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Book review

Organosilicon Compounds, Vols. 9, 10(1), 10(2), and 10(3); by V. Chvalovský and J. Rathouský, Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague, 1983.

These volumes represent the latest up-dating of this extremely useful series which provides details of all organosilicon compounds described in the literature, and the first volumes of which appeared in 1965. The new volumes deal with data reported in 1978.

As usual, the compounds are arranged by empirical formulae, and for each of them the following information is given: name, structural formula, physical data, methods of synthesis, reactions, calculated elemental composition, molecular weight. Details of derivatives (e.g. salts) are also included where appropriate. In a minor but significant change, the qualification "probably" is no longer appended to structures of compounds identified by physicochemical procedures but not isolated.

This series is very well known to organosilicon chemists, and it is impossible to imagine that any of them would not want to have it readily available. With the very rapid growth in the use of organosilicon compounds by synthetic organic chemists the demand for it will surely greatly increase, and those fortunate enough to possess personal copies may well have a valuable investment in their hands! This same growth, however, will inevitably result in a great increase in the number and complexity of new organosilicon compounds reported each year (and in the amount of new information on previously known compounds), and it is to be hoped that this flood will not overwhelm the compilers. (The present volume is for a year in which the upsurge had only just begun.)

These new volumes, along with the others in the series deserve to be very widely available to organic as well as organometallic chemists. It is thus unfortunate that they cannot be purchased in the ordinary way, but obtained only by an exchange of books with the Librarian of the Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Suchbát 2, PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia. Those interested should resolve not to be inhibited by this; the compilations are much too useful to miss.

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