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# **Biomolecules**

Biomolecules are the organic compounds which form the basis of life.

## **Carbohydrates**

Optically active polyhydroxy aldehydes (aldoses) or ketones (ketoses) or the compounds which produce these units on hydrolysis are known as carbohydrates.

- All monosaccharides and disaccharides (except sucrose) are reducing carbohydrates. Polysaccharides are non-reducing carbohydrates.
- The monosaccharides and oligosaccharides having sweet taste are collectively known as sugars. Polysaccharides which are insoluble in water and not sweet in taste, are known as non-sugars.
- \* All naturally occurring monosaccharides belong to D-series.
- Kiliani synthesis is used to convert an aldose into next higher aldose.
- ❖ Glucose: It is also known as Dextrose. It is present in grape sugar, corn sugar and blood sugar (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>6</sub>).
- ❖ Anomers: Anomers are cyclic monosaccharides differing from each other in the configuration at C−1 if they are aldoses or in the configuration at C−2 if they are ketoses.
- \* Mutarotation: The change in optical rotation on standing is called mutarotation.

$$\alpha\text{-D-(+) Glucose} \rightleftharpoons Open \ chair \ form \rightleftharpoons \beta\text{-D-(+) Glucose}$$

- **❖ Epimers:** Monosaccharides differing in configuration at a carbon other than anomeric carbon are called epimers, e.g. glucose and galactose differ in configuration at C₄, hence called epimers.
- \* Osazones: Monosaccharides and reducing disaccharides react with excess of phenyl hydrazine to form crystalline substances of the structure.

It is known as osazone. Glucose, fructose and mannose give same osazone.

- Sucrose (C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>11</sub>): Sucrose is most abundant in plants and known as cane sugar or table sugar or invert sugar.
- Lactose or milk sugar: It is present in milk of mammals and made up of one glucose and one galactose units. It is a reducing sugar.

- Maltose or Malt sugar: It is named because of its occurrence in malted grain of Barley. It is a reducing sugar.
- Starch (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)<sub>n</sub>: It is a polymer of α-glucose and a major reserve food in plants. It turns blue with iodine. It is a mixture of two components:
- (i) Amylose (20%), an unbranched water soluble polymer.
- (ii) Amylopectin (80%), a branched water insoluble polymer. Sources of starch are potatoes, wheat, rice, maize, etc.
- \* Cellulose ( $C_6H_{10}O_5$ )<sub>n</sub>: It is the most abundant and structural polysaccharide of plants. It is important food source of some animals. It is a polymer of β–D-(+) -glucose.
- \* Glycogen: It is found in animal body (mainly in liver and muscles) as reserve food and is called animals starch. Like starch, it is a polymer of  $\alpha$ -D-glucose.

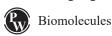
#### **Test for Carbohydrates**

- Molisch's test, it is positive for all carbohydrates.
- ❖ Iodine test, it is specific for starch and glycogen.
- \* Benedict's test, it is positive for reducing sugars.
- Barfoed's test, it differentiates between monosaccharides and disaccharides.
- Seliwanoff's test, it is positive for monosaccharides with ketonic group.
- Osazone test, it is the confirmatory test in which shape of crystals tell the type of sugar present in the solution.

#### **Amino Acids**

The compounds containing amino group (-NH<sub>2</sub>) and carboxylic group (-COOH) are called amino acids.

- (a) Neutral amino acids: Having one -NH<sub>2</sub> and one -COOH group. E.g. glycine.
- (b) Acidic amino acids: Having one -NH<sub>2</sub> and two -COOH groups. E.g. aspartic acid.
- (c) Basic amino acids: Having two or more -NH<sub>2</sub> and one -COOH group. E.g. lysine.
- Essential and Non-essential amino acids: Amino acids synthesised by body are called non-essential amino acids and that are not synthesised by body are called essential amino acids.
- \* Nomenclature: They are known by their common names and abbreviated by first three letters of their common names e.g. glycine as 'gly' and alanine as 'ala'. Naturally occurring α-amino acids are L-amino acids.



## **Peptides**

Peptides are condensation products of two or more amino O  $\parallel$  acids, —C—NH— is known as peptide linkage. A polypeptide made up of n-amino acids has (n-1) peptide bonds.

- \* Fibrous proteins: Polypeptide chains are held together by hydrogen and disulphide bonds. Such proteins are insoluble in water. E.g. Keratin (present in hair, wool) etc.
- Globular proteins: These are usually soluble in water. E.g. Insulin, albumins.
- \* Simple proteins: These yield only α-amino acids upon hydrolysis. E.g. Albumin.
- \* Conjugated proteins: These yield α-amino acids and non-protein part, called prosthetic group.
- \* **Derived proteins:** These are obtained by partial hydrolysis of simple or conjugated proteins.

**Denaturation of Proteins:** The process that changes the three dimensional structure of native proteins is called denaturation of proteins.

#### **Tests of Proteins**

- (i) Biuret Test: Protein solution + NaOH + dil. CuSO<sub>4</sub> → pink or violet colour.
- (ii) Millon's Test: Protein solution + Millon's reagent → red colour.
  - Millon's reagent is a solution of mercuric nitrate and traces of sodium nitrate solution.
- (iii) Iodine reaction: Protein solution + iodine in potassium iodide solution → yellow colour.

(iv) Xanthoproteic test: Protein solution + conc.  $HNO_3 \rightarrow V$  yellow colour  $\xrightarrow{NaOH}$  orange colour.

**Enzymes:** Serve as biological catalyst e.g., pepsin, trypsin etc.

**Vitamins:** Vitamins are required by body to maintain normal health, growth and nutrition.

- ❖ Vitamins A, D, E and K are fat soluble whereas vitamins B and C are water soluble.
- Vitamin H is neither fat soluble nor water soluble.

### **Nucleic Acid: DNA and RNA**

- (i) DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid).
  - DNA +  $H_2O \rightarrow Phosphoric acid + deoxyribose + A, G, C, T$
- (ii) RNA (Ribonucleic acid).

❖ In both DNA and RNA, heterocyclic base and phosphate ester linkages are at C₁ and C₅ respectively of the sugar molecule.

#### **Hormones**

These are the chemical substances which are produced by endocrine (ductless) glands in the body. Hormones acts as chemical messengers.

Insulin is a protein hormone. Its deficiency leads to diabetes mellitus.

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