

### Book reviews

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*Synthesis of Acetylenes, Allenes and Cumulenes. A Laboratory Manual*; by L. Brandsma and H.D. Verkruisje, Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam — Oxford — New York, 1981, ix + 276 pages, U.S. \$70.25; Dfl. 165.00.

This book presents more than 200 detailed experimental procedures for the preparation of a wide range of acetylenes, allenes, and cumulenes. It represents a remarkable achievement since all the procedures have been checked or developed by the authors; all the main established methods are exemplified, and some new methods described. For each compound the best and most economic method for use on the 0.1–0.2 molar scale is selected. Good indexes by formula and compound type are included. A final section by R.H.A.M. Janssen, R.J.J.Ch. Lousberg and M.J.A. de Bie lists NMR parameters for allenes.

Established workers and beginners in the field will benefit greatly from having this volume available in the laboratory. But it may be of even greater value to those who only occasionally need to make acetylenes, allenes, or cumulenes.

*School of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences,  
University of Sussex,  
Brighton BN1 9QJ (Great Britain)*

COLIN EABORN

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*Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry. 8th Edition. Organoantimony Compounds. Part 2*; by M. Wieber, Springer Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg - New York, 1981 xi + 182 pages. DM 512.

This second volume on organoantimony compounds is concerned very predominantly with trivalent antimony compounds of the types  $R_2SbX$  and  $RSbX_2$ , in which R is an organic group attached through an Sb—C bond. Usually X is an inorganic group, or an organic group bonded through an atom other than carbon, e.g. OR and  $O_2CR$  groups. A few compounds containing more than one antimony atom  $((RSb)_n$ ,  $(X_2Sb)_nR$ , and cyclic species) are included, and there are brief sections on stibabenzene, stibacarborene and some  $R_2SbX$  and  $RSbX_2$  compounds referred to in patent literature without detailed specification of the R groups. Transition metal compounds are described in detail if they are of the type  $R_2SbX$  and  $RSbX_2$  in which X contains a transition metal, but if the stibine only donates a lone pair to a transition metal complex then the resulting complex is mentioned only under the