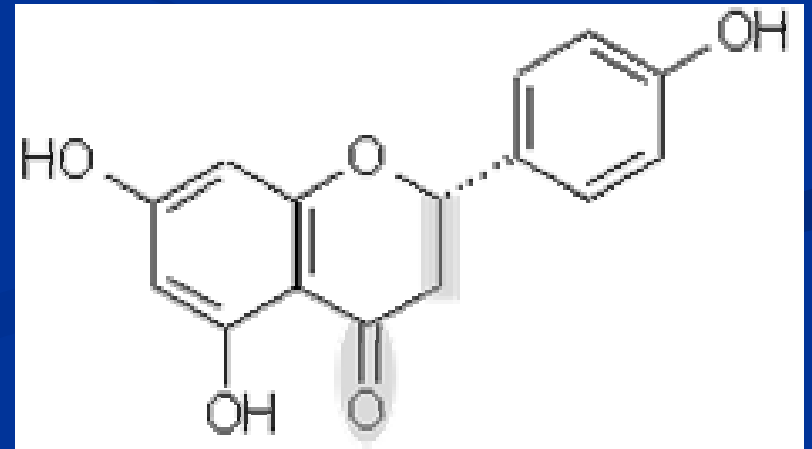
# The Flavanones

- No double bond between carbons 2 and 3 of the flavone structure, and chiral center (C2)
- A highly reactive structure ( a lot of substitutions)



# *The Flavanones- Naringenin*

- An antioxidant flavanone from citrus species
- Has - OH groups attached at positions 5, 7, and 4'
- Studies have indicated that it has anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, and liver protective effects



