

**Book review**

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*Fluorine in Organic Chemistry*; by Richard D. Chambers, New York, Wiley-Interscience, 1973, xv + 391 pages

This book is an outgrowth of a series of lectures at the graduate level developed while the author was a visiting lecturer at Case-Western Reserve University. The original stated intention of the book was to describe organic fluorine chemistry with a stress on mechanism and the relevance of this area of chemistry to organic chemistry at large.

The book is essentially divided into ten chapters with each section further subdivided into more specific topics. The general areas described are: (1) General Discussion of Organic Fluorine Chemistry, 13 pages, (2) Preparation of Highly Fluorinated Compounds, 24 pages, (3) Partial or Selective Fluorination, 25 pages, (4) The Influence of Fluorine of Fluorocarbon Groups on Some Reactions Centres, 32 pages, (5) Nucleophilic Displacement of Halogen from Fluorocarbon Systems, 12 pages, (6) Elimination Reactions, 29 pages, (7) Polyfluoroalkanes, Polyfluoroalkenes, Polyfluoroalkynes and Derivatives, 72 pages, (8) Functional Compounds Containing Oxygen, Sulphur, or Nitrogen and Their Derivatives, 52 pages, (9) Polyfluoroaromatic Compounds, 83 pages, (10) Organometallic Compounds, 42 pages. The text is amply referenced and is current through 1971. A subject index is included, but no author index is included.

Undoubtedly workers in this field will compare this text to the treatise by Sheppard and Sharts on Organic Fluorine Chemistry and the Fluorocarbon Specialist Report of The Chemical Society. These latter two works are extensive treatments of this area, whereas the book by Chamber has a more selective and illustrative coverage. For the specialist in this area the more exhaustive treatments will undoubtedly be more useful, but even specialists will benefit from a reading of Professor Chamber's book. His lucid style, clear explanations, and enthusiasm for his subject make this an excellent text for a graduate course in organic fluorine chemistry or as an introduction to this field by a research worker unfamiliar with this area. Progression from this book to the Sheppard and Shart's work to the Fluorocarbon Specialist Report will provide any novice to organic fluorine chemistry a firm foundation to further work in this field.

My own students have found this book as enlightening and enjoyable as I have, and I recommend it to anyone interested in obtaining a modern, mechanistic introduction to this fascinating area of organic chemistry.

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