

Literature Talk November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

ona Mathis McWhinnie MacMillan Group Princeton University

# Fragrance Chemistry



#### Organic Synthesis in Society



#### Organic Synthesis in Society



#### Organic Synthesis in Society

Cleaning Products \$255.7 Billion

Personal Hygiene & Grooming \$592.6 Billion



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Natural Fragrances

Fragrance Discovery

Conclusion and Outlook

#### Outline

Difactory Sense

Synthetic Fragrances

• Vanillin

• (–)-Ambrox

• (–)- $\beta$ -Santalol

• Discovery of Nympheal

#### Importance of Olfaction









Sell, Charles S. Fundamentals of fragrance chemistry. John Wiley & Sons, 2019. Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

#### The Olfactory Sense

#### **Requirements for an odorant**





Sell, Charles S. Fundamentals of fragrance chemistry. John Wiley & Sons, 2019. Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

#### The Olfactory Sense

#### **Requirements for an odorant**





Sharma, A.; Kumar, R.; Aier, I.; Semwal, R.; Tyagi, P.; Varadwaj, P. Curr Neuropharmacol 2019, 17 (9), 891-911.







Buck L. and Axel R. *Cell*. **1991**, **65**(1),175-187. https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/2004/press-release/





























Sharma, A.; Kumar, R.; Aier, I.; Semwal, R.; Tyagi, P.; Varadwaj, P. Curr Neuropharmacol 2019, 17 (9), 891-911.



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Sharma, A.; Kumar, R.; Aier, I.; Semwal, R.; Tyagi, P.; Varadwaj, P. Curr Neuropharmacol 2019, 17 (9), 891-911.







# The Olfactory Sense



**Taste Buds** 

**Trigeminal Nerve** 



## **Natural Sources**



# Fragrance Ingredients



# **Fragrance Discovery**



# **Natural Sources**



# Fragrance Ingredients





# **Synthesis**

# **Fragrance Discovery**



Oil Expression

Dry Distillation

#### Natural Sources



Steam Distillation

Solvent Extraction



Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

#### Oil Expression

- Physical pressure applied to produce expressed oil
- Commercial citrus oils



# Oil Expression





#### Dry Distillation

- Heat applied directly to plant material
- Usually reserved for high boiling point wood oils

Essential oil



Heat

#### Steam Distillation

- Water or steam added to material, codistilled with oil
- Minimal degradation due to temperature ceiling

- Essential oil
- Aromatic distilled water



#### Solvent Extraction

- most important extraction method
- produces an absolute (residual solvent may be present)



Plant material

Fractional distillation

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

### Essential Oil Analysis

GC–MS


# GC-Sniffing

GC-Olfactometry or GC-Sniffing

- Column effluent split between detector and smelling port
- Human nose can be more sensitive to certain materials than some detectors



Sell, Charles S. Fundamentals of fragrance chemistry. John Wiley & Sons, 2019. Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

#### Headspace Analysis

Headspace: air above or around a fragrant substance that contains volatile compounds



# **Natural Sources**



# Fragrance Ingredients





**Synthesis** 

# **Fragrance Discovery**

Why Make Synthetic Fragrances?





- unfavorable carbon footprints
- Low yielding and unsustainable land and water usage

- Significant material burden; not atom economical
- Manual labor costs for growing and harvesting

Sell, Charles S. *Fundamentals of fragrance chemistry*. John Wiley & Sons, 2019. Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.





### Cost

# **Security of Supply**

- Limited availability for plants growing in select regions
- Supply dependent on weather and affected by natural disasters

Why Make Synthetic Fragrances?



Sustainability

"Natural isn't always better"

Sell, Charles S. *Fundamentals of fragrance chemistry*. John Wiley & Sons, 2019. Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.





Cost

# **Security of Supply**

Vanillin





Vanilla planifolia

Native to the tropical forests of Mexico, Central and and northern south Africa

Dried, cured, and extracted for the production of vanilla extract

#### From Vanilla to Vanillin





#### Vanilla Pods (1.7-2.8% vanillin)

Vanillin

First isolated in 1858 by Théodore Nicolas Goblet





Wilhelm Haarmann 1847–1931



Haarmann & Reimer

First Route for the Industrial Production of Vanillin



Minimal cost benefits









70-95% in clove oil Easily isolated by distillation

**Produced on an Industrial Scale** 

Haarmann–Reimer Collaboration – 1876

1.  $K_2Cr_2O_7$  $H_2SO_4$ 2. KOH (aq) 3.  $H_2SO_4$ 



eugenyl acetate

vanillin



Abundant starting material



Chromium

Modern Routes

#### Rhône-Poulenc (now Solvay)



Solvay



Schaefer, Bernd. Natural products in the chemical industry. Vol. 831. Heidelberg: Springer, 2014.

