

Book review

Dictionary of Organometallic Compounds. Fifth Supplement (in two volumes); by J.E. Macintyre (Ed.), Chapman and Hall, London and New York, 1989, xxv + 1116 pages, £495.00. ISBN 0-412-28180-5.

This fifth supplement to a highly regarded dictionary is in two volumes. The first continues the pattern of Supplements 1–4, and so mainly presents details of compounds that have become available since the last supplement or additional information on compounds previously listed. There are also entries for compounds that have been known for some time but were omitted from earlier volumes, their inclusion now having in several cases been suggested by readers. In total there are approximately 3000 new or updated entries. The literature has been systematically surveyed up to late 1988, and some information from later publications is included. As usual there is also a very useful list of recent books or review articles dealing with general or specific aspects of organometallic chemistry. The high standard of the earlier volumes is maintained, and readers familiar with those volumes will certainly want this new one available to them. Organometallic chemists who are not familiar with the dictionary would be wise to become so at the first opportunity.

The second volume consists of a well-organized index to all five supplements, and includes indexes of compound names, molecular formulae, and CAS registry numbers. An excellent feature of this dictionary is the presentation of structure diagrams for all but the simplest species, and a complete index of structure diagrams in Supplements 1–5 is being made available separately.

I make much use of the dictionary, and find that the high quality of its production make it a pleasure to consult. Although it is meant primarily to be a reference work for practising organometallic chemists, it should also be available to undergraduate and postgraduate students of chemistry, since even to look through its pages can be informative and stimulating.

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