

Book review

Gmelin handbook of inorganic chemistry, 8th Edition, *Sn. Organotin compounds, Part 7. Organotin bromides*, H. Schumann and I. Schumann, volume authors, H. Bitterer, volume editor, Gmelin Institut für Anorganische Chemie der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften and Springer-Verlag, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York, 1980, iv + 211 pages, DM 517, \$ 305.10.

Until now, the bounty of information contained in the Gmelin Handbook volumes for the most part was accessible only with some difficulty to those who did not read German. Recognizing that English has become the lingua franca of science, the Powers-That-Be at the Gmelin Institut have made the very sensible decision henceforth to bring out the new Handbook volumes in English. This will be applauded by inorganic and organometallic chemists throughout the world. Without doubt, it will enhance the general usefulness of the Gmelin Handbook and will increase its already considerable value as *the* reference work of inorganic chemistry.

The present volume, the newest addition to the Schumann's organotin series, is the first Gmelin "organotin" to be published in English. Organotin fluorides and chlorides have been treated in previous volumes; this one deals with organotin bromides: R_3SnBr , R_2SnBr_2 and $RSnBr_3$. Although they are rather less often prepared and used than the chlorides, there is enough known about organotin bromides to fill a book of 189 pages of text, tables and references. The simplest ones, where $R = CH_3$, C_2H_5 , $n-C_4H_9$ and C_6H_5 , have received the most study and the discussion of their properties and chemistry takes up the greater portion of the book. However, all other organotin bromides which have been reported in the journal or patent literature are included. A formula and substituent group index helps the reader find them easily. Whatever is known about the compound in question is summarized. For the much-studied trimethyltin bromide, for instance, the preparative routes, the structure, the various spectroscopies (NMR, NQR, Mössbauer, IR and Raman, PE and X-ray PE, mass), physical properties, polarography, chemical reactions with diverse classes of reagents, physiological properties and applications are reported in great detail. All this information is backed up by all available references. And so are treated all other bromides, in text or in tables. The literature is covered through December 1978.

The useful listing of available general organotin references: reviews, book chapters, books, conference proceedings, etc., begun in Part 1 of the organotin series and continued in Part 5 has another installment in the present book which covers the period 1977–1978, and there is also a collection of the review literature which deals with organotin bromides.

This volume is a fine companion to the previous six and will be welcomed by all organotin chemists.

Department of Chemistry,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (U.S.A.)

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