D'Arrigo, P.; Rossato, L. A. M.; Serra, S. *Molecules*. **2024**, *29*(2), 442.



#### undesired waste material in paper and pulp industry

D'Arrigo, P.; Rossato, L. A. M..; Serra, S. *Molecules*. **2024**, *29*(2), 442.





Modern Syntheses of Vanillin – Lignin

D'Arrigo, P.; Rossato, L. A. M.; Serra, S. *Molecules*. **2024**, *29*(2), 442.

Enzymatic Productions

#### The Rhodia Process





Lee, E.G.; Yoon, S.H.; Das, A.; Lee, S.H.; Li, C.; Kim, J.Y.; Choi, M. S.; Oh, E. K.; Kim, S. W. Biotechnol Bioeng. 2009, 102(1), 200. Furuya, T.; Miura, M.; Kuroiwa, M.; Kino, K. New Biotechnology. 2015, 32(3), 335.

(–)-Ambrox



Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)

Elterlein, F.; Bugdahn, N.; Kraft, P. Chem. Eur. J. 2024, 30, e202400006.

## Ambergris to Ambrox

**Digestive Tract** Injuries



# Ambergris – "floating gold" up to \$40,000 per kg





Max Stoll 1899–1969

ambergris tincture

## Ambergris to Ambrox



ambreine (odorless) 25-45% in ambergris





Max Stoll 1899–1969

ambergris tincture

## Ambergris to Ambrox



ambreine (odorless) 25-45% in ambergris (–)-Ambrox (smelling principle) trace in ambergris





Max Stoll 1899–1969

ambergris tincture

## Ambergris to Ambrox



ambreine (odorless) 25-45% in ambergris (–)-Ambrox (smelling principle) trace in ambergris



(-)-sclareol

allylic oxidation (Cr(VI), KMnO<sub>4</sub>, Ozone)



Clary Sage (*Salvia sclarea*)

## Ambergris to Ambrox: initial route







Clary Sage (*Salvia sclarea*)

## Ambergris to Ambrox: initial route



# Biosynthesis of (–)-Sclareodiol



(–)-sclareol

# Cytotoxic to many cells Hard to obtain commercially



Hyphozyma roseonigra

Ncube, E.N.; Steenkamp, P.A.; van der Westhuyzen, C.W.; Steenkamp, L.H.; Dubery, I.A. Catalysts 2022, 12, 55.

Biosynthesis of (–)-Sclareol







from S. sclarea



geranylgeranyl diphosphate (GGPP)

labdadienyl diphosphate (LDPP)

sclareol synthase (SsScS) from S. sclarea



- minimal toxicity to E. coli host
- heterologous enzyme expression

Biosynthesis of (–)-Sclareol

Me



dsm-firmenich



Schalk, M.; Pastore, L.; Mirata, M.A.; Khim, S.; Schouwey, M.; Deguerry, F.; Pineda, V.; Rocci, L.; Daviet, L. 2012. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 134(46), 18900

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geranylgeranyl diphosphate (GGPP)

labdadienyl diphosphate (LDPP)



(–)-Ambrox \$150/kg production value

## Biosynthesis of (–)-Ambrox





Eichhorn, E., & Schroeder, F. Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, 2023, 71(13), 5042-5052.

## Biosynthesis of (–)-Ambrox





Eichhorn, E., & Schroeder, F. Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, 2023, 71(13), 5042-5052.

(–)-β-Santalol





#### Steam Distillation

#### East Indian Sandalwood (Santalum album)

# Sandalwood to (–)-β-Santalol



Sandalwood oil (5-7% yield) \$3000-8000 per L

https://www.acs.org/molecule-of-the-week/archive/s/santalols.html







#### Steam Distillation

#### East Indian Sandalwood (*Santalum album*)

# Sandalwood to (-)- $\beta$ -Santalol



Sandalwood oil (5-7% yield) \$3000-8000 per L





a-santalol (41-55%)

(–)-β-santalol (16-24%)

#### Sandalwood to (–)-β-Santalol – First Asymmetric Synthesis





Schalk, M.; Pastore, L.; Mirata, M. A.; Khim, S.; Schouwey, M.; Deguerry, F.; Pineda, V.; Rocci, L.; Daviet, L.: Journal of the American Chemical Society 2012, 134 (46), 18900-18903





