

BOOK REVIEW

Elektroorganische Chemie - Grundlagen and adwendungen

F. Beck, Verlag Chemie, 1974. Dm 88.0.

The author of this book is well known for his involvement in the commercial exploitation of synthetic organic electrochemistry. It is not surprising, therefore, that most of this book deals with organic electrosynthesis and that there is a continued emphasis of reactions of technical importance. There is, in addition, a final chapter which deals much more briefly with those aspects of fuel cells, batteries, electrocoating, corrosion inhibition, electromachining and deposition, electro dialysis and other purification techniques which involve organic electrochemistry.

The author has produced a well balanced text which could, with confidence, be recommended as an introduction to organic electrosynthesis. The chapters deal in turn with the principles of electrochemistry essential to the understanding of a synthetic reaction, the major techniques used in their study, the design of cells for the laboratory and industrial application, and the electrode reactions of organic molecules. The latter chapter

is almost half the book and is, of course, largely a review of the literature. Particular emphasis is placed on reactions considered to be of synthetic importance and throughout, a substantial effort has been made to collect together data on reaction yields; less attempt is made to discuss reaction mechanisms and this may be disappointing to the more academic reader. Although the book makes no attempt to be exhaustive, it clearly demonstrates the wide range of possible reactions; it is well referenced and the extensive quotation of the patent literature will be appreciated by many readers.

Although recent years have seen the publication of a number of books on organic electrosynthesis, I believe that the present book may come to be regarded as the best. Our students in Southampton would certainly welcome an English edition.

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