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### Book Review

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## BOOK REVIEW

"Analytical Chemistry of PCB's," M. D. Erickson, Butterworth Publishers, Stoneham, Mass, 1987, 508 pp., \$42.00.

A current treatise on PCB's has been long overdue with regard to the evolution of environmental technology since their discontinued use in 1976. In his book, Dr. Erickson brings us up to date on all aspects of PCB's, from chemical properties and occurrence to isolation and analysis. The review format of the text will allow the book to be a useful desk reference for the analyst. However, Dr. Erickson states that he is not presenting a "cookbook" for the novice, but only summarizing possible approaches and complexities of PCB determinations.

The first two sections of the book cover historical information and properties, with the emphasis being on the latter. The next four sections are devoted to analytical methods and specific considerations for various matrices, such as sample collection, residue isolation and removal of analytical interferences. This section includes a nice summary of available methodologies for PCB determinations in different sample types with specific analytical requirements.

Sections 7 and 8 are concerned with the state-of-the-art in chromatographic and spectrometric techniques as they apply and the subsequent data interpretation. Dr. Erickson illustrates effectively the strengths and weaknesses of HRGC and GC/MS and the associated data reduction techniques such as pattern recognition and specific congener identification.

The final two sections deal QA/QC measures and collaborative studies. The latter topic is of particular interest because it gives the analyst a feel for the precision and accuracy of the techniques presented in this book.

Dr. Erickson has presented a very detailed and informative discussion of our current knowledge of PCB's and where we must go from here. Overall, the book is well-written and it includes an extensive bibliography of 120 pages, covering the published material through 1984.

This book constitutes a good reference for chemists interested in the chemistry and analysis of PCB's.

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