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## Chemistry and Ecology

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**A review of: "The Dictionary of Substances and Their Effects (Dose)"**  
**Publisher: Royal Society of Chemistry, Uk 1992. Isbn 0-85186 331 0 (Vol. 1),**  
**Edited By Mervyn Richardson, and Sharat Gangolli. Price Vol, 1 £180.00,**  
**Full Series (7 Volumes) £850.00 (Prior to Vol. 2 Publication). the Complete**  
**Work Is Expected to Be Available By 1995.**

Gwyneth Howells

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## BOOK REVIEW

THE DICTIONARY OF SUBSTANCES AND THEIR EFFECTS (DOSE)  
Publisher: Royal Society of Chemistry, UK 1992. ISBN 0-85186 331 0 (Vol. 1),  
edited by Mervyn Richardson, and Sharat Gangolli. Price Vol. 1 £180.00, full series  
(7 volumes) £850.00 (prior to Vol. 2 publication). The complete work is expected  
to be available by 1995.

This new reference work is issued as the first (A–B) of seven volumes to include 5000 entries selected for substances of greatest impact. It provides a catalogue of useful information on chemical substances entering the human environment, widely interpreted to include many classes of organisms in land, water and air environments. The selected substances include both inorganic chemical substances and many organic ones in world-wide and common use. The editors are supported by a named editorial board and production team who should be congratulated on achieving such consistent and accurate summaries.

Data entries include chemical name, synonyms, molecular formula/weight, uses and occurrence, physical properties, occupational exposure and effects, labelling and packaging advice, ecotoxicity for a variety of organisms, mammalian toxicity and environmental fate. Key scientific references are included and legislative requirements are summarised. There is a glossary of latin and common names (some errors here, but probably unimportant), list of abbreviations and symbols, indices of names and synonyms, CAS registry numbers, molecular formulas, all of which make it easy to use. The text is well written and I found no confusing or ambiguous statements in my selection of a few entries, although in one case familiar to me I found the material out-of-date. Most entries, however, have referenced material up to 1991/1992. Print and headings are clear and correct and there is a useful check of the current entry at the bottom of each page.

The price is high for the individual user, but the series can be recommended for libraries and reference sources who should find it well used. Its reference value will be tested by scientists, toxicologists, health and safety and environmental officers, administrators, and lawyers who are all likely to find it useful. The UK distributors are the Royal Society of Chemistry, and in North America, CRC Press Inc., USA

Gwyneth Howells  
9 August 1993