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Book review

GMELIN HANDBOOK OF INORGANIC CHEMISTRY, 8th Edition, ORGANOTIN COMPOUNDS, Part 5, ORGANOTIN FLUORIDES, TRIORGANOTIN CHLORIDES, H. Schumann and I. Schumann, volume authors, H. Bitterer, volume editor, Gmelin Institut für Anorganische Chemie der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften, Springer-Verlag, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York, 1978, viii + 252 pages, DM 594, \$ 297.00

We have here the fifth volume of the Schumanns' Gmelin organotin series. Previous volumes have covered tetraorganotin compounds and organotin hydrides. The present book continues with the detailed consideration of all organotin fluorides (R_3SnF , R_2SnF_2 and $RSnF_3$) and of triorganotin chlorides (R_3SnCl , $R_2R'SnCl$ and $RR'R''SnCl$).

The organotin fluorides are of interest mainly from the structural point of view, being associated via fluorine bridging in the solid state and poorly soluble. Nonetheless, quite a few have been prepared and studied by various physical and spectroscopic methods. Full details and complete references to this work are given.

Organotin chlorides are of much greater importance and more than two-thirds of this volume is devoted to this class of compounds. Many have been prepared and studied, and all that is known about the individual members of this class is given here: preparation, physical and spectroscopic properties, known chemical reactions and applications. For most of the R_3SnCl compounds these data are given in the text, but for the less well studied unsymmetrical $R_2R'SnCl$ and $RR'R''SnCl$ types much of this information is provided in tabular form.

The literature coverage is complete through 1975 for the organotin fluorides, through 1976 for the triorganotin chlorides. Few, if any, references appear to have escaped the Gmelin literature net, and this completeness of coverage is one of the reasons why the Gmelin Handbook is of such great value to inorganic and organometallic chemists.

A very useful feature of Part 1 of the organotin series was the bibliography of general organotin review, monograph and book references and of even more general Group IV organometallics references which was provided as a general introduction to this area. This collection of review-type references is brought up to date (through 1976) in the present book. Also provided is a list of references to reviews, monographs and books which deal wholly or in part with organotin halides.

This book is written in German, but English translations of the preface, the table of contents, chapter titles and section headings will help the reader whose German is lacking.

This is an excellent and very useful addition to the Gmelin organotin series, and we look forward to further volumes.

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