

## Book review

"Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry", 8th Edition, New Supplement Series, Vol. 35, "Organotin Compounds. Part 4. Organotin Hydrides", H. Schumann and I. Schumann, volume authors, H. Bitterer, volume editor, Gmelin Institut für Anorganische Chemie und Grenzgebiete der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften, Springer-Verlag, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York, 1976, v + 134 pages, DM 311, \$ 127.60 (in German).

In the hands of the synthetic chemist, organotin hydrides are the most widely utilized organotin compounds. The latest addition to the Schumanns' Gmelin series on organotin compounds, which covers the literature of organotin hydride chemistry through the end of 1974, is, therefore, a most welcome one. Included in this book are all available data on organotin hydrides of types  $R_3SnH$ ,  $R_2R'SnH$ ,  $RR'R''SnH$ ,  $R_2SnH_2$ ,  $RR'SnH_2$  and  $RSnH_3$ . (Halohydrides, such as  $R_2SnHX$ , will be covered in the volume on organotin halides). As usual, we find given here all published information on the preparation of the individual compounds, their physical and spectroscopic properties, their chemical properties and reactions and what may be known about their biological properties. Most of their chemistry involves hydrostannation of unsaturated compounds, and these reactions are summarized in well-organized tables. Important also is their application in the reduction of organic halides. It is very useful to have all the pertinent references collected in one place, and this book will be an important literature resource not only to organometallic chemists but also to organic chemists. Worth noting also are the collections of reviews and general references covering organotin hydrides in general at the beginning of the volume and the various specific classes ( $R_3SnH$ ,  $R_2SnH_2$  and  $RSnH_3$ ) at the beginning of each chapter.

This volume is written in German, but English translations of the preface, the table of contents and chapter and section headings are provided. A formula index concludes the book.

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