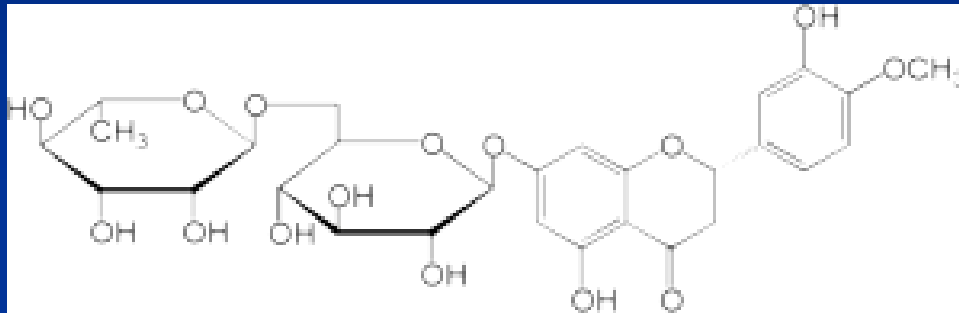




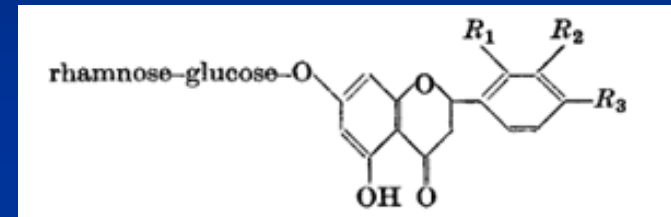
*The Flavanones of citrus*

# *The Flavanones- in citrus*

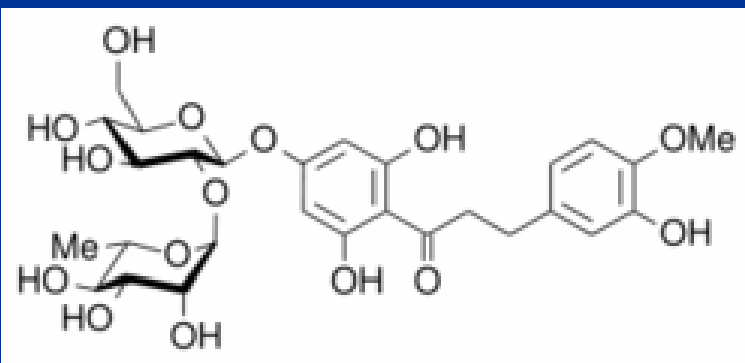
- High concentrations in citrus fruit



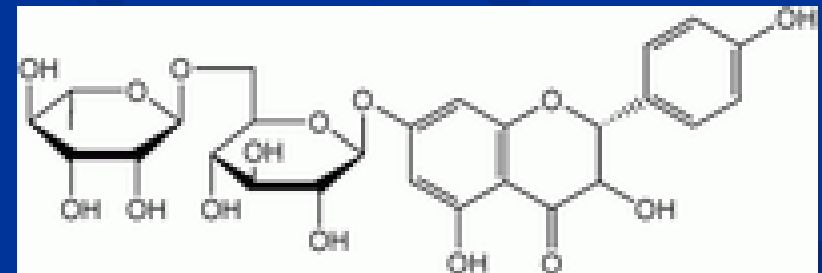
Hesperidin, citrus peel, tasteless



Neohesperidin, bitter orange, intense bitter taste



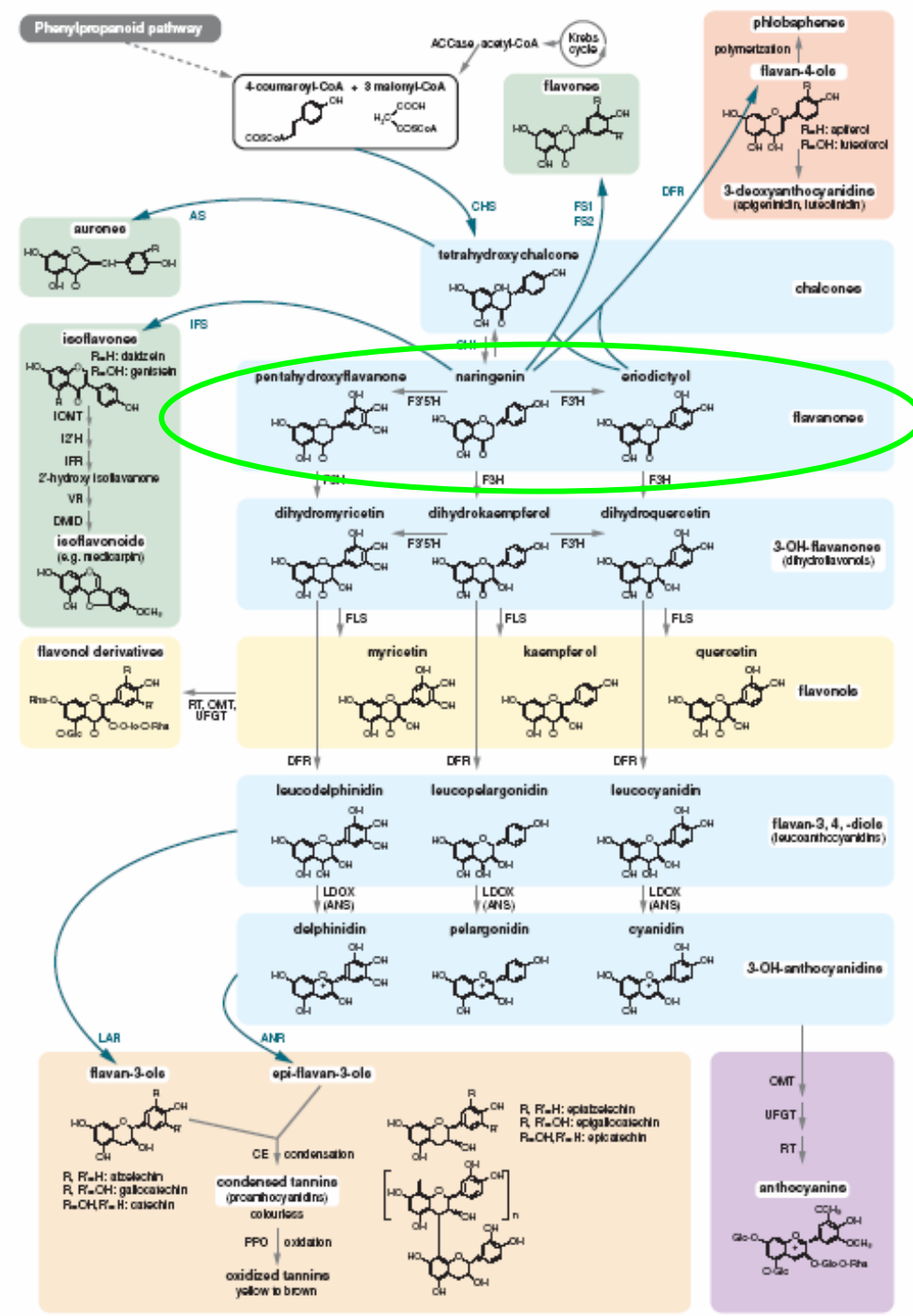
Neohesperidin dihydrochalcone, citrus, artificial sweetener, in non-alcoholic beers



