

Book review

Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry, 8th Edition, Sn — *Organotin Compounds, Part 10: Mono- and Di-organotin-Sulfur Compounds. Organotin-Selenium and Organotin-Tellurium Compounds*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1983, XI + 352 pages. DM 993.

The relatively rapid growth in organotin chemistry has prompted the Gmelin Institute to issue several volumes on organotin compounds. (Only about 5000 publications on organotin chemistry appeared up to 1970, but about 1000 now appear each year.) The first of these volumes appeared between 1975 and 1981, within this eighth edition of the Handbook; Volumes 1–3 dealt with mononuclear tetraorganotin compounds, Volume 4 with mononuclear organotin hydrides, and Volumes 5–8 with mononuclear organotin halides and pseudohalides. Volume 10 (which is completely in English) continues the treatment of mononuclear organotin sulphur compounds begun in Volume 9, and the few known mononuclear organotin-selenium and -tellurium compounds are also included. The types of species treated are $R_2Sn(SR')_2$, $R_2Sn(SR')(SR'')$, $RR'Sn(SR'')_2$, heterocyclic $R_2Sn(SR')_2$, $RSn(SR')_3$, $RSn(SR')_2(SR'')$, $R_2Sn(SR')X$ ($X = OH, F, Cl, Br, I, NCS, N_3$), $R_2Sn(SR')(OR'')$, $R_2Sn \begin{matrix} S \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ O \end{matrix} SnR'$, $RR'Sn(SR'')(OR''')$, $RSn(SR')_2X$ ($X = H, F, Cl, Br, I, NCS, OR''$), $RSn(SR')X_2$ ($X = H, Cl, Br, I, OR''$), $RSn(SR')XY$, $R_3Sn(SeR')$, $R_2Sn(SeR')_2$, $RSn(SeR')_3$, $R_2Sn(SeR')X$, $R_2Sn(SeR')_2X$, $R_3Sn(TeR')$.

The literature up to the end of 1980 has been surveyed. For each compound the method of preparation and main properties are summarized, with relevant references, and there is a clear formula index. The production is of the usual very high standard. The volume is costly (ca. U.S. \$400 or £250 on the date of this review), but the complete set on organotin compounds is invaluable to any laboratory involved in research on or use of organotin compounds.

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