



I. **Summary:**

Secondary metabolite means the production of metabolites that are not utilised for the growth of the organism. However, they are involved in the defence mechanism of the producing organism. Most of these compounds are toxic to other organisms but have no effect on the producing organism. There are more than 50,000 compounds described as secondary metabolites which are isolated from plants and microorganisms. Many of these compounds are utilised by humans as antibiotics, insect repellents and as nutraceuticals. Every day a new compound is isolated and described in the world.

