

Review of Dictionary of Marine Natural Products

Dictionary of Marine Natural Products. Edited by J. W. Blunt and M. H. G. Munro (University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand). Chapman & Hall/CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, USA. 2008. cxix + 2415 pp. 22 × 28 cm. \$629.00. ISBN 978-0-8493-8216-1.

This extraordinary compilation of over 30,000 compounds is a subset of the comprehensive *Chapman & Hall Dictionary of Natural Products* and is derived from the editors fastidious cataloging of marine natural products for many years in their MarinLit database. The print version is accompanied by a searchable CD-ROM; future updates will be issued periodically, but most likely only in the CD-ROM version.

Compounds are listed alphabetically, with an entry name, entry code number, CAS registry number, chemical structure with stereochemical descriptor, molecular formula and weight, biological source, physical and spectroscopic data, hazard and toxicity information, and key references. The printed version has introductory chapters on general format, structural types, and classification of organisms. The alphabetical listing of compounds follows, and the compilation is completed with several indices: names, compounds, type of compound, organisms, and type of organism. Some compounds are presented by trivial names, and others by IUPAC or formal names; thus, one might have to do a bit of searching to find a compound of interest. For example, the briarane diterpenoids, hundreds of which have been isolated from a variety of gorgonians and sea pens, are not presented by their trivial names, but as functionalized derivatives of the briarane diterpene skeleton. The various indices are helpful in finding particular compounds in the alphabetical presentation.

The structural drawings are clear and consistent in format. The only error detected was on page 1980, where the same structure was presented for wolfcene (compound W-19, $C_{31}H_{52}$) and woodinine (compound W-21, $C_{17}H_{22}BrN_3$). This reference compilation is, at first glance, expensive, but the investment will yield excellent returns from the wealth of information contained therein. Any group working on marine natural products and many groups exploring microbial metabolites will find value in this compilation.

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10.1021/np200494f

Published: June 23, 2011