

I also dislike the use of a single reference number at the end of a paragraph dealing with several distinct items from, say, four separate publications; to find the detail on one item of interest may involve looking first through three irrelevant papers.

But these are secondary matters. The volume overall is excellent of its kind, and, like its predecessors, will be much welcomed by organometallic chemists.

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Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry. Index. Formula Index. 1st Supplement. Volume 2. B—B_{1,9}. Springer-Verlag, Berlin etc., 1984, ix + 229 pages. DM 750. ISBN 3-540-93482-0

The Gmelin Formula Index published in the period 1975—1980 covered all the volumes of the Main Series of the 8th edition of the Handbook up to the end of 1974, and of the New Supplement Series up to the end of 1973. The first Supplement to the Formula Index extends the coverage to the end of 1979; it will comprise 8 volumes, two or three appearing each year.

In these indexes, as before, substances are listed by their empirical formula with the chemical symbols arranged alphabetically, and a molecular formula then given in each case. The present volume contains about 10 800 entries for boron compounds, and deals with empirical formulae B—B_{1,9}. (There are, in fact, only 9 entries between B_{1,1} and B_{1,9}, inclusive.)

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