Naringin, grapefruit peel, intense bitter taste

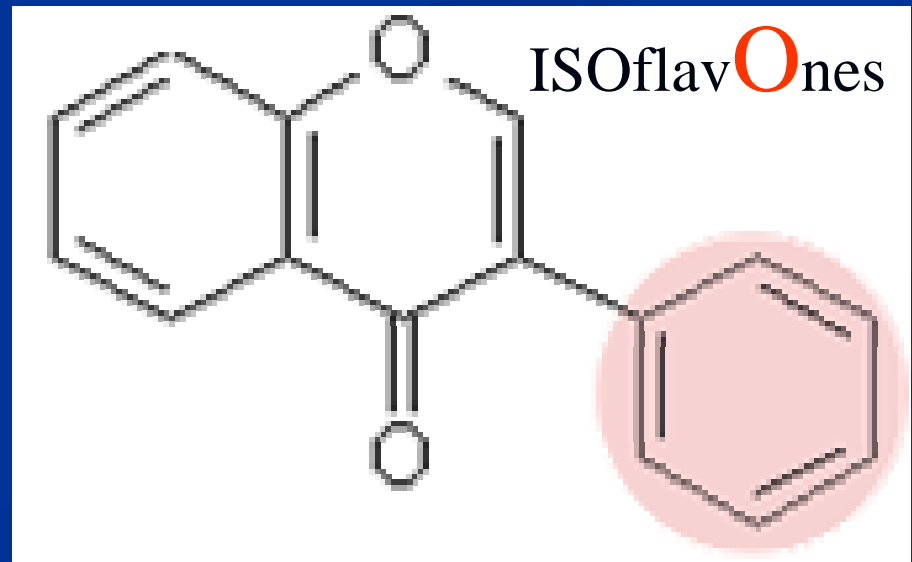
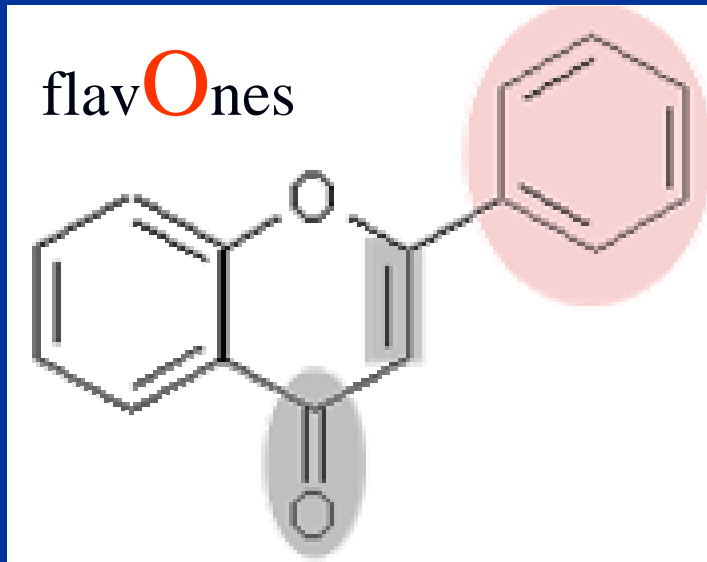
# Flavanones

## Biosynthesis



# *The Isoflavones (Isoflavonoids)*

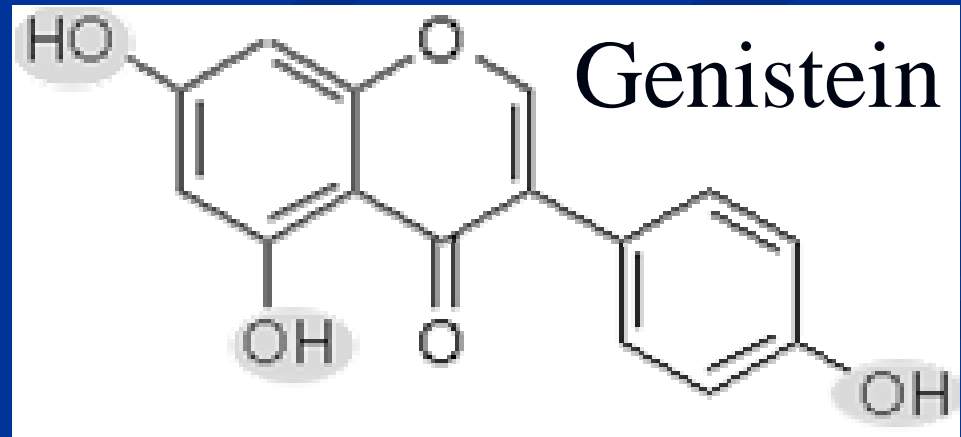
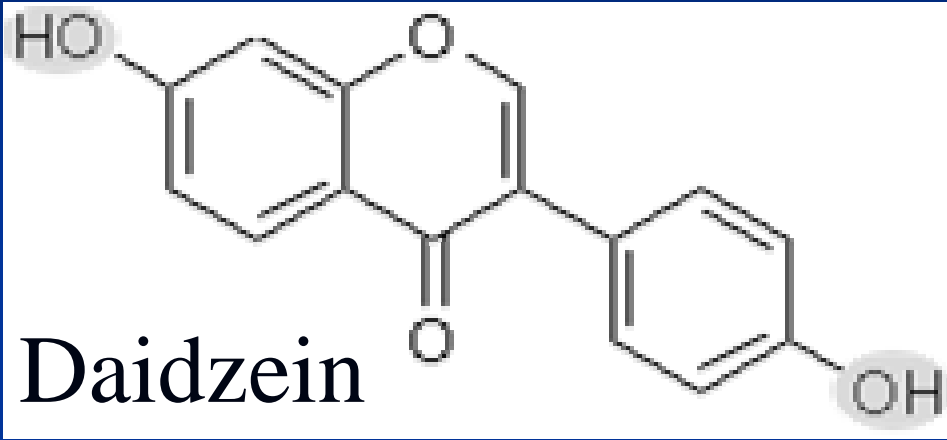
- Isoflavones are also known as isoflavonoids
- Very similar to flavones, except that the B ring is attached to position 3 of the C ring, rather than to position 2 as in the flavones



