

terpenes

Hydrocarbons of biological origin having carbon skeletons formally derived from isoprene [$\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$]. This class is subdivided into the C_5 hemiterpenes, C_{10} monoterpenes, C_{15} sesquiterpenes, C_{20} diterpenes, C_{25} sesterterpenes, C_{30} triterpenes, C_{40} tetraterpenes (carotenoids) and C_{5n} polyterpenes.

See also *carotenes*, *carotenoids*, *isoprenoids*, *prenols*, *retinoids*, *steroids*, *terpenoids*.

1995, 67, 1371