

Photophysical properties of melanins and photoreactions of pigmented cells – Fotofizyczne właściwości melanin i reakcje upigmentowanych komórek na światło

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Basic physicochemical properties of melanin pigments such as: ion- and electron-exchange capabilities, paramagnetism, redox equilibria and optical characteristics are briefly reviewed in this paper. Emphasis is given on photoreactivity (intrinsic and sensitized by the use of selected dyes of eu- and pheo-melanins. Photosensitivity of melanin containing cells as well as possible molecular mechanisms of melanin photoprotection is also discussed.