

Book Review

Chemie Antihistaminových Latek a Histaminove Skupiny (The Chemistry of Antihistaminic Compounds and Histamine Groups), by Miroslav Protiva. Nakladatelství Československé Akademie Ved., Prague, 1955. 762 pp.

In spite of the age of this book the contents are essentially unknown to the English-speaking workers in this field and are considered to be worthy of review.

The book is divided into five sections. The first of these is an introduction to the field, and the second deals with the historical background and the contributions made in various countries. The third section is the largest and most important part of the book; it systematically summarizes the compounds studied for histamine, antihistaminic, or anti-anaphylactic activity. Compounds are also included with related biological or biochemical effects, such as the liberation of histamine or inhibition of histaminase. A total of 5487 compounds and their derivatives are reviewed. For the majority of these the formula, methods of preparation, physical properties and the results of pharmacological testing are given. The English-speaking research worker should have little difficulty in securing information from this section.

The last two sections discuss the relationship between constitution and activity, and the mechanism of action of antihistaminic compounds.

The book concludes with a listing of patents, literature index, formula index, and a general index.

The literature is covered extensively through 1953 by Dr. Protiva, who has published actively in this field. Since the research on antihistamines reached a peak prior to this time, this work represents the best summary of these compounds available and should be of use to investigators in the drug field.

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