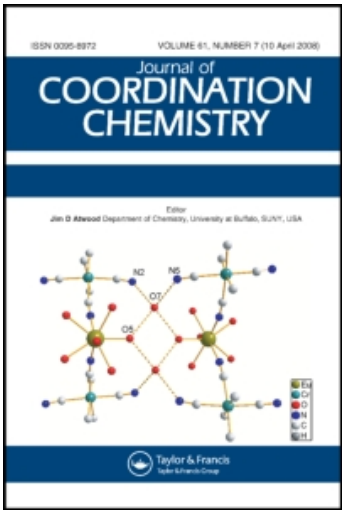

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BOOK REVIEW

THE CHEMISTRY OF MACROCYCLIC LIGAND COMPLEXES

L. F. LINDOY

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1989, pp viii + 269 £45.00, $US 69.50 ISBN 0 521 25261 X

Professor Lindoy has provided in this book a much needed overview of the increasingly important field of macrocyclic complexes. It is not intended to be comprehensive or exhaustive; this is not a weakness. Rather, the main aspects of macrocyclic chemistry with respect to complex formation are covered with a bibliography sufficient to enable the interested reader to work into the primary literature. Indeed, much primary material is cited.

Several chapters are particularly enlightening. Among these should be included those on synthetic procedures, the crown polyethers and host-guest chemistry. Thermodynamic and kinetic aspects of complex formation are dealt with at length, and in an eminently readable way. A brief chapter on naturally occurring macrocycles completes the volume. This might have been expanded in view of the current interest in bioinorganic chemistry, but is adequate in terms of the stated aims of the book. No doubt researchers in the field will find omissions of certain kinds of molecules and systems as this reviewer did. However, the main classes are dealt with, including cage complexes.

As a general introduction to the field, the work has few peers. It will be of use to researchers and students alike although, for the latter, the price is a bit steep. Perhaps the production of a soft cover version will enable a wider audience to take advantage of a well-planned approach to this topic. In any case, all universities with a chemistry department will wish to acquire a copy for the library.

My only difficulty in reading this book has arisen because of pressure from postgraduate students to borrow it. That itself is a compelling recommendation, and I commend it to inorganic chemists with any interest in coordinating ligands.

P. A. Williams