

presented in the usual exhaustive fashion, and even mixed species such as $[\text{AuCl}_2(\text{CN})_2]^-$. In summary, a useful volume with background information, but not essential to the organometallic chemist's reference library. The cost, at just over 6DM per page, is no more than might have been expected making the most optimistic assumptions about inflation. Clearly Gmelin are holding down their costs to an unexpected degree!

G.J. Leigh
School of Chemistry, Physics and Molecular Science
University of Sussex
Brighton BN1 9QJ
UK

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Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic and Organometallic Chemistry, Eighth Edition, Part B8, Os Organoosmium Compounds, Springer-Verlag, Berlin and Heidelberg, 1995, pp. xii + 197, DM 1230, ÖS 8979, SFr 1071, ISBN 3-540-93725-0.

This new Gmelin volume discusses all the tetraosmium organometallic compounds. Most of these are tetranuclear, but some also contain additional transition metals and these are listed in a table at the end of the book, as well as appearing in the text. The volume should be of immediate appeal to researchers interested in polynuclear metal carbonyls. The literature is covered at least until mid-1994, and that in itself is quite an achievement, in view of the great activity in this area of chemistry.

The compounds described are mainly, but not exclusively, based upon tetrahedra of osmium atoms. The arrangement is logical, starting with compounds containing six Os–Os bonds, through five, four, etc., to the single compound without any Os–Os bonds, and finishing with a few compounds of unknown structure. Within these groups, the arrangement follows the usual Gmelin pattern based upon the number of carbon atoms used to bond ligands to osmium. The predominant ligand is, of course, carbon monoxide.

The book contains many structural diagrams to illustrate the individual compounds, and it concludes with an empirical formula index and a ligand formula index, which ensure that any particular compound can be traced very easily. The book suffers from the usual drawback of structure-based compendia, but because it is comprehensive the other kinds of data are still accessible. Surprisingly, the editors have not followed IUPAC recommendations as to the use of square brackets in formulae, but that is only likely to worry a limited number of people, such as myself. The cost, at rather more than DM 6.2 per page, is a slight increase in page price compared with previous volumes. It is still considerably cheaper than a fully charged computer search and data compilation.

G.J. Leigh
School of Chemistry, Physics and Molecular
Science University of Sussex
Brighton BN1 9QJ
UK

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