# *The Isoflavones (Isoflavonoids)*

- Found almost exclusively in leguminous plants with highest concentrations in soybean
- Genistein, daidzein- phyto-oestrogens (can effect reproduction of grazing animals)
- Structure similar to the steroidal hormone oestradiol which blocks ovulation
- Low isoflavonoid producing varieties are being fed to animals

# *The Isoflavones (Isoflavonoids)*



# *The Isoflavones (Isoflavonoids)*

Important for human health:

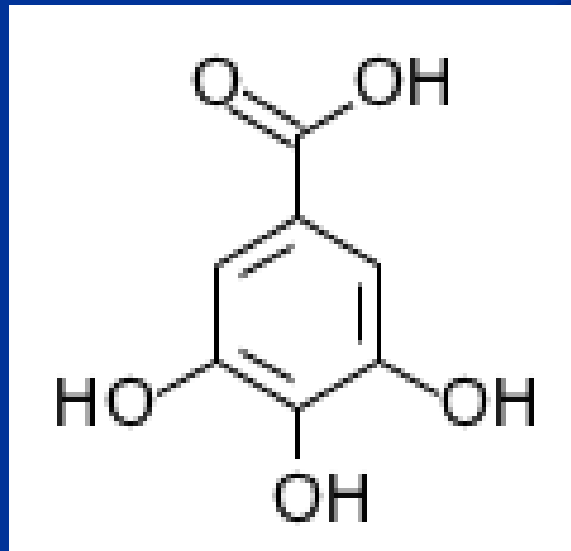
- Reduce prostate and breast cancer
- In prostate cancer- growth of cancer cells by testosterone but suppressed by oestradiol. - Isoflavonoids can suppress testosterone when oestradiol is not sufficient
- Anti-inflammatory and show cardioprotective





