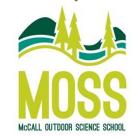


# Chemistry Experiential Learning Through Native Plants

Mark Wolfenden PhD

McCall Outdoor Science School Natural Resources and Society College of Natural Resources University of Idaho



# From Here to There







Study of Biological Processes Mediated by Carbohydrate-Protein Interactions Influenza Detection via Scent Siderophore Based Bacteria Capture Microbe Inspired Novel Antibiotics **Biocorrosion of Carbon Steel** 



# Connecting Plant Pheromones to Fluorescence Based Remote Sensing

# Assessing Plant Species on an Elevational Gradient in The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness





### How do native plants and organic chemistry fit together?

Why does this matter?

What is happening at MOSS with organic chemistry and plants?



### **Plants Capture Human Imagination**



First, we'll need a plant eater. This one's perfect: It's an aphid, a hungry little critter who loves to munch on fresh, green leaves ...

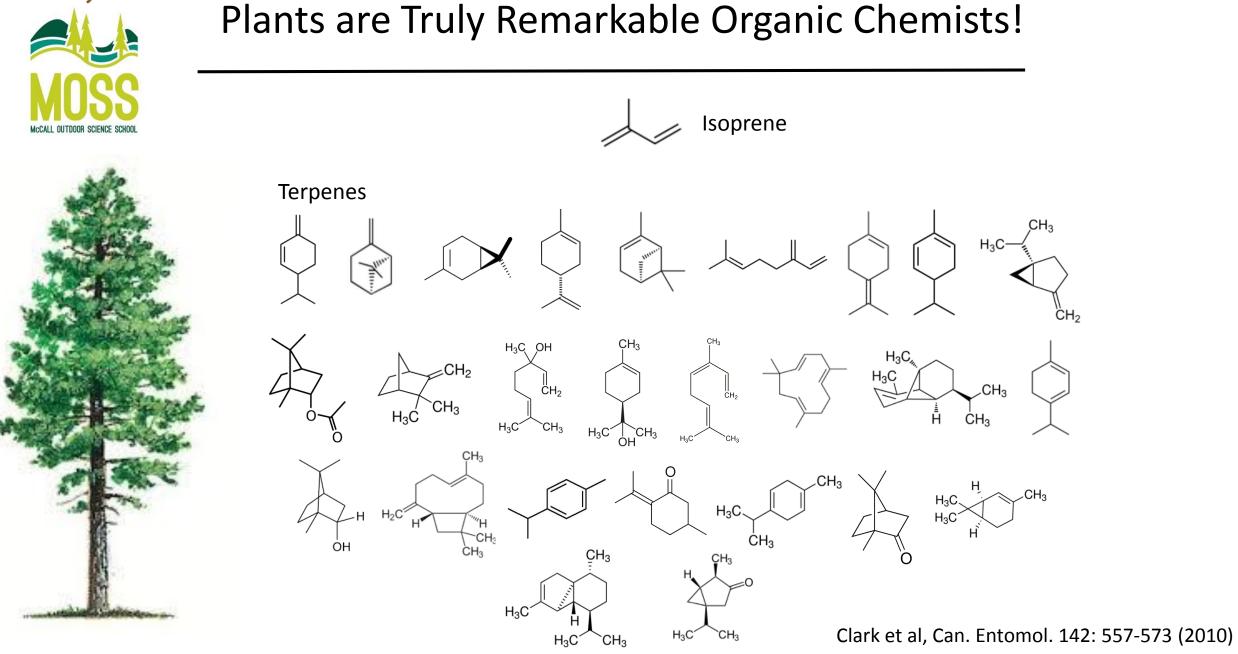
### Plants Capture Human Imagination





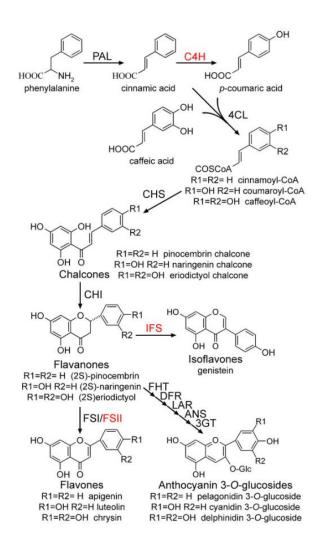
### Plants use Organic Chemistry to Communicate

