

enzymes

Macromolecules, mostly of protein nature, that function as *(bio)catalysts* by increasing the reaction rates. In general, an enzyme catalyses only one reaction type (reaction specificity) and operates on only one type of *substrate* (substrate specificity). Substrate molecules are attacked at the same site (regiospecificity) and only one or preferentially one of the enantiomers of chiral substrates or of racemic mixtures is attacked (stereospecificity).

1992, 64, 152; 1993, 65, 2295; 1994, 66, 2593