Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic and Organometallic Chemistry. Ge. Organogermanium Compounds. Part 6. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 8th edn., 1996, 260 pages + xiv, DM 1600.00, ISBN 3-540-93730-7.

This volume, written by Dr. P. Mazerolles, C. Siebert and B. Wöbke, continues the valuable series on organogermanium compounds which started in 1988. It begins with the coverage of mononuclear organogermanium compounds containing germanium–halogen bonds. The first section (57 pages) deals with all mononuclear organogermanium fluorides, of the types R_3GeF, $R_2R'GeF$, $RR'R''GeF$, $R'Ge(R)F$, R_2GeF_2, $GeRR'F_2$, $F_2Ge(R)R$, $RGeF_3$, R_2GeHF, $RGeEF_2$, $RGeH_2F$, and compounds containing organogermanium–fluoride anions, such as $Na[Ge(CF_3)_3F_2] \cdot H_2O$. The rest of the volume is concerned wholly with triorganogermanium chlorides (including cyclic species $R'Ge(R)Cl$), over 300 in total. Trimethylgermanium chloride occupies 50 pages, Et_3GeCl 26 pages, and Ph_3GeCl 18 pages.

The account is, as usual in the Gmelin approach, factual, without comment or evaluation, so that, for example, over 50 reactions that have given Et_3GeCl are summarized without any hint of which of these provide good procedures for someone wishing to make it. Perhaps even to a greater extent than in the earlier volumes in the series the bulk of the information is presented, very clearly, in tables. Literature coverage is complete to the end of 1994, but there is also a good number of 1995 references.

There is a useful list of reviews of aspects of organogermanium compounds that appeared up to the end of 1994, updating the corresponding list that appeared in Vol. 5 in 1993.

This series on organogermanium compounds becomes ever more valuable as coverage of the range of compound types becomes more complete, and access to it, through the printed page or on-line, is invaluable to those working in the field.

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Organometallics in Synthesis: A Manual. M. Schlosser (ed.), Wiley, Chichester, 1996, 603 pages + ix, £35.00, ISBN 0471 96961 3.

This is the soft-cover version of the excellent book that appeared in 1994 and which I reviewed very favourably (*J. Organomet. Chem.*, *490* (1995) C38). It represents exceptional value, and deserves to be purchased in substantial numbers for personal libraries.

It is to be hoped that further volumes dealing with additional metals will be forthcoming in the near future.

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