

Book review

Literature Data for IR, Raman, NMR Spectroscopy of Si, Ge, Sn and Pb Organic Compounds; by K. Licht and P. Reich, VEB Deutscher Verlag der Wissenschaften, Berlin, 1971, 623 pages, 130 Marks (DDR)

This book meets a need which has been long and keenly felt by those working with organic compounds of the main group elements of Group IV. It is an index of references, complete up to the end of 1966, to all the publications which present information on the IR, Raman, NMR, and NOR spectra of the organic derivatives of Si, Ge, Sn and Pb, or on derived or associated properties such as bond distances and angles, bond character, force constants, etc. The coverage includes organic derivatives, such as $\text{Si}(\text{OMe})_4$, not containing carbon–metal bonds, and is also extended to some inorganic derivatives of the elements (e.g. GeH_4 , D_2HSiNCS , $(\text{H}_3\text{Ge})_2\text{S}$, H_3GePH_2 , SnBr_4). In all about 5500 compounds are listed, and some 2100 publications cited. For the small number of compounds I was able to check, the coverage appeared effectively comprehensive in each case. Its main limitation is that it is complete only up to the end of 1966.

The introduction and the instructions for use of the index appear in German, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The display of information is very wasteful of space, and there is little doubt that the number of pages could have been halved without crowding or reduction of the type size, but the generous lay-out does make for very easy searching. The book appears to be well bound, which is fortunate, since copies will receive a great deal of handling.

This is a most useful publication, and must be acquired by every laboratory concerned with the organometallic chemistry of Si, Ge, Sn, or Pb. It is to be hoped that a supplement covering the post-1966 period will appear before too long.

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J. Organometal. Chem., 36 (1972)