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Book review

GMELIN HANDBOOK OF INORGANIC CHEMISTRY, 8th Edition, FLUORINE-PERFLUOROHALOGENORGANO-COMPOUNDS OF THE MAIN GROUP ELEMENTS, Part 5, COMPOUNDS WITH NITROGEN (HETEROCYCLIC COMPOUNDS), A. Haas, volume author, D. Koschel, volume editor, 1978, vi + 226 pages, DM 538, \$295.90. Part 6, COMPOUNDS WITH NITROGEN (HETEROCYCLIC COMPOUNDS), A. Haas, volume author, D. Koschel, volume editor, 1978, iv + 196 pages, DM 462, \$254.10. Gmelin Institute for Inorganic Chemistry of the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science, Springer-Verlag, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York.

The first four volumes in the Gmelin Handbook series on perfluoroorganohalogen compounds were issued as part of the New Supplement Series. Commencing with the present volumes part 5 and 6 on Compounds with Nitrogen (Heterocyclic Compounds), the perfluoroorganohalogen compounds are incorporated into the Main Series under Fluorine.

These companion volumes thoroughly cover the literature through 1975. The material is arranged in order of increasing structural complexity, with monocyclics of three members through six members (the latter containing only one N atom in the ring) in part 5 and six-membered rings containing more than one heteroatom through condensed heterocycles and large rings in part 6. The preparation, physical properties, and selected chemical reactions of each heterocycle are described in satisfying detail and with relatively few mistakes. Orderly arrangement of the material, a formula index for both volumes at the end of part 6, the Table of Contents printed in both German and English, and English headings in the margins of the texts allow the reader to locate compound types and individual compounds with ease. Little general discussion or critical evaluation is offered, but the author may have felt the field to be too new and fast-growing for such presumption.

Because of the rapid expansion of the chemistry of fluoroorganonitrogen compounds in the last two decades, these volumes serve a real purpose in bringing together the literature on a most important part of that field of chemistry. They maintain the usual quality of the Gmelin Handbook series and will be valuable reference sources, not only for fluorine chemists, but frequently also for the inorganic or organic chemist. Further editions in this area of perfluorohaloorgano compounds would be welcome, especially any dealing with acyclic perfluoroorganonitrogen compounds.

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