

Studies of structure and properties of melanin active centers

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Physico-chemical properties of melanins are briefly reviewed in this paper. Three main types of melanin active centers are considered that determine the paramagnetism, the electron- and ion exchange capabilities of the polymer. It is postulated that under some circumstances the centers exhibit certain degree of interdependence. A currently developed method for unambiguous identification of melanin in biological material is also described. This method is based on detection and characterization of melanin paramagnetism by Electron Spin Resonance Spectroscopy.