## Sandalwood to (–)-β-Santalol – First Asymmetric Synthesis





Schalk, M.; Pastore, L.; Mirata, M. A.; Khim, S.; Schouwey, M.; Deguerry, F.; Pineda, V.; Rocci, L.; Daviet, L.: Journal of the American Chemical Society 2012, 134 (46), 18900-18903





### Sandalwood to (–)-β-Santalol – First Asymmetric Synthesis







# (*–*)-*β*-Santalol 97% ee, Z/E 97:3 after low temp pentane recrystallization

50%

Schalk, M.; Pastore, L.; Mirata, M. A.; Khim, S.; Schouwey, M.; Deguerry, F.; Pineda, V.; Rocci, L.; Daviet, L.: Journal of the American Chemical Society 2012, 134 (46), 18900-18903



Sandalwood to β-Santalol – Industrial Route



69% (98:2 endo/exo) (*E*,*E*/*E*,*Z* 35:1)

Fehr, C.; Magpantay, I.; Vuagnoux, M.; Dupau, P. *Chemistry – A European Journal* **2011**, *17* (4), 1257-1260.

## Sandalwood to β-Santalol – Industrial Route



santene



Fehr, C.; Magpantay, I.; Vuagnoux, M.; Dupau, P. *Chemistry – A European Journal* **2011**, *17* (4), 1257-1260.





## Sandalwood to β-Santalol – Industrial Route



santene



rac-β-Santalol exo:endo 98:2 *E/Z* 98:2 cat NaOMe, MeOH

86%



Fehr, C.; Magpantay, I.; Vuagnoux, M.; Dupau, P. *Chemistry – A European Journal* **2011**, *17*(4), 1257-1260.





### Sandalwood to β-Santalol – Biosynthetic Route





Jörg Bohlmann University of British Columbia

> Jones, C. G.; Moniodis, J.; Zulak, K. G.; Scaffidi, A.; Plummer, J. A.; Ghisalberti, E. L.; Barbour, E. L.; Bohlmann, J. Journal of Biological Chemistry 2011, 286 (20), 17445-17454. Jones, C. G.; Keeling, C. I.; Ghisalberti, E. L.; Barbour, E. L.; Plummer, J. A.; Bohlmann, J., Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics 2008, 477 (1), 121-130.
## Sandalwood to β-Santalol – Biosynthetic Route



Jörg Bohlmann University of British Columbia



East Indian Sandalwood (Santalum album)



New Caledonia Sandalwood (Santalum austrocaledonicum)



Austrailian Sandalwood (Santalum spicatum)

Jones, C. G.; Moniodis, J.; Zulak, K. G.; Scaffidi, A.; Plummer, J. A.; Ghisalberti, E. L.; Barbour, E. L.; Bohlmann, J. Journal of Biological Chemistry 2011, 286 (20), 17445-17454. Jones, C. G.; Keeling, C. I.; Ghisalberti, E. L.; Barbour, E. L.; Plummer, J. A.; Bohlmann, J., Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics 2008, 477 (1), 121-130.





farnesyl pyrophosphate

(-)- $\beta$ -Santalol

Cloned and characterized  $\bullet$ three orthogolous terpene synthases

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## Sandalwood to β-Santalol – Biosynthetic Route



Jörg Bohlmann University of British Columbia



East Indian Sandalwood (Santalum album)



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farnesyl pyrophosphate

Cloned and characterized  $\bullet$ three orthogolous terpene synthases







## Sandalwood to $\beta$ -Santalol – Biosynthetic Route







E. coli or S. cerevisiae

Co expressed genes coding for:

- Farnesyl pyrophosphate synthase
- Santalene synthase
- P450 santalene oxidase
- P450 reductase



M. Schalk, A. Taglieber, L. Daviet, Perfum. Flavor. 2020, 45 (May), 38-44









## Fragrance Ingredients





## **Synthesis**

## **Fragrance Discovery**

Fragrance Discovery



Major Players in Fragrance Production



# dsm-firmenich

#### Switzerland & Netherlands





Clichy, France



Switzerland





England, UK



**Procter & Gamble** OH, USA



NY, USA





## Fragrance Discovery

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.



