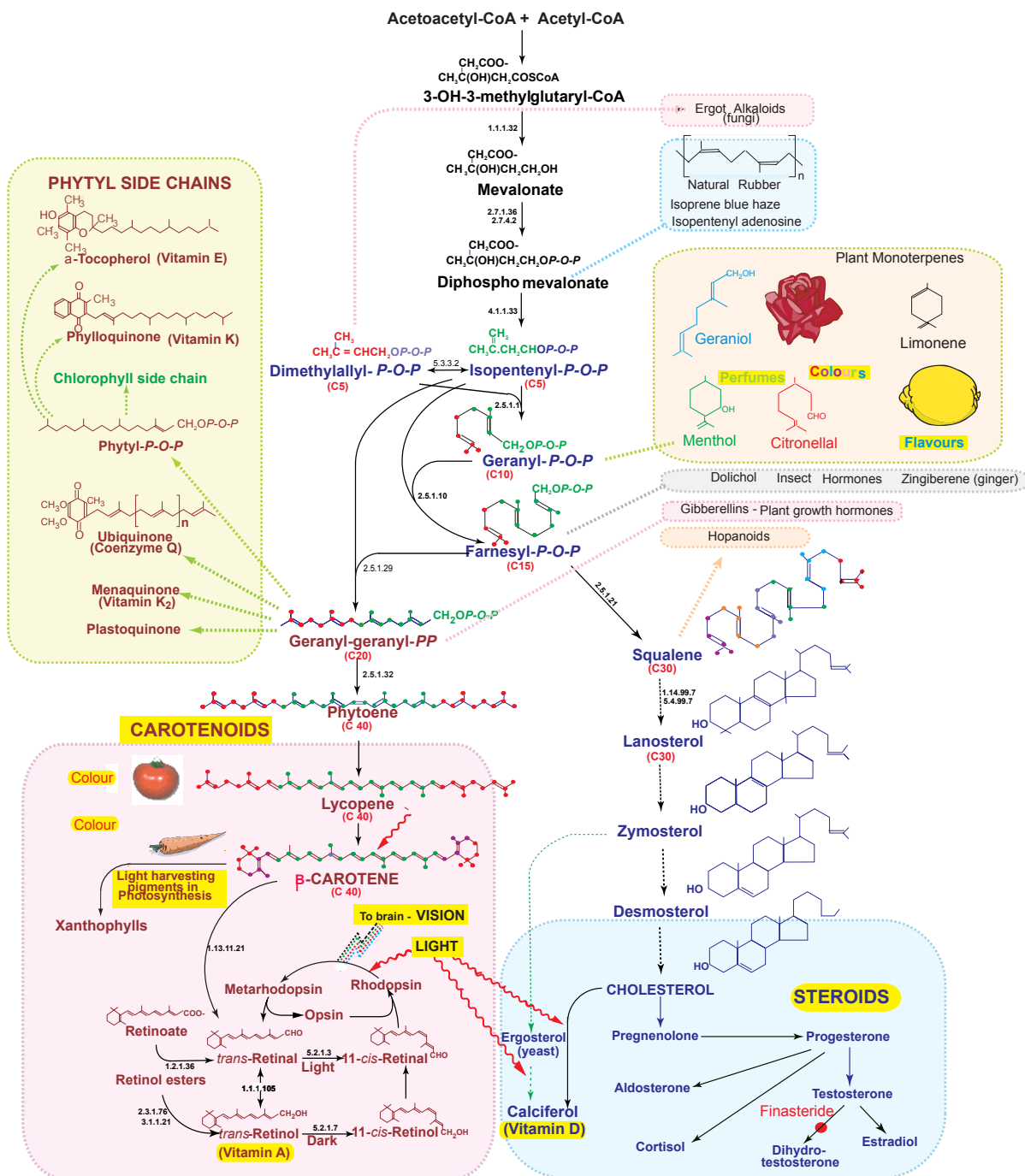


PRODUCTS OF ISOPRENE METABOLISM



These two minimaps are designed to stimulate the imagination and hopefully create excitement and an awareness that we are dealing with REAL- LIFE METABOLISM. The facing one is entitled *Isoprene Metabolism* and is a traditional biochemical pathways map but is itself interesting because it shows that two very differing types of products- one mainly open-chain (carotenoid) and the other ringed (steroid)- can arise from the same source. The facing map *Isoprene Products* is identical except that, in addition, it highlights and pictures the real-life significance of some of these products. They include natural rubber; plant and insect hormones and the side chains of many vitamins and of chlorophyll. They provide colour, smell and flavour in many plant products such as carrots, lemons or roses. They include some of the vital reactions that can convert light into vision and, in a different pathway, the steroids including estrogens and testosterone with all their implications. Many of the sensual and sexual pleasures of life can thus be seen to derive from the same, simple 5-carbon compound isoprene. This is real-life metabolism.