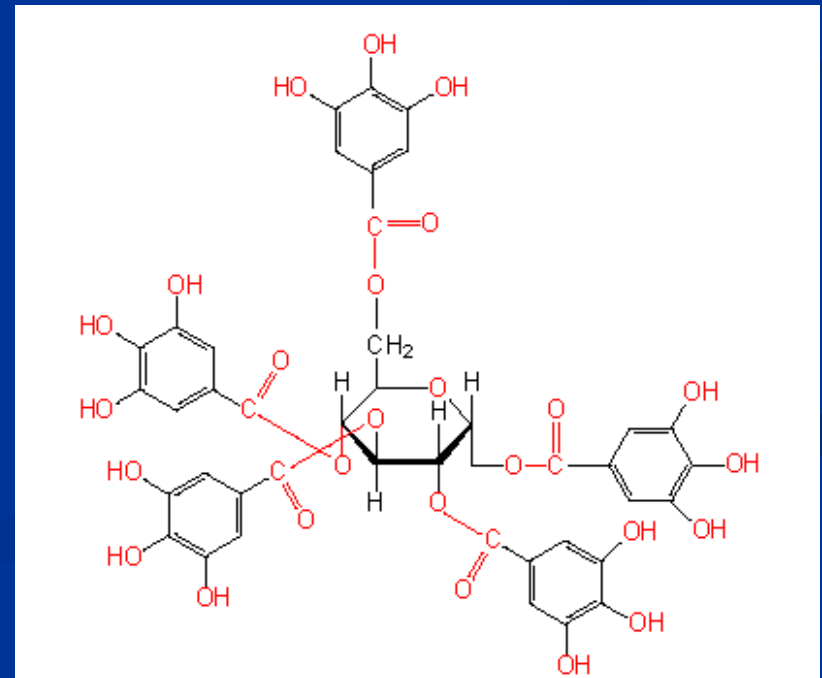
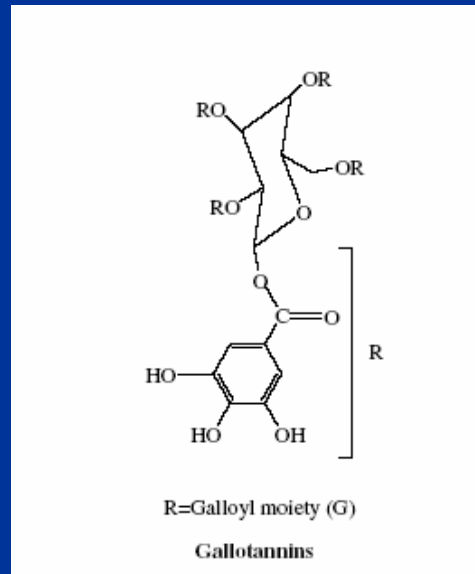
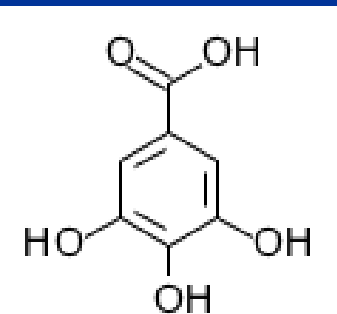
# *Non-Flavonoids- Phenolic acids*

- Also known as hydroxybenzoates
- Principle component is Gallic acid (derived from the shikimate pathway)



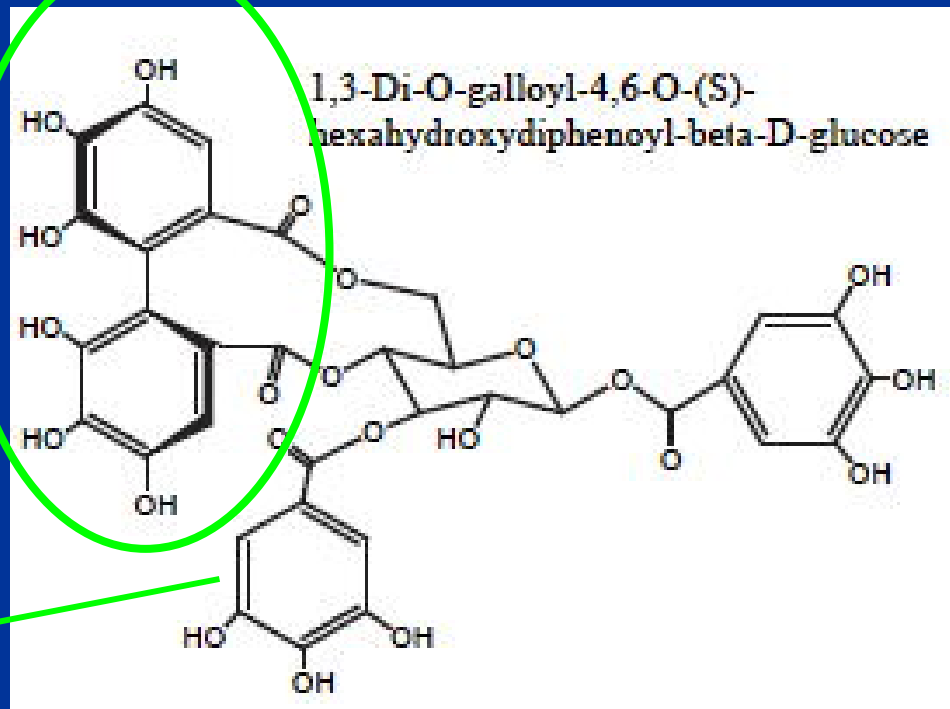
# *Non-Flavonoids- Gallotannines*

- Gallic acid is the base unit of Gallotannines
- Gallic acid residues linked to Glucose (often) via glycosidic bond (galloyl moiety)
- Gallotannines are **hydrolysable** tannins, treatment with dilute acids release gallic acid residues

