

Book reviews

Rodd's Chemistry of Carbon Compounds, Supplements to the 2nd Edition (Ed. M.F. Ansell), Vol. III, *Aromatic Compounds, Parts B and C*, Elsevier Scientific Publ. Co., Amsterdam-Oxford-New York, 1981, pp. xviii + 358, US\$78.75, Dfl. 185.00.

This additional supplement to a well-established reference work is reviewed here because it includes two chapters, by P.G. Harrison, dealing with aromatic compounds of the main group (22 pages) and transition metals (31 pages), respectively. The accounts are based on publications appearing up to 1979, and are essentially very brief selections of highlights from advances in recent years as judged by the author, along with useful references to relevant books and reviews. (The brevity is exemplified, though perhaps at its extreme, by the fact that less than half a page is devoted to aromatic derivatives of silicon, and mention is made only of methylphenylsilene, tetraphenyldisilene as a species observed in a mass spectrum, and production of arylpolysilanes by cathodic reduction.)

The other topics covered are benzoquinones and related compounds, derivatives of benzenoid hydrocarbons with substituents containing a single nitrogen atom, and nuclear-substituted benzenoid hydrocarbons with more than one nitrogen atom in the substituent group.

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Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry. Sn. Organotin Compounds, Part 8: Organotin Iodides, Organotin Pseudohalides. By H. Schumann and I. Schumann, Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York, 1981, pp. xii + 226, DM 677.

In this fine series of handbooks seven volumes devoted to organotin compounds have previously appeared, dealing, respectively, with the mononuclear tin tetraorganyls (3 parts), the mononuclear organotin hydrides, the mononuclear organotin fluorides, the mononuclear organotin chlorides, and the mononuclear organotin bromides. This new volume, which is in English, deals with mononuclear organotin iodides and pseudohalides, the latter group including cyanides, isocyanides (which exist in equilibrium with cyanides), isocyanates (no cyanates are known), fulminates (SnCNO), isothiocyanates (no thiocyanates are known), isoselenocyanates, azides, and sulphinyl imides (SnNSO).

The first seven pages consist of a very useful list of books and reviews dealing with (or including) organotin compounds published since a corresponding list appeared in *Organotin Compounds Part 7* (in 1980). The remainder of the volume consists of the usual outline of the methods of preparation and the properties of each of the known compounds, with much of the information appearing in tables. Uses and physiological effects are mentioned where relevant. The literature is surveyed up to the end of 1979. The quality of the volume is up to the usual very high standard, in both content and presentation.

This is, I believe, page for page the most expensive book I have ever reviewed, but even so it is hard to see how any laboratory engaged in work on organotin compounds can afford to be without it and its companion parts. Those daunted by the cost should consider it in the light of the man-hours, equipment time, and materials which are likely to be wasted if there is not ready access to the concentrated information this set of volumes provides.

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Erratum

Übergangsmetall—Carbin-Komplexe. LXVI; by E.O. Fischer, N.H. Tran-Huy and D. Neugebauer (*J. Organometal. Chem.*, 229 (1982) 169–177).

Page 171, the last line of table 3 should read:

v	—	—	2.15 (M, 1)	1.28 (M, 4)
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Page 177, line 10–14 should read:

Ausbeute: 2.1 g (40% bez. auf I). Das Produkt zersetzt sich bei 52°C ohne zu schmelzen. Gef.: C, 31.97; H, 1.09; O, 29.16; Br, 15.50; Cr, 20.74, ber.: C, 31.93; H, 1.02; O, 29.43; Br, 16.34; Cr, 21.27%. Mol.-Masse 488.94.

(b) 300 mg (1.2 mmol) *trans*-Bromotetracarbonyl(cyclopropylcarbin)—