

*Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry*, 8th Edition. *W — Tungsten, Supplement Volume B6: Anhydrous Tungstates of Group IVA to VIB Metals*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, Tokyo, 1984, xx + 397 pages, DM1329. ISBN 3-540-93506-1.

This is the seventh volume of the Gmelin Handbook to deal with the chemistry of tungsten (System Number 54) since the main volume was published in 1933, and the fifth to deal exclusively with oxides. As the title suggests, this volume continues and concludes the exhaustive coverage of the anhydrous metal tungstates which was initiated in Supplement Volume B2, and has comprised the content of Supplement Volumes B3–B5. Amongst the many systems described are the tungstates of titanium, zirconium, hafnium, thorium, germanium, tin, lead, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, and molybdenum. The closing date for comprehensive literature coverage is 1982, but a number of references from after that date have been included. This volume, taken with its predecessors, forms an indispensable reference work to all solid state chemists. Its value is much enhanced by the high quality of the illustrations of the structures and phase diagrams. The authors (A. Drechsler, W. Kurtz, F. Schröder and U. Trobisch) have performed a splendid task of reportage and collation, producing a volume of the highest standards, which one almost takes for granted in this invaluable series. This volume should be in every library attached to institutes in which solid state chemistry is practiced and, taken with the other B Supplements, it will clearly be the definitive source for information concerning tungstates for the remainder of this century.

In conclusion, I issue an appeal to the Gmelin Institute. Tungsten has a rich and fascinating coordination and organometallic chemistry; there are as yet no volumes of the Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry covering these areas of prime interest to all inorganic chemists, both in industry and academia. Have they been commissioned yet? When are they to appear?

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*Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry*, 8th Edition, *Formula Index 1st Supplement Vol. 1, Formula Index Ac to Au*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin etc., 1983, ix + 149 pages, DM 501. ISBN 3-540-93481-2.

The Gmelin Formula Index which appeared in 1975–1980 covered the Main Series of the 8th edition up to the end of 1974 and the New Supplement Series up to 1973. The First Supplement to the Index, which will appear as eight volumes at the rate of two or three annually, will bring the coverage up to the end of 1979, and the volume under review is the first in the series. It covers empirical formulas beginning with the symbols Ac to Au, and contains almost 7000 entries.

The index is not as useful as it could be. This is because the entries are by the empirical formulae, with the elements arranged alphabetically. Thus