• Ability of odor to stick to hair or fabric

Persistence/Tenacity

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

#### Odor Characteristics

• Dependent upon volatility and log(P)





Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

#### Odor Characteristics

- Lowest concentration at which odor can be perceived
- Less material required, lower costs

Threshold





Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

#### **Odor Characteristics**



#### Threshold

#### Impact

- Subjective phenomenon
- Intensity of perceived sensation





Radiance

space

• Requires low recognition threshold

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

#### Odor Characteristics





#### Threshold

Impact

• The ability of a fragrance to fill a





Radiance

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

#### Odor Characteristics





#### Threshold





#### Bloom

- The ability of a fragrance to perfume a room when introduced as a solid
- Relevant for soap fragrances





Radiance

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

#### **Odor Characteristics**





#### Threshold

Impact





Trail

Bloom





Random Screening

Mechanism of Action

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

## Strategies for Novel Fragrance Design



Statistical Design

## Strategies for Novel Fragrance Design





#### Random Screening

Mechanism of Action

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.



Statistical Design







#### Random Screening

## Random Screening



Lilial

#### hydroxycitronellal

Anselmi, C.; Centini, M.; Mariani, M.; Sega, A.; Pelosi, P. Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry 1992, 40 (5), 853-856.







#### Random Screening

## Random Screening



Lilial

#### hydroxycitronellal

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Random Screening

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## Strategies for Novel Fragrance Design





**Random Screening** 

Mechanism of Action

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.



Statistical Design





Mechanism of Action

**Odorant Promiscuity** 

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

Mechanism of Action



**Binding Site Promiscuity** 

Intensity



**Odorant Promiscuity** 



**Binding Site Promiscuity** 

Intensity

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

#### Mechanism of Action



## Strategies for Novel Fragrance Design





**Random Screening** 

Mechanism of Action

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.



Statistical Design

log(activity) = f(electronic) + f(steric) + f(log P)

The Hansch Approach



Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

## Statistical Design

Pattern Recognition

Olfactophores

## **Physical Features**





Corwin Hansch (1918-2011)

log(activity) = f(electronic) + *f*(steric) + *f*(log *P*)

**Odor Properties** 

## The Hansch Approach



Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.

#### Odor correlated with boiling point and log(P)



Greenberg, M. J. Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry 1979, 27 (2), 347-352. Boelens, H. Trends in Pharmacological Sciences. 1983, 4, 421-426.

#### The Hansch Approach

#### Odor intensity correlated with log(P) and hydrogen bonding

$$log(1/c) = -0.38 + (0.19)(log P)^2 + 2.12 \pm (0.74) log P + 1.18(0.48)HB - 5.23 \pm (0.45) \\ n = 50, r^2 = 0.80, SD = 1.17$$



#### large number of compounds with structural diversity



Molecular Descriptors

topological geometrical electronic physicochemical



#### **Automated Data Analysis using** Pattern recognition Techniques

#### Pattern Recognition

#### Molecular Classes



**Threshold** 

#### Quantitative *or* Qualitative



Fragrance Classes

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.



#### **Threshold**

 $\log C = \log of concentration$ to produce odor equivalent to 87 ppm 1-butanol in air



## Pattern Recognition

Model developed

Edwards, P.A. and Jurs, P.C. Jurs, Chem. Senses. 1989, 14(2), 281.





## Pattern Recognition

Descriptor	Coefficient (error)
log mol wt.	-7.02 (0.82)
charge on most negative atom	+3.93 (0.65)
polarity parameter ( $\Delta$ )	+1.64 (0.32)
measure of unsaturation	-0.53 (0.14)
average distance sum connectivity	-0.74 (0.28)

Edwards, P.A. and Jurs, P.C. Jurs, *Chem. Senses.* **1989**, *14*(2), 281.

Olfactophores

olfactophore (or osmophore): 3-dimensional arrangement of chemical features in a molecule that is responsible for its olfactory activity

Sell, C. S., *Chemistry of Fragrances*. The Royal Society of Chemistry: 2006.



Sandalwood Oil

Active Analogue Approach: assume a common conformation among an active series is responsible for odor

Buchbauer, G.; Hillisch, A.; Mraz, K.; Wolschann, P. Helvetica Chimica Acta 1994, 77 (8), 2286-2296.

Olfactophores



(–)-β-Santalol principle smelling component

#### Sandalwood odor molecules



Buchbauer, G.; Hillisch, A.; Mraz, K.; Wolschann, P. Helvetica Chimica Acta 1994, 77 (8), 2286-2296.





G







#### Sandalwood odor molecules







G





Buchbauer, G.; Hillisch, A.; Mraz, K.; Wolschann, P. Helvetica Chimica Acta 1994, 77 (8), 2286-2296.





## Olfactophores



E-L overlay

P2

P1



A-I overlay

Buchbauer, G.; Hillisch, A.; Mraz, K.; Wolschann, P. Helvetica Chimica Acta 1994, 77 (8), 2286-2296.

