

ration". (It took me a moment or two to work out that the 95% portion is presumably "perspiration".)

*School of Molecular Sciences,  
University of Sussex,  
Brighton BN1 9QJ (Great Britain)*

COLIN EABORN

*Vinyl Cations*; by P.J. Stang, Z. Rappoport, M. Hanack, and L.R. Subramanian; Academic Press, New York, London, Toronto, Sydney and San Francisco, 1979, xi + 513 pages, \$ 56.00; £ 36.40.

Information on vinyl cations has grown at an amazing pace in the past ten years, and the time was ripe for a comprehensive review. Four authors, all of whom have themselves made major contributions to the field, have cooperated in producing this volume, mainly writing separate chapters. The chapter headings give a clear guide to the content and approach taken: Introduction and historical background; Thermodynamics and theoretical calculations; Electrophilic additions to alkynes and participation of the triple bond in solvolysis; Electrophilic additions to allenes and participation of the allenyl bond in solvolysis; Bond heterolysis; Arylvinyl cations via solvolysis; Rearrangement of vinyl cations; Spectroscopic evidence for vinyl cations; Miscellaneous and conclusions. The whole provides an authoritative and up-to-date account of the subject.

Readers of this Journal will be disappointed at the brevity of the coverage of metal-containing vinyl cations; less than three pages are devoted to transition metal complexes having a vinylic carbonium ion centre attached to the metal, and there is no mention of the role of vinyl cations in electrophilic cleavages of alkynyl-metal bonds (e.g. of  $\text{RC}\equiv\text{CSiMe}_3$  species by acids) in which the metal stabilizes a carbonium ion centre  $\beta$  to the metal. This is a minor criticism, however, of what is a most useful volume.

*School of Molecular Sciences,  
University of Sussex,  
Brighton BN1 9QJ (Great Britain)*

COLIN EABORN