

Flavour Science and Technology. (Proceedings of the 5th Weurman Flavour Research Symposium). Edited by M. Martens, G. A. Dalen and H. Russwurm, Jr. John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, 1987. xvi + 566 pp. £40.00. ISBN 0-471-91743-5.

This book contains the proceedings of the 5th Weurman Flavour Research Symposium held at Oslo, Norway, in 1987.

At the symposium 37 lectures, 26 posters and 4 workshop contributions were presented. All 67 contributions are ordered according to the scientific topic in four chapters as follows: Chemistry in flavour research, Biotechnology in flavour research, Sensory Science in flavour research and Data Analysis in flavour research.

Starting with the biological material in its raw or processed stage, the book deals with the formation, identification and interaction of different flavour compounds. The biotechnological synthesis of flavour compounds is also discussed. The next topics to be reported are the psychophysics and sensory physiology involved in analysing the responses of humans to perceived flavour compounds.

Each chapter starts with a list of keywords to the papers, which would help the reader find the subject of interest quickly, and is followed by an overview within each subject.

The chapters on sensory science and data analysis contain valuable information on the different laboratory sensory tests, statistical methods and computer packages available to the sensory scientist.

Although the book deals mainly with recent advances in flavour research, and would prove valuable to an established flavour scientist, it could not be used as an encyclopedia for a novice. The book is well written and informative; however, the area of biotechnology is not as well reported as that of chemistry. The only criticisms of this text are the non-uniformity of the typing script and the vast differences in length between both papers and chapters.

Overall this book is very good value. It maintains the high standard of the Weurman Flavour Research Symposium and is replete with examples of recent developments in this area.

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