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## Preface

This book is the revision of Science Press of China in 2006. It is one in the series "Basic Modern Chemistry" used to introduce modern chemistry and as a reference book for scientists and graduate students.

China is a country that is rich in natural resources because of its vast territory, diverse geography, and different climates. Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is very important to the health of the Chinese and has been practiced in China for more than 5,000 years. Most TCM products come from plants. Some also come from animals, marine products, and minerals. Natural products chemistry is one of the most developed scientific fields in China and almost every Chinese university has a research or teaching unit for natural products chemistry or chemistry of natural medicines. The discovery of the remarkable antimalarial drug, artemisinin (Qinghaosu) and its derivatives from TCM herbs, *Artemisia annua*, encouraged many scientists around the world to study TCM herbs. Chinese scientists have published papers in many well known scientific journals including *Nature*, *Science*, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, *Tetrahedron*, *Journal of Natural Products*, *Phytochemistry*, as well as many journals in China.

This book has collected the most important research results of natural products chemistry in China. It covers the basic principles of isolation, structure, characteristics, and the current research techniques of structure elucidation with wet chemistry and spectroscopic analyses (UV, IR, MS and NMR, especially 2d-NMR, HMBC and HMQC), bioactivity, biosynthesis, and chemical synthesis. These concepts are illustrated with examples from the authors' own scientific experiments. All the authors are scientists from Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences; Shanghai Institute of Pharmaceutical Industry; College of Pharmacy, Fudan University; and Chinese Pharmaceutical University. They are professors and experts in their fields.

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Editors

2010 May