



Book Reviews

Handbook of Natural Products Data: Vol. 1. Diterpenoid and Steroidal Alkaloids. By Atta-ur Rahman, Elsevier, 1990. ISBN 0-444-88173-5. vii + 970 pp. Price: US\$353.75; Dfl.690.00.

The pace of structure elucidation of natural products has quickened since the advent of high field n.m.r. spectrometry and high resolution mass spectrometry. But the resultant plethora of spectral data is scattered through dozens of journals, and Atta-ur Rahman seeks to resolve this problem through the publication of a series of collections of such data.

In this first book he has assembled physical and spectral data for 971 diterpenoid and steroidal alkaloids. The information includes molecular formulae, molecular weights, melting points, optical rotations together with UV, IR, ^1H n.m.r., ^{13}C n.m.r. and mass spectral data. Leading literature references are also supplied. Such an assemblage of information is not available elsewhere. The *Dictionary of Organic Compounds*, 5th edition, 1982, Chapman and Hall, contains some physical constants and references to the sources of spectral data; but this is the only competitor publication.

The book is thus invaluable if you require instant information about these classes of alkaloids. Other volumes on less esoteric classes of natural products will be eagerly awaited, though librarians may be less enthusiastic at the prospect of buying an encyclopaedic work at US\$350 per volume.

J. Mann

Flavour Science and Technology. Edited by Y. Bessière & A. F. Thomas, John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Chichester. 1990. xiii + 369 pp. ISBN 0-47192-782-1. Price: £60.

The original aim of the Weurman symposium was to provide a forum where a limited number of flavour scientists could discuss their research interests