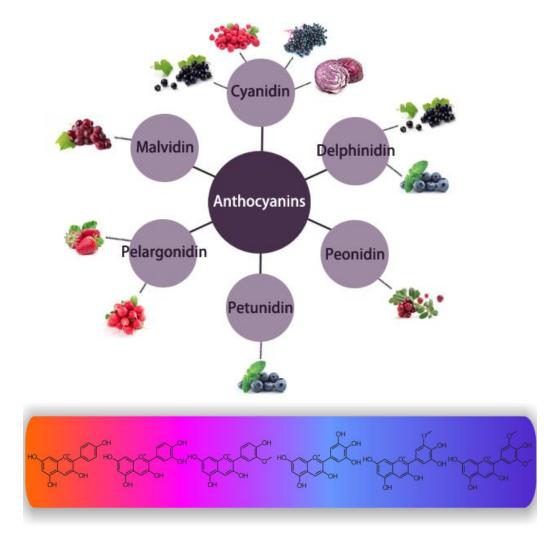






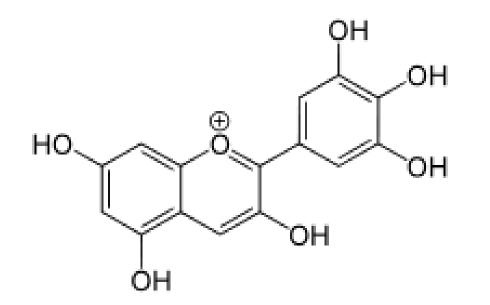
## Plants are Truly Remarkable Organic Chemists!







# How to do it?



## Delphinidin

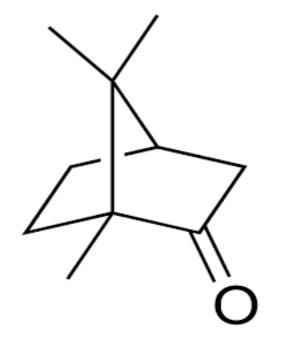
Anthocyanin dye found in huckleberries



University of Idaho graduate students Frank Church Wilderness



# How to do it?



### Camphor Major volatile organic from big sagebrush

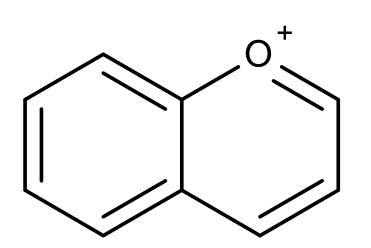


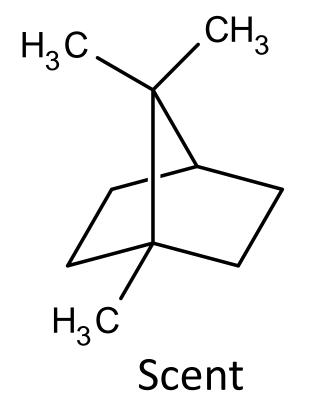
University of Utah graduate students Centennial Valley, Montana





# How to do it?





Color



### The Outcome.....



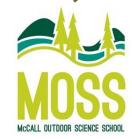
# Summary



Organic chemistry is more compelling when outside and utilizing sensory experience

Native plants create a connection to place and facilitate intimacy with the natural world

When done this way anyone can do organic chemistry



#### Organic Chemistry offered at the McCall Field Campus!

Chem 275/276 Carbon Compounds May 23 - June 10, 2016, McCall, ID

Come and learn organic chemistry next to Payette Lake with the spring wildflowers blooming!

This unique course offering (CH 275) will teach fundamental organic chemistry principles using the natural world as a tool to learn from. We will study plants and natural materials through the lens of organic chemistry, looking at how plants make chemicals that we smell, see and taste and analyzing these structures and compounds unique to plants. The Laboratory class (CH 276) will take place both indoors and outdoors. We will explore natural products using distillation, liquid and sohxlet extraction, chromatography and have examples of spectroscopy to guide our learning. We will also perform some chemical transformations to understand organic chemistry reactions and mechanisms.

Course Costs: Tuition - \$1404 for both CH 275 (3 credits) and CH 276 (1 credit) Room and Board at McCall Field Campus: \$973.75





# In Summary



# Acknowledgements

#### UI/CNR/MOSS

Dr. Lee Vierling Dr. Karla Bradley Dr. Jan Eitel Dr. Teresa Cohn Pete and Meg Gag

Dr. Jim Kingery Dr. Anthony Davis (OSU) Dr. Steve Cook Dr. Armando Mcdonald Gary Thompson

#### **Inspiration**

Alexander Von Humboldt Ellen Meloy Dr. Ted Bartlett Terry Tempest Williams Brooke Williams