

## Book review

### **Vedemecum for vitamin formulations**

Second ed., Volker Buhler

This book comprises a dictionary of terms used in the design and formulation of vitamins. It follows a monograph approach for each vitamin, which includes some brief description of its chemistry, followed by some information on different vitamin products and their formulation. A wide range of other terms are also defined (for example solubilization, microbiology), in the context of vitamin products. The choice of terms included is somewhat arbitrary and may confuse. For example, there are separate entries under the titles 'stability' and 'prediction of stability'. Other terms defined seem somewhat unnecessary in such a book as some pharmaceutical knowledge of the reader could surely be presumed (for example sterilization, lubricants). The content of this second edition is very similar to the previous first publication, although with some relatively minor additions. The inclusion of an electronic version is however a bonus.

This book may provide some useful information and guidance for laboratories and manufacturers specifically concerned with the formulation and manufacture of vitamin products. The content largely reflects the author's personal experience and perspectives. Most if not all of this information will be available in other sources, such as the 'The Extra Pharmacopoeia' and the 'Compendium of Pharmaceutical Excipients' (both published by The Pharmaceutical Press). The text also suffers from typographical and grammatical errors, probably as a result of translation difficulties.

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