

NATURAL PRODUCTS

► **Demetrix pursues THC, CBD from yeast**

Demetrix has raised \$50 million in a first round of venture funding to establish high-volume fermentation production of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabidiol (CBD), and other cannabinoids. Backers include Tuatara Capital and Horizons Ventures. The California-based start-up was cofounded in 2015 by University of California, Berkeley, chemical engineering professor Jay Keasling. Demetrix says it will use a modified strain of baker's yeast, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, to produce the cannabinoids. The firm is targeting drug, supplement, and consumer product markets.—MELODY BOMGARDNER