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Book Review

Antibiotics — Isolation, separation and purification, edited by M. J. Weinstein and G. H. Wagman, Elsevier, Amsterdam, Oxford, New York, 1978, X + 771 pp., price Dfl. 195.00, US\$ 84.75, ISBN 0-444-41727-3.

This is the fifteenth volume in the series of books devoted to chromatographic techniques and their applications presently being produced as the *Journal of Chromatography Library*.

There is a great amount of current interest in antibiotics and their many different applications and associated with this has been a continuing interest in methods for analysis, resulting in many new methods being developed. In this volume, the Editors have assembled and organized information on physical and chemical aspects of antibiotics plus the most current methods of analysis.

The contents are grouped into 17 chapters and a subject index. The first chapter deals with actinomycins and provides a good overview of the techniques for the separation of actinomycin mixtures and the methods for the identification of amino acids derived from actinomycin.

Chapter 2 covers ansamycins in 30 pages, containing updated information on rifamycins, halomicins, streptovaricins, tolypomycin Y, naphthomycin, geldanamycin and maytansine. The next three chapters deal with cephalosporin, coumarin glycoside and 2-deoxystreptomycin-containing antibiotics, respectively. They are concise but reasonably complete, containing valuable data on isolation, purification and biological activity that will be of particular interest.

Chapters 6, 7 and 8 focus on the pharmacology, extraction, separation, purification and analytical behaviour of griseofulvins, lincomycin-related and macrolide antibiotics.

Chapter 9 describes the marine-derived antibiotics, and attention is paid to their bioactivity, isolation and purification. Chapters 10–13 deal with penicillins, peptide, plant-derived and polyether antibiotics, respectively.

Siderochromes, streptomycin-containing antibiotics and streptothricins are presented in the next three chapters. The book concludes with a chapter reviewing the tetracyclines.

The Editors have succeeded in avoiding the pitfalls inherent in multi-author texts. In general, the chapters are coherent and easy to read. The style is pleasant and there is no overlapping of information, which in a text of this size is commendable. In most chapters, the figures are especially enlightening and very useful. Handsome presentation, careful proof-reading and an adequate index enhance the attractiveness of this book.

I strongly recommend this volume to all those with any involvement in pharmaceutical and medicinal chemistry.