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Book review

Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry, 8th edit., *Sn — Organotin Compounds, Part 11: Trimethyltin- and Triethyltin-Oxygen Compounds*. Berlin etc. 1984; x + 292 pages. DM 995. ISBN 3-540-93501-0 and 0-387-93501-0.

There has been a steady and marked increase in the chemistry of organotin compounds in the past 25 years; apparently a total of about 1000 publications on the topic had appeared by 1960 and about 5000 by 1970, but they now come out at the rate of about 1000 per annum. This has made it necessary for the Gmelin Institute to devote several volumes to organotin compounds.

This new volume begins the coverage of mononuclear organotin compounds containing Sn—O bonds, and is concerned with trimethyltin- and triethyltin-oxygen compounds described in the literature up to the end of 1982. The account, which is by H. Schumann and I. Schumann, is of the high standard we expect from Gmelin, and a very large amount of information is provided concisely and clearly. Especially well presented are the many X-ray structures, which are of special interest because of the tendency of tin—oxygen compounds to form polymeric species containing five-coordinate tin. There is a comprehensive formula index.

In addition to the main content, indicated above, the book has six pages devoted to a list of general accounts of organotin chemistry (e.g. monographs and patents reviews appearing up to the end of 1982 and not mentioned in earlier volumes), and 37 pages devoted to a similar list of general accounts of organotin-oxygen compounds.

Care has been taken with the English of this volume, and there are only a few minor infelicities of style to indicate that it was not written by a native British author. The printing and binding are of a high standard.

These Gmelin volumes on organotin compounds would be of great value to all those carrying out research into organotin compounds or, as is increasingly common, using them in organic synthesis. Workers in those fields who do not have ready access to the accounts will be at a marked disadvantage.

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