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"*I very much like the idea of writing something that's technically correct but intended for a general audience. I'm very impressed with the variety of topics the writer has managed to touch upon and with how technically accurate the handling of these topics has been.*"

Prof. Jon Clardy
Harvard Medical School and Broad Institute, USA

"*This pioneering book is a powerful source of enlightenment on the vital connections between the diversity world's biological splendour and advancement of scientific knowledge. I recommend it to anyone who has an interest in sustainable development in general and environmental protection in particular.*"

Prof. Calestous Juma
Harvard Kennedy School, USA

"*This is an excellent reading not only for researchers and students but also for general readers. The whole book is woven around the key term 'wilderness'. It covers a wide area of subjects, from ancient myth to modern molecular biology and drug design. The book is not only educational but also highly entertaining.*"

Prof. Hisao Masai
University of Tokyo, Japan

"*Coming at the moment when the world is embarking on a new set of Sustainable Development Goals, which also must embrace both science and nature, this book can be widely recommended for anyone who wishes to think more deeply about these goals—and the future of our world.*"

Prof. Peter Singer
University of Toronto, Canada

This book is for readers with some background in science, concerning the search for drugs, starting from molecular diversity in nature, or molecular wilderness. Natural drug molecules may be used as such, or as starting points for improved drugs through modification. Nature also provides the targets, such as essential enzymes from infectious microorganisms, from which synthetic drugs can be designed. The mechanisms of action of drugs can be discerned by studying target–drug interactions. Nature may fight back, as when microorganisms become resistant to drugs, but we can use the chemistry–biology–biodiversity interface to obtain drugs which overcome the resistance. The battle goes on, hopefully with victory for both humans and balance of nature.

This book differs from others on natural products and drugs derived therefrom in providing a broad picture on how materials and organisms from nature affect our health and how we can promote wellness from sustainably "tapping molecular wilderness". It is suitable, not only for readers interested in science and medicine but also for those with interest in policy issues concerning sustainable development, environment, and interaction of science and society in general.

Yongyuth Yuthavong received a first-class honours bachelor's degree in chemistry from London University and a doctoral degree in organic chemistry from Oxford University. He worked at Mahidol University and was given the "Outstanding Scientist of Thailand" award (1984) and the Nikkei Asia Prize for Science, Technology and Innovation from the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Japan (2004) for his outstanding work on antimalarial drug targets and antimalarial development. Dr. Yuthavong is former minister of science and technology and presently deputy prime minister of Thailand.

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