

acids. It will be of interest to specialists in this area and also to those seeking entry into new research directions.

Staff

JM970185T

S0022-2623(97)00185-4

Molecular Diversity and Combinatorial Chemistry. Edited by Irwin M. Chaiken and Kim D. Janda. American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. 1996. ix + s. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. ISBN 0-8412-3450-7. \$109.95.

This book consists of 27 papers of about a dozen pages in length presented at two consecutive conferences held in February of 1996. The general topics covered include strategies for designing scaffolds, descriptions of a variety of non-peptide libraries prepared by solid phase synthesis, libraries prepared using biological methods, automated solid phase synthesis, analytical methods for characterizing ligands on solid phases, high-throughput screening procedures, and applications of libraries and diversity analysis to some specific projects. The individual articles in many cases are summaries of extensive work, and they provide a good picture of a variety of approaches to the use of combinatorial chemistry. There is very little overlap of topics between the papers, so many important aspects of combinatorial chemistry are covered. The book has a good index which facilitates finding specific items.

Although this book gives a good insight into contemporary combinatorial chemistry, it is not a comprehensive discussion of the field. It should be of value to both the combinatorial novice and the more experienced practitioner in that a variety of useful current approaches are presented but other sources must be consulted to obtain a more comprehensive knowledge of this fast moving area.

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JM970229Y

S0022-2623(97)00229-X

Guidebook to the Calcium-Binding Proteins. Edited by Marco R. Celio. Oxford University Press Inc., New York. 1996. xvi + 238 pp. 19 × 24.5 cm. ISBN 0-19-859950-1. \$34.95 (pbk).

This volume is a new addition to the *Sambrook and Tooze Guidebook Series* and provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge on calcium-binding proteins and their role in decoding calcium signals within the cell. After a brief introduction on techniques for measuring calcium and magnesium binding to proteins, the book is subdivided into a total of 84 short chapters under the three main sections of EF-Hand Calcium-binding Proteins, Annexins, and Other Proteins. Each chapter is in the form of a mini review, providing a general description of the given class of protein followed by details on topics such as isolation,

gene sequence, and protein structure, availability of antibodies, protein localization, and biological activity. Chapters are variously illustrated with figures on amino acid sequence, protein domain models, and photographs of immunohistochemical localization. References are restricted to approximately 20 keynote citations per chapter.

To keep abreast of this developing area of research, the editor and publishers intend to provide a database accessible *via* the worldwide web, with authors providing chapter updates from September 1996 (although at the time of writing this was still under development). An appendix provides address details of companies selling antibodies mentioned in the main body of the text.

The volume provides an excellent reference book on calcium-binding proteins in a concise and well-illustrated format, with individual chapters written by experts in the field, and directs the reader to more detailed literature on each topic.

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JM970230X

S0022-2623(97)00230-6

Saponins Used in Traditional and Modern Medicine. Volume 404 in the series Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology. Edited by George R. Waller and Kazuo Yamasaki. Plenum Press, New York. 1996. xiii + 606 pp. 17 × 25.5 cm. ISBN 0-3-6-45393-2. 145.00.

The proceedings of an ACS symposium (210th Meeting in Chicago, IL) on recent developments in saponin research have been summarized in 47 short chapters. The three main components of this collection are devoted to commercial utilization and biosynthesis, inhibitions of human diseases, and antifungal and hemolytic activities. A short appendix includes information on NMR, MS, and crystallographic data bases for saponins, aglycones, and accompanying carbohydrates. A Latin name plant index has also been supplied.

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JM970231P

S0022-2623(97)00231-8

Books of Interest

Methods in Molecular Biology. Volume 62. Recombinant Gene Expression Protocols. Edited by Rocky S. Tuan. The Humana Press, Totowa, NJ. 1997. xx + 521 pp. 16.5 × 23 cm. ISBN 0-89603-333-3. \$74.50.

Methods in Molecular Biology. Volume 63. Recombinant Protein Protocols. Detection and Iso-