

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

8: Carbohydrate Structures, Stereochemistry, and Glycosides

Carbohydrates, also known as sugars, are found in all living organisms. They are essential to the very source of life (ex. Ribose sugars in DNA and RNA) or sustaining life itself (ex. Metabolic conversion of carbohydrates into usable biochemical energy, ATP). Another important role of carbohydrates is structural (ex. Cellulose in plants).

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Thumbnail: Ball-and-stick model of the α -D-glucose molecule, $C_6H_{12}O_6$. Image used with permission (Public Domain; Ben Mills).

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