

Book review

Analytical Profiles of Drug Substances and Excipients vol. 25, Edited by Harry G. Brittain, Academic Press, 1998; 582 pages

Volume 25 of this series continues the long tradition of well-written and well-documented profiles of drug substances and pharmaceutical excipients that should be essential readings for the practicing pharmaceutical scientist. At the onset, it is indicated that the series has always continued to provide current state-of-the-art information of the highest quality. There is a commitment to updating older profiles whenever a sufficient body of new data is available.

There are 12 profiles in volume 25, dealing with active medicinal agents, with the profiles having been contributed by scientists worldwide. There is an established presentation format for each profile that ensures the reader that each profile has been carefully written and checked for thoroughness. Included in a typical format are topics such as description (nomenclature, non-proprietary and proprietary names, empirical and structural formulae, molecular weight, CAS number, appearance, color, odor and uses and applications), methods of preparation, physical properties (optical activity, spectroscopy, microscopy, partition coefficient, solubility, hygroscopicity, thermal methods, mass spectra, nuclear magnetic resonance, UV/VIS absorption, vibrational spectroscopy, particle morphology, melting/boiling point, X-ray crystallography, dipole moment), methods of assay (compendial tests, identification tests, elemental assay, microbiological analysis, supercritical fluid chromatography, thin layer and high performance thin-layer chromatography,

high performance liquid chromatography, mass spectrometry, titrimetry, UVNIS spectroscopy, dissolution tests, capillary electrophoresis, gas chromatography), solid state stability and incompatibilities, assays of the pharmaceutical in biological matrices, drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics and references.

Among the active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) profiled in this volume are adenosine, cefixime, clomiphene citrate, guaifenesin, mebeverine hydrochloride, mesalamine, metformin hydrochloride, pentoxifylline, praziquantel, tranlycypromine sulfate, zileuton and povidone-iodine.

Each volume is edited to contain profiles that are submitted by volunteer contributors. Hence, the series is highly dependent upon its contributors. The editor is always seeking for new or updated profiles and will gladly supply a list of prioritized pharmaceuticals.

What makes this and the entire series of volumes a valuable work is the thoroughness of the presented data and the detail which is paid to consistency. It is hopeful that pharmaceutical scientists worldwide will help to maintain the outstanding reputation of this series by contributing profiles. The price of each volume is reasonable and can be purchased for a personal library. The entire 25 volume set should definitely be available in academic, industrial, and governmental laboratories where pharmaceutical research is being conducted.

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