

Editorial Note on Biomolecules and Amino Acids

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Received: October 07, 2021; **Accepted:** October 12, 2021; **Published:** October 17, 2021

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Editorial

A biomolecule, also called as a biological molecule, is any of the many compounds created by cells and living creatures. Biomolecules come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and they conduct a wide range of tasks. Carbohydrates, lipids, nucleic acids, and proteins are the four major components of biomolecules.

Nucleic acids, specifically DNA and RNA, are macromolecules that have the unique role of storing an organism's genetic code—the sequence of nucleotides that determines the amino acid sequence of proteins, which are fundamental to life on Earth. A protein can contain up to 20 distinct amino acids, and the order in which they appear is crucial in determining the structure and function of the protein. Proteins are important structural components of cells. They also operate as transporters, transporting nutrients and other chemicals into and out of cells, as well as enzymes and catalysts for the vast majority of chemical events in living organisms. Proteins are also capable for the formation of antibodies and hormones, as well as the regulation of gene activity.

Carbohydrates, which are generally made up of molecules containing carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen atoms, are also vital energy sources and structural components of all life on Earth, and they are among the most abundant biomolecules. Monosaccharides, disaccharides, oligosaccharides, and polysaccharides are the four types of sugar units used to construct them. Lipids, another important biomolecule in living organisms, provide a range of functions, including storing energy and acting as chemical messengers. In higher (more complex) species, they also create membranes that separate cells from their surroundings and compartmentalise the cell interior, giving rise to organelles like the nucleus and mitochondrion.

A fundamental link between structure and function exists in all biomolecules, which is modified by factors such as the environment in which the biomolecule is found. Lipids, for example, are hydrophobic ("water-averse"), and many of them spontaneously arrange themselves in water so that the hydrophobic ends of the molecules are shielded from the water while the hydrophilic ends are exposed. Lipid bilayers, or two layers of phospholipid molecules, form the membranes of cells and organelles as a result of this arrangement. Another example is DNA, which has a highly flexible helical structure that allows it to become tightly coiled and looped. In humans, the combined

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Citation: John A (2021) Editorial Note on Biomolecules and Amino Acids. Open access Biochem Mol Biol Vol.7 No.10:47

length of all the DNA molecules in a single cell stretched end to end would be about 1.8 metres (6 feet), whereas the cell nucleus is about 6 μ m (6 $\times 10^{-6}$ metre) in diameter. This structural characteristic is critical for DNA to fit into the cell nucleus, where it performs its function of coding genetic features.

Ribosomal RNA (rRNA) is a molecule found in cells that is part of the ribosome, a protein-synthesizing organelle that is exported to the cytoplasm to aid in the translation of information from messenger RNA (mRNA) into protein. rRNA, mRNA, and transfer RNA are the three major forms of RNA found in cells (tRNA).

rRNA molecules are made in the nucleolus, a specialised portion of the cell nucleus that appears as a dense area within the nucleus and includes the genes that code for rRNA. The size of the encoded rRNAs varies, and they are classified as either large or tiny. At least one large rRNA and one tiny rRNA are found on each ribosome.

The large and small rRNAs join with ribosomal proteins in the nucleolus to generate the ribosome's large and small subunits (e.g., 50S and 30S, respectively, in bacteria). (In a centrifugal field, these subunits are designated according to their rate of sedimentation, which is measured in Svedberg units [S].) Ribosomal proteins are made in the cytoplasm and then transported to the nucleus where they are subassembled in the nucleolus. After that, the subunits are returned to the cytoplasm to be assembled.

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In the domains Archaea and Bacteria, there are significant distinctions amongst prokaryotes. These differences can be seen in the composition of lipids, cell walls, and the use of

various metabolic pathways, but they can also be seen in rRNA sequences. Bacteria and Archaea have rRNAs that are as different from each other as eukaryotic rRNA. This information is crucial for understanding the evolution of these creatures because it suggests that the bacterial and archaeal lines diverged from a common ancestor before eukaryotic cells appeared.