

Book reviews

Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic and Organometallic Chemistry 8th edn. Sn Organotin Compounds. Part 22. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1995, xiii + 304 pages, DM1800; SFr1692
ISBN 3-540-93710-2

This volume in this valuable series on organotin compounds, written by H. Schumann and I. Schumann, is devoted to compounds with bonds between tin and transition metals of Groups VIII, I, and II (Groups 8–12). As such it will be of direct interest to a wide range of organometallic chemists, especially in view of the rapidly growing activity in studies of compounds with bonds between main group and transition metals.

The numbers of pages devoted to each transition element give an indication of the relative amounts of attention being given to them, and are as follows: Fe, 49; Ru, 15; Os, 9; Co, 50; Rh, 5; Ir, 11; Ni, 4; Pd, 3; Pt, 50; Cu, 26; Ag, 0.5; Zn, 2; Cd, 0.5; Hg, 2. (In the case of the copper derivatives most of the compounds were prepared for in-situ use in organic synthesis, and very few have been isolated.) There is the usual comprehensive coverage, with much material presented in tabular form. The literature was systematically searched up to the end of 1993, but there are some later references.

As usual in the series on organotin compounds there is a useful list of recent (mainly 1993–1994) general papers and reviews on the physical, analytical, environmental, and toxicological aspects of organotin compounds and on their biological and other applications.

This is a worthy addition to a series on organotin compounds that is especially valuable because it is now so comprehensive, but because of the increasing volume of research devoted to organotin chemistry supplements to the earlier volumes will be required at frequent intervals. Organotin chemists, and those making occasional use of organotin compounds, who have the volumes available to them are at a great advantage.

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Inorganic Experiments
J.D. Woollins (ed.). VCH, Weinheim, New York, 1994, 286 pages, Hardbound DM148.00, Softbound DM58.00
ISBN 3-527-29253-5 (Softbound); 3-527-29235-7 (Hardbound)

This monograph will be greatly welcomed by those charged with providing interesting and up-to-date courses in inorganic and organometallic chemistry for undergraduates and beginning postgraduates. The editor has assembled descriptions of more than 60 well-chosen experiments contributed by university teachers from all over Europe, many of them leading experts in their fields. Together they provide excellent programmes at the introductory (16 experiments), intermediate (24 experiments), and advanced level (25 experiments), which students should find exciting and stimulating as well as instructive. Very clear and careful instructions are given in each case, and some contributions are enhanced by inclusion of appropriate exercises and references to more general reading. Particular attention is given to safety aspects.

This is an imaginative and first-class laboratory manual that should be looked at by all those in charge of inorganic teaching laboratories. Even if they do not adopt it as the course text book (which they could well do) they will surely find a substantial number of experiments that should be introduced into their programmes. It should make an important contribution to the training of the next generation of chemists. Fortunately the softbound version is priced at a level that should allow purchase by students.

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