#### **Odorless molecules**













## Olfactophores

Buchbauer, G.; Hillisch, A.; Mraz, K.; Wolschann, P. Helvetica Chimica Acta 1994, 77 (8), 2286-2296.

#### Sandalwood Odor





G



Odorless molecules



d



e

#### Olfactophores



Me

#### **Overlay of Odor and Odorless Compounds**

purple bulks represent deviations of odorless compounds


Lily of the Valley (Convallaria majalis)

Goeke, A.; Kraft, P.; Lelievre, D.; Alchenberger, A. Perfum. Flavor 2018, 43, 25-40.

## The Discovery of Nympheal



Nympheal<sup>™</sup> — Floral and Muguet scent by Givaudan



Lily of the Valley (Convallaria majalis)

## The Discovery of Nympheal

- Very delicate odor mixture
- No commercial essential oil exists
- Even CO<sub>2</sub> (I) extraction destroys odor
- No principle natural odorant exists

The First Synthetic Muguet Oil



HO

"Synthetic muguet oil" 1902 by Haarmann&Reimer



farnesol (20)





geranoil or geranium oil (50)

cinnamic alcohol (30)



a-ionone (2)

benzaldehyde (1)





hydroxycitronellal th 4.8 ng/L air (1905)

Goeke, A.; Kraft, P.; Lelievre, D.; Alchenberger, A. Perfum. Flavor 2018, 43, 25-40.

## The Discovery of Nympheal

cyclamen aldehyde ("Aldehyde B") th 2.5 ng/L air (1919)



Lilial th 0.45 ng/L air (1956)

potential reprotoxin

The Discovery of Nympheal – Goals

1. olfactory properties to be close as possible to Lilial

2. molecule should be free of structural elements that could cause reprotoxictly issues

Goeke, A.; Kraft, P.; Lelievre, D.; Alchenberger, A. Perfum. Flavor 2018, 43, 25-40.





## Lilial Degradation Pathway

Goeke, A.; Kraft, P.; Lelievre, D.; Alchenberger, A. Perfum. Flavor 2018, 43, 25-40.



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p-alkyl-phenylpropanals



#### rat hepatocyte suspension

Laue, H.; Kern, S.; Badertscher, R. P.; Ellis, G.; Natsch, A. Toxicological Sciences 2017, 160 (2), 244-255.

# Degradation Assay







minor metabolite



+

╋

p-alkyl-phenylpropanals



rat hepatocyte suspension



p-alkyl-phenylpropanals



plated rat hepatocytes

Laue, H.; Kern, S.; Badertscher, R. P.; Ellis, G.; Natsch, A.. Toxicological Sciences 2017, 160 (2), 244-255.

#### Degradation Assay



major metabolite potential spermatotoxin minor metabolite

Degradation Assay



+

+

p-alkyl-phenylpropanals



p-alkyl-phenylpropanals



p-alkyl-phenylpropanals oral dose: ≥25 mg/kg bw/d



rat hepatocyte suspension



plated rat hepatocytes





#### Strategy I: synthesis of unexplored phenyl butanals



hepatocytes

β-oxidation

## The Discovery of Nympheal





Goeke, A.; Kraft, P.; Lelievre, D.; Alchenberger, A. Perfum. Flavor 2018, 43, 25-40.

#### Strategy I: synthesis of unexplored phenyl butanals



#### Strategy II: introduction of cyclohexenyl derivatives of similar substitution



### The Discovery of Nympheal





Goeke, A.; Kraft, P.; Lelievre, D.; Alchenberger, A. Perfum. Flavor 2018, 43, 25-40.









Goeke, A.; Kraft, P.; Lelievre, D.; Alchenberger, A. Perfum. Flavor 2018, 43, 25-40.



















Nympheal











# The Discovery of Nympheal





Nympheal

# No reproductive toxicity







"Magic Methyl Effect"





Goeke, A.; Kraft, P.; Lelievre, D.; Alchenberger, A. Perfum. Flavor 2018, 43, 25-40.

## The Discovery of Nympheal





Nympheal





Lily of the Valley





Mimosal



Nympheal

Olfactophores





Conclusion & Outlook





Sustainability

Biodegradability

Elterlein, F.; Bugdahn, N.; Kraft, P. Chem. Eur. J. 2024, 30, e202400006.



Renewability

Conclusion & Outlook



Sustainability

Biodegradability







Renewability

Machine Learning

Biotechnology



# **Natural Sources**



Questions?





**Synthesis** 

# **Fragrance Discovery**