

Book Reviews

Studies in Natural Products Chemistry Vol. 2: Structure Elucidation (Part A). Edited by Atta-ur-Rahman. Elsevier Science Publishers B.V., Amsterdam, 1988. xi + 469 pp. ISBN 0 444 43038 5. Price US\$155.25, £87.96

Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy and mass spectroscopy have occupied an important place in the armoury of physical techniques available to the chemist, and have undergone tremendous advances within the last two decades. Indeed, these advances have accelerated the pace of research in the field of natural product chemistry.

Volume 2 of the series *Studies in Natural Products Chemistry* brings together information on the latest developments in the isolation and structure elucidation of complex natural products, which are of widespread occurrence. The first eight chapters are concerned with the developments in mass spectroscopy, NMR spectroscopy, including practical applications of these methods to the field of natural products, and the use of chiroptical properties in structure determination of natural products. The next five chapters deal with the isolation and structure elucidation of new natural products from medicinal plants and liverworts. The chapter written by Gorin and Travassos comprises interesting discussions on protozoan glucans, polysaccharides of lower trypanosomatids, and polysaccharides and glycoconjugates of higher trypanosomatids. Pazur's contribution gives a useful insight into the chemical structure, reaction mechanisms and applications of glycoamylases. The two remaining chapters are devoted to biosynthetic studies in plant tissue culture and the discovery and development of new drugs for systemic opportunistic infections.

The range of topics in this volume provides a valuable reference work of direct relevance to all involved in natural products chemistry, such as organic chemists, biochemists, phytochemists and medicinal chemists.

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