

Carotenoids Handbook

G. Britton, S. Liaaen-Jensen and H. Pfander (Eds), Compiled by
A. Z. Mercadante and E. S. Egeland, Birkhauser Verlag, Basle, Switzerland, 2004

This book is edited by three experts who between them have 120 years experience of carotenoid research, as stated in the Preface. It summarises our current knowledge of carotenoids structure and properties. In the first part of the book, the official IUPAC name, chemical structure, spectroscopic properties (UV/visible, NMR, CD) and sometimes other information (e.g. isolation procedures, natural sources) are given for over 500 carotenoids for which the editors consider, from their wealth of experience and wisdom, that the information in the literature is reliable. Each entry is backed up by at least one reference. At the end of the book is a supplementary

list of over 200 carotenoids where the editors feel that the structure may not have yet been firmly established on the basis of the data available in the literature.

This is an invaluable compendium for anyone interested in carotenoids and represents an enormous amount of careful work by the editors and compilers. I am delighted to have it on my bookshelf.

Prof. BARRY HALLIWELL
Department of Biochemistry,
National University of Singapore