

ability to solve the problems so clearly set out at the beginning of this review. The authors of this book share these fears for (page 15) they write cautiously 'alternative models based on more complete theory... could provide the basis for sustainable use of common property resources for the future'. It is some consolation that the problems now command such wide interest, an interest which this book will help to inform and to expand.

Alan Harrison

Studies in Natural Products Chemistry. Vol. 3. Stereoselective Synthesis (Part B). Edited by Atta-ur-Rahman. Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1989. x + 540 pp. ISBN 0-444-87298-1. Price: US\$165.75.

This is the third book in this series to appear in the last year, and is part of the growing trend of multi-author, camera-ready publications. Often this type of approach leads to an unevenness in the quality of the reviews and in the manuscripts that are reproduced. Most of the fifteen chapters in the present book are of a high scientific standard and all are well reproduced.

Certainly the first very long chapter by Hudlicky is very welcome, as he provides a timely review of the methodology for the formation of fused five-membered ring systems, including all of their own work on the triquinanes, etc. The other very long contribution (by Boger and Coleman) provides an account of the various approaches to the potent anti-tumour agent CC1065, and some of its analogues, and includes information about the mode of action of these compounds.

Many of the remaining chapters describe synthetic methodology that has been employed for the synthesis of natural products. These include the stereoselective Michael reaction, applications of sigmatropic rearrangements, thermal and photo-cycloaddition reactions, the use of arynes and recent developments in carbohydrate chemistry.

Other synthetic chapters include one on new methods for the formation of biologically active lactones (by Jefford), and a formal total synthesis of colchicine (by Wenkert) complete with full experimental details! The final chapter is as timely as the first one, and gives the first full account of the chemistry of the Chinese anti-malarial called qinghaosu.

There is much of interest in the book, and the editor Atta-ur-Rahman is to be congratulated; but given the extortionate price of the book, I doubt whether many individuals will purchase it. In addition, much of the information can be found in the reviews that appear in the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Natural Product Reports', which libraries are more likely to buy.

John Mann