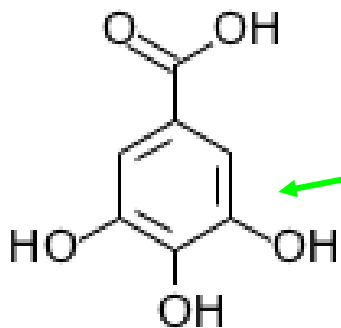


# *Non-Flavonoids- Ellagitannines*

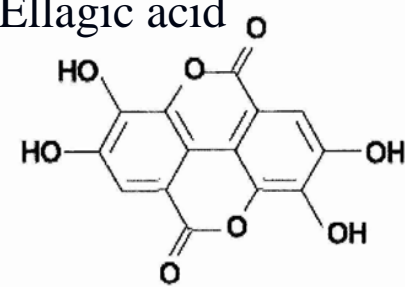
- Called ellagitannins since ellagic acid is released acid
- Composed of Gallic acid and hexahydroxydiphenoyl moieties



Gallic acid

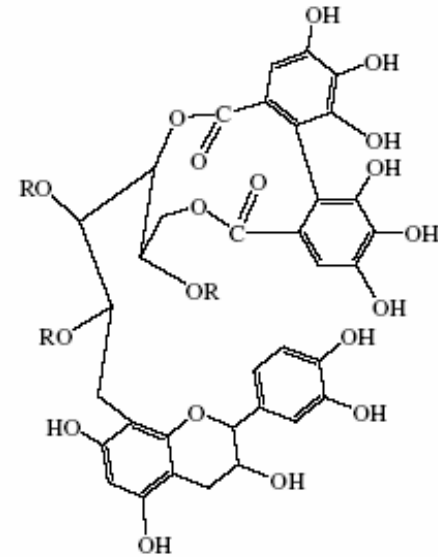


Ellagic acid



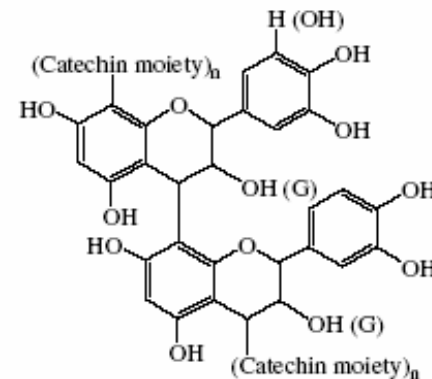
# *Non-Flavonoids- Type of Tannins*

- Complex tannins-  
catechin or  
epicatechin bound  
bound to a galltannin  
or ellagitannin unit



R=Galloyl moiety (G) or other substituents

Complex Tannins



Condensed Tannins

# *Non-Flavonoids- General*

## *Hydrolysable & Condensed Tannines*

- Plant polyphenols that have the ability to precipitate protein- generally called tannins
- Used for a 1000 years to convert raw animal hides into leather
- In this process, tannin molecules cross-link the protein and make it more resistant to bacterial and fungal attack

# Non-Flavonoids- Tannines

| Occurrence of tannins in plants |                          |                                 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Family                          | Species                  | Types of tannins                |
| <i>Anacardiaceae</i>            | <i>Rhus</i> sp.          | Gallotannins, ellagitannins     |
|                                 | <i>Schinopsis</i> sp.    | Condensed tannins               |
|                                 | <i>Loxopterygium</i> sp. | Condensed tannins               |
| <i>Leguminosae</i>              | <i>Caesalpinia</i> sp.   | Gallotannins, ellagitannins     |
|                                 | <i>Acacia</i> sp.        | Gallotannins, condensed tannins |
| <i>Fagaceae</i>                 | <i>Quercus</i> sp.       | Gallotannins, ellagitannins     |
|                                 | <i>Castanea</i> sp.      | Ellagitannins                   |
|                                 | <i>Myroxylon</i> sp.     | Gallotannins, ellagitannins     |
|                                 | <i>Prosopis</i> sp.      | Gallotannins, ellagitannins     |
|                                 | <i>Terminalia</i> sp.    | Ellagitannins                   |
| <i>Myrtaceae</i>                | <i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.    | Ellagitannins                   |
| <i>Rosaceae</i>                 | <i>Prunus</i> sp.        | Ellagitannins                   |
|                                 | <i>Rubus</i> sp.         | Ellagitannins                   |
| <i>Saxifragaceae</i>            | <i>Ribes</i> sp.         | Ellagitannins                   |
| <i>Theaceae</i>                 | <i>Camelia</i> sp.       | Ellagitannins, complex tannins  |
| <i>Vitaceae</i>                 | <i>Vitis</i> sp.         | Ellagitannins, complex tannins  |
| <i>Pinaceae</i>                 | <i>Pinus</i> sp.         | Condensed tannins               |

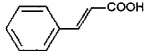
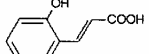


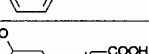
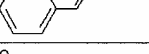
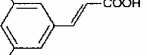
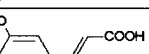
# *Non-Flavonoids- General*

