The spice turmeric is yellow owing to the presence of the molecule curcumin. Dewprashad and Hadir (DOI: 10.1021/ed800014k) discuss an engaging and colorful demonstration that uses naturally occurring dyes from henna, turmeric, and rose petals that undergo pH-dependent structural and color changes. The demonstration illustrates the utility of resonance theory in predicting the relative acidities of alcohols. Molecules from this article are the JCE Featured Molecules (DOI: 10.1021/ed800038w) for this issue. Model of curcumin by William F. Coleman; photo of turmeric powder by Sanjay Acharya, http://commons.wikimedia.org/miki/file:Turmeric-powder.jpg, licensed for use under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0; cover art by Betsy True.

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Articles of special interest to high school teachers.