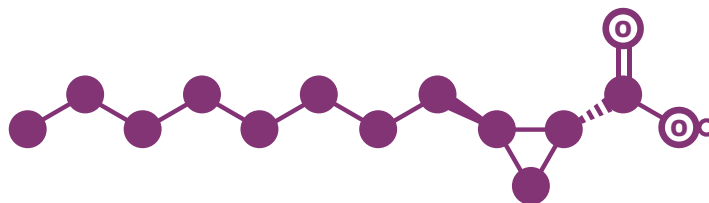
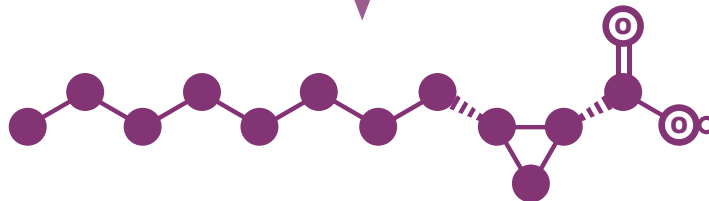


CHEMISTRY ADVENT 2016 17

THE AROMA OF FRANKINCENSE



OLIBANIC ACID ISOMERS



● Carbon ⊙ Oxygen ○ Hydrogen

Hydrogens on carbon atoms implied; each carbon has 4 bonds.

Frankincense is a dried resin used in incense. It has a distinctive smell associated with churches and Christmas. The resin has several compounds that contribute to its aroma, but chemists recently identified olibanic acid isomers as the key chemicals which, despite only being present in trace amounts, are responsible for the distinctive aroma of frankincense.



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