

BOOK REVIEW

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Review of: *Clarke's Analysis of Drugs and Poisons, 4th edn.*

REFERENCE: Moffat AC, Osselton MD, Widdop B, Watts J, editors. *Clarke's analysis of drugs and poisons, 4th edn.* London, UK: Pharmaceutical Press, 2011, 2473 pp, ISBN 978-0-85369-711-4 (Hardback, 2 volumes in a slipcase).

It has been 7 years since publication of the third edition of this important work, so the appearance of a new edition at a time when the challenges facing analytical chemists and toxicologists are increasing at an ever more rapid rate is quite appropriate. The overall organization of the book is identical to that used previously, with Volume 1 being essentially a textbook of analytical methodology and applications, while Volume 2 contains individual monographs on specific substances. The fourth edition was authored by the four editors together with 50 contributors from 14 different countries.

Volume 1 has increased in length from 564 pages in the third edition to 805 pages currently, there are now 43 chapters rather than 31, and the physical thickness has grown from 32 to 40 mm. The new chapters are devoted to such topics as Method Development, Measuring Uncertainty, Pharmacogenomics, Interpretation of Data, Pediatric Toxicology, Specimen Storage, Extraction, LC-MS, Drug Testing in Animal Sport, Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault, and Quality Control in the Pharmaceutical Industry.

Volume 2 has increased in length from 1350 to 1665 pages, yet the thickness is reduced from 60 mm previously to 48 mm

currently, presumably as a result of a smaller font size (may present a challenge for some readers) and lighter weight paper. The new edition now has monographs on 2111 substances, an increase of 370 over the third edition. Both Volumes 1 and 2 contain a comprehensive subject index covering the entire work. Interestingly, the weight of Volume 1 has increased while that of Volume 2 declined, for an overall weight reduction of 9% for the complete set in its slipcase.

This continues to be an invaluable reference for pharmaceutical scientists, clinical and forensic toxicologists, and environmental chemists. The information in the new edition, not to mention the efforts put forth by the editors and contributors to prepare and publish it, will be much appreciated by the end users. Both the number of substances discussed in the monographs section and the depth of information presented are quite impressive. I was pleased to find entries for three agents of recent interest, 2C-T-7, JWH-018, and levamisole, in the alphabetical monograph listings, yet, curiously, those designations were not to be found in the subject index. A 1-year subscription to an online version is included in the purchase price, and there are plans to update this on a regular basis. This electronic form, which is searchable and can be printed in an enlarged format, may ultimately prove to be a more popular choice for frequent substance-specific referral on the part of practicing professionals.

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