

## Book Reviews

**Natural Products: Their Chemistry and Biological Significance.** By J. Mann, R. S. Davidson, J. B. Hobbs, D. V. Banthorpe, and J. B. Harborne. Longman Scientific & Technical, Publishers, Essex, England. Copublished in the U.S. with John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. 1994. ix + 455 pp. 15.5 × 23 cm. ISBN 0-470-20002-2. \$44.95.

This book is an attempt to present the fundamentals of natural products chemistry without trying to be comprehensive or completely up-to-date. Rather, the intent is to have a readable text which senior undergraduates, or more likely first or second year graduate students, can use to acquire a grounding in the vast, varied, and valuable realm of natural products chemistry.

Five authors have attempted between themselves to describe in seven chapters the main trends in the chemistry of natural products, with antibiotics wisely excluded. Chapter headings (and authors) are as follows: (1) Carbohydrates (J. Mann); (2) Nucleosides, nucleotides and polynucleotides (J. B. Hobbs); (3) Amino acids and peptides (R. S. Davidson and J. B. Hobbs); (4) Fatty acids and their derivatives (J. B. Hobbs); (6) Phenolics (J. B. Harborne); and (7) Alkaloids (J. Mann).

Each chapter in turn deals with structural types, synthesis, biosynthesis, and, where warranted, structural elucidation and pharmacology.

A book of this type has long been overdue, and it is satisfying to know that an effort has been made to have in one relatively small volume some of the most important facts of natural products. The presentation would have been even more useful if specific references had been included at the end of each chapter, rather than just general literature citations.

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### Books of Interest

**Thin-Layer Chromatography. Reagents and Detection Methods. Volume 1b.** By Hellmut Jork, Werner Funk, Walter Fischer, and Hans Wimmer. VCH Publishers, New York. 1994. xvi + 496 pp. 15.5 × 21.5 cm. ISBN 3-527-28205-X. \$130.00 (Flexicover).

**Topics in Molecular Organization and Engineering. Properties and Chemistry of Biomolecular Systems.** Edited by N. Russo, J. Anastassopoulou, and G. Barone. Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, Dordrecht, The Netherlands. 1994. xi + 418 pp. 16.5 × 24.5 cm. ISBN 0-7923-2666-0. \$137.00.

**Formulation and Delivery of Proteins and Peptides. ACS Symposium Series 567.** Edited by Jeffrey L. Cleland and Robert Langer. American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C. 1994. xi + 364 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-8412-2959-7. \$89.95.

**Immunotoxicology and Immunopharmacology. Second Edition. (Target Organ Toxicology Series).** Edited by Jack H. Dean, Michael I. Luster, Albert E. Munson, and Ian Kimber. Raven Press, New York. 1994. xxi + 761 pp. 16 × 24 cm. ISBN 0-7817-0219-4. \$135.00.

**Separations for Biotechnology 3.** Edited by D. L. Pyle. The Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, U.K. 1994. xiv + 604 pp. 16.5 × 24 cm. ISBN 0-85186-724-3. £92.50.

**Clinical Evaluation of Psychotropic Drugs. Principles and Guidelines.** Edited by Robert F. Prien and Donald S. Robinson. Raven Press, New York. 1994. xxi + 728 pp. 18.5 × 26 cm. ISBN 0-7817-0143-0. \$85.00.

**Current Topics in the Chemistry of Boron.** Edited by George W. Kabalka. The Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, U.K. 1994. xiv + 406 pp. 16 × 24 cm. ISBN 0-85186-535-6. £59.50.

**Advances in Chromatography. Volume 34.** Edited by Phyllis R. Brown and Eli Grushka. Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York. 1994. xvi + 435 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-8247-9087-1. \$165.00.

**Synthetic Oligosaccharides. Indispensable Probes for the Life Sciences. ACS Symposium 560.** Edited by Pavol Kovac. American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C. 1994. viii + 306 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-8412-2930-6. \$79.95.

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