

Introduction

A single insect bite can lead to the most horrifying maladies. Many blood-sucking flies and mosquitos carry parasites, such as protozoans and worms, which enter through the wound. During various life cycles the parasites circulate in the host's body and disseminate, causing life-long misery, organ dysfunctions, abnormally deformed body parts, loss of eyesight, and fatal fevers. According to the WHO, nearly half the world's population is at risk of severe parasitic infections, such as malaria, river blindness, and elephantiasis, with hundreds of millions people being infected each year. Fortunately, nature provides efficient remedies against parasites, yet it takes individuals to promote their discovery and development into therapeutics. Owing to their eminent contributions to the field of antiparasitic natural products, the 2015 Nobel Prize for Medicine has thus been awarded to three scientists, Youyou Tu, Satoshi Omura, and William C. Campbell. Their work is particularly relevant for curing parasitic diseases that are closely linked to poverty and are prevalent in countries where preventive measures or effective therapies cannot be afforded.

紹介論文

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Natural Products as Source of Therapeutics against Parasitic Diseases

*Christian Hertweck**