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What are terpenes?

Compounds in plants & essential oils that are responsible for the smell & flavor of a plant. They can be found in plants (including cannabis) & even some insects!

What is their purpose in plants &, specifically cannabis?

May protect the plants that produce them by deterring herbivores and by attracting predators and parasites of herbivores.

Humans have been able to find therapeutic applications to help ourselves throughout history.

Terpenes in cannabis are particularly effective because they're driven (either forcefully or gently) into our system by the major compounds in cannabis. (For more on those, listen to episodes [6-10](#).)

The terpenes are responsible for individual strain's effects & intensity of the high.

Anything of particular interest?

The Netherlands Institute of Ecology: [terpenes are the world's most widespread communication medium](#)

04/13/2017 The Institute has demonstrated for the first time that two different types of micro-organisms— bacteria and fungi—use terpenes to communicate.