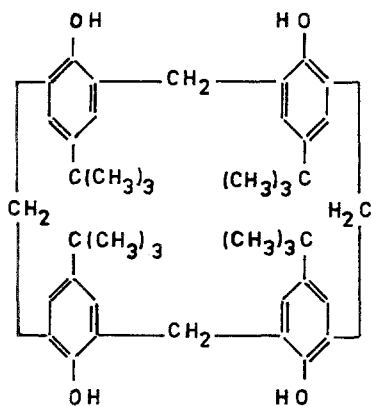


Foreword

This issue is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the proposal of a macrocyclic structure for the calixarenes. In February 1944, Zinke and Ziegler published an article entitled: 'Zur Kenntnis des Härtungsprozesses von Phenol-Formaldehyd-Harzen' in *Chemische Berichte*, volume 77, page 264. Here, they proposed a cyclic tetrameric structure $(C_{11}H_{14}O)_4$ for an oligomer extracted from the condensation product mixture obtained by reacting *p*-*tert*-butylphenol with formaldehyde in the presence of sodium hydroxide.



Fifty years on, calixarenes are the basis of many different areas of chemical research occurring at an increasing pace over the past decade in particular. The present volume is not intended to provide an overview of the developments but is rather a celebration of some of the highlights. It is hoped that this selection from the intricate mosaic of diversity that characterizes calixarene chemistry will stimulate and foster further development of this fascinating field.

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