## *Hydrolysable & Condensed Tannines*

- Tannins bind to salivary proteins and making the astringency taste
- In fruit- Astringency in Persimmon, strawberry (boser)
- Astringency (mild) enhances the taste of wine and tea
- Animals such as apes and deer will not eat fruit with high tannins
- In fruit- tannins decline in ripening-evolution for seed dispersal

# *Non-Flavonoids- Hydroxycinnamates or cinnamic acids*

- Generated from cinnamic acid
- They are phenylpropanoids
- Most common: p-coumaric acid, caffeic and ferulic acids

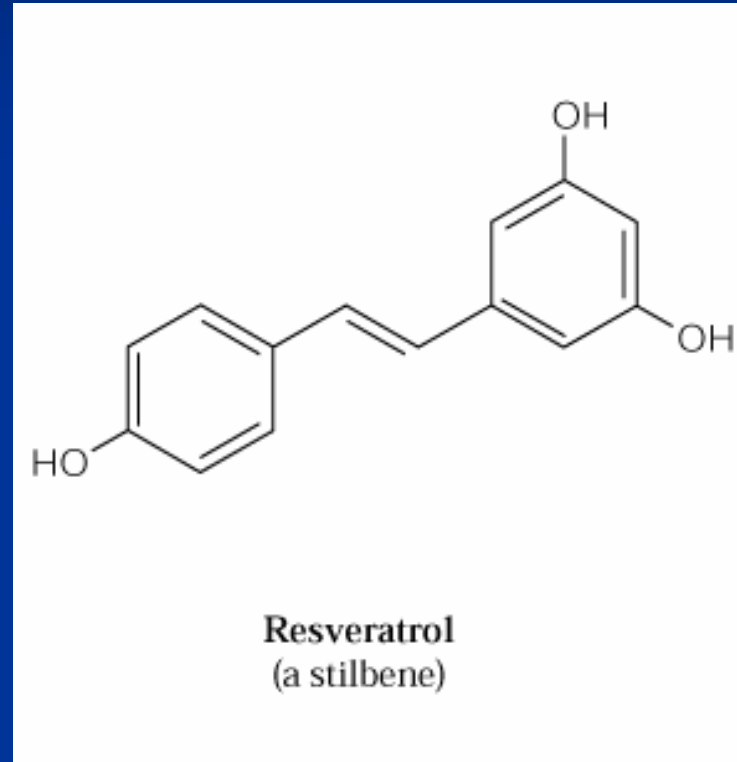
| Name             | Structure   | Source   |
|------------------|---|--|
| cinnamic acid    |    | oil of cinnamon, coca leaves   |
| o-coumaric acid  |    | cherry, plum   |
| m-coumaric acid  |    | cherry, plum   |
| p-coumaric acid  |    | most fruits (esp. blueberry, raspberry and pineapple) apple, tomato, grape, olive                                    |
| ferulic acid     |  | grains, nuts, tumeric, peppers, citrus fruit, tomato, cabbage, asparagus   |
| sinapic acid     |  | brussel sprouts, potatoes, rapeseed; trace amounts in citrus, pineapple, tomato                                      |
| caffeic acid     |  | grape, apple, plum, tomato, eggplant, cabbage, asparagus, endives, potatoes (the most abundant hydroxycinnamic acid) |
| chlorogenic acid |  | apple, pear, peach (and most fruits), tomato, coffee   |



