

# ***Biological Activities of Tannins***

**Ann E. Hagerman © 2002**

Tannins have diverse effects on biological systems because they are potential metal ion chelators, protein precipitating agents, and biological antioxidants. Because tannins can play such varied biological roles, and because of the enormous structural variation among tannins, it has been difficult to develop models which allow accurate prediction of the effects of tannins in any system. An important goal of future work on the biological activities of tannins is the development of structure/activity relationships so that biological activities can be predicted.