

Book Review

Synthesis and Applications of ISOTOPICALLY LABELLED COMPOUNDS 1994

Edited by J.Allen and R.Voges

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This text is the Proceedings of the Fifth International Symposium on the Synthesis and Applications of Isotopes and Isotopically Labelled Compounds held at Strasbourg, France 20-24 June 1994 organised by the International Isotope Society.

The main part of the book comprises the 161 Papers containing approximately 1216 references, presented at this Symposium, including the 3 Plenary Lectures, and all given by experts in the field of isotopes. A wide range of topics is covered as expected for such a conference. These topics include the synthesis and applications of compounds labelled with isotopic carbon (^{13}C , ^{14}C)(23 Papers), with isotopes of hydrogen (mainly tritium, ^3H)(28 Papers), and with a particular focus on stereospecific/stereoselective labelling methods, especially of drugs for metabolism studies. With the increasing interest and importance of compounds labelled with positron emitting isotopes for PET (Positron Emission Tomography) studies, compounds labelled with [^{11}C]carbon and [^{18}F]fluorine (10 and 2 Papers respectively) are strongly featured. Much interest continues also to be attached to the production of both stable and radioactive isotopes (20 Papers) and application areas include uses of isotopes in agriculture, nutrition and environmental studies (5 Papers). Other topics include the application of labelled compounds in various aspects of pharmaceutical, medical and clinical research and development (28 Papers); in studies of reaction mechanisms (5 Papers); in the analysis of labelled compounds (10 Papers); in molecular biology (2 Papers); and for the investigation of biological pathways (7 Papers). The synthesis and applications of compounds labelled with isotopes of elements other than C and H are also specifically featured(9 Papers). Finally 3 Papers deal with the difficult environmental problems associated with the disposal of radioactive waste. The Editors (who also were Co-Chairmen of the Symposium) are to be congratulated for compiling this book of Papers, providing not only an important text but also an essential up to date reference which I thoroughly recommend for libraries and for individual scientists routinely working with isotopically labelled compounds. The text provides good value for money (even at £125), is very well produced with hard cover and contains adequate indexes of Authors and of Subject matter presented at the Symposium. The PREFACE provides a short account of the Symposium and specifically highlights the AWARDS presented to members of the International Isotope Society for 1994. [A more detailed account of the Symposium and Awards has been already published - see JLC&R 36(4)307-309 (1995)].

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