# *Non-Flavonoids- Stilbens*

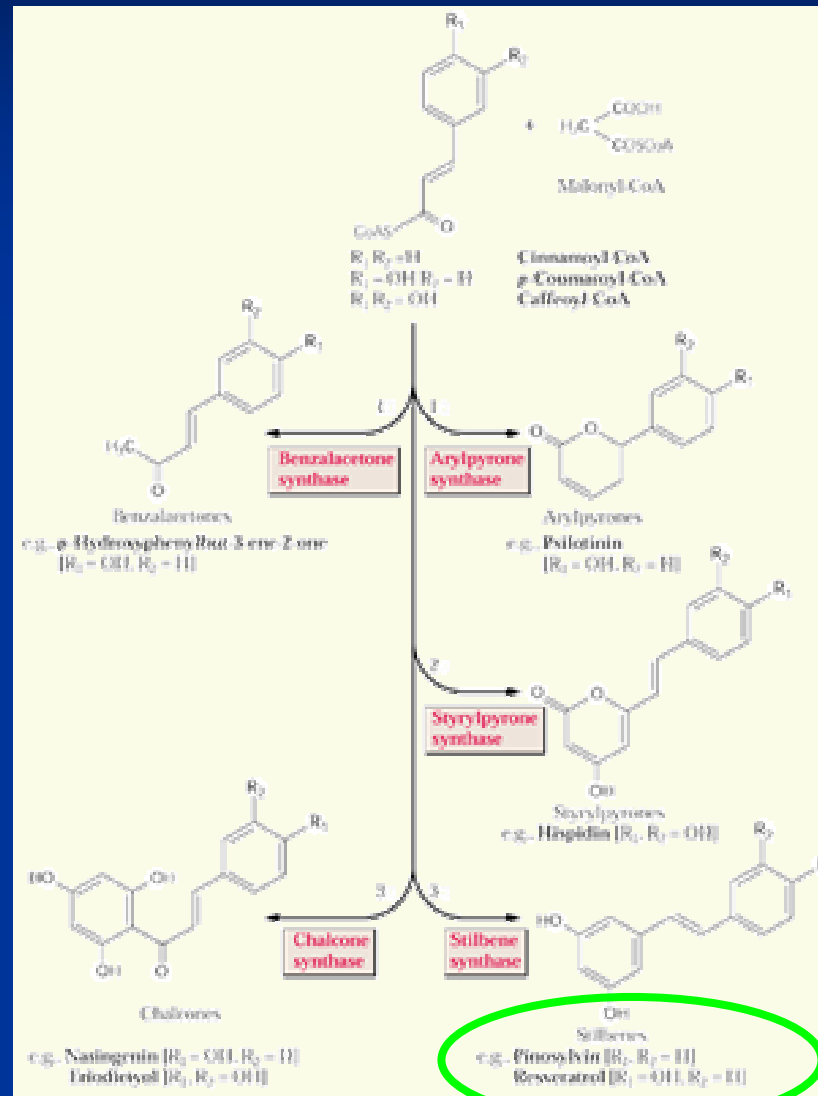
- Members of the stilbene family have the C6-C2-C6 structure
- Polyphenolic like flavonoids
- They are phytoalexines, produced in response to fungal, bacterial, viral attack
- Resveratrol, the most common stilbene
- Major source: grape, wine, peanut products and soya
- trans-resveratrol and its glucoside are the active agents in the famous Itadori root ("well being" in Japanese)
- Cardio protective effects of red wine, can inhibit LDL oxidation which is the initial stage of atherosclerosis

# *Non-Flavonoids- Stilbens- Resveratrol*




Also has potent anti-tumor activity

# Non-Flavonoids- Stilbens- Resveratrol

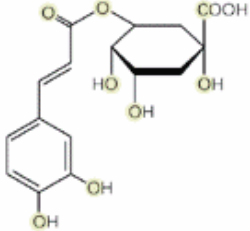


# Phenylypropanoids & flavour/fragrance


**Coffee beans**



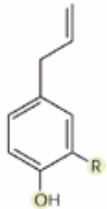
**Chlorogenic acid**



**Cloves**




**Chavicol**  
**Eugenol**

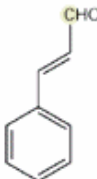


R = H Chavicol  
 R = OCH<sub>3</sub> Eugenol


**Cinnamon bark**



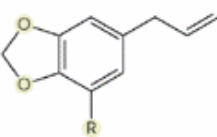
**Cinnamaldehyde**



**Nutmeg**




**Safrole**  
**Myristicin**

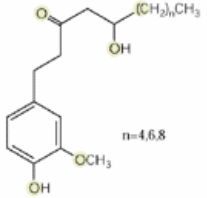


R = H Safrole  
 R = OCH<sub>3</sub> Myristicin

**Ginger rhizome**




**Gingerols**

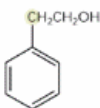


n=4,6,8


**Orchid**



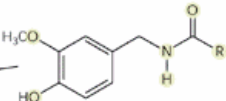
**Phenylethyl alcohol**

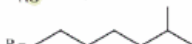


**Red and black peppers**

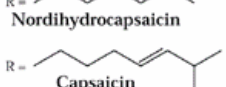



**Nordihydrocapsaicin**



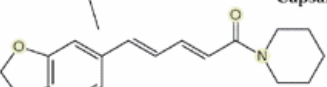
R = 

**Capsaicin**




R = 

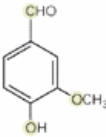
**Piperine**




**Vanilla**



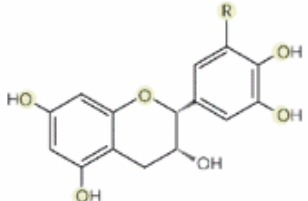
**Vanillin**



**Green tea**



**(-)Epicatechin**  
**(-)Epigallocatechin**



R = H (-)Epicatechin  
 R = OH (-)Epigallocatechin