

Book review

Schwingungsfrequenzen II: Nebengruppenelemente; by J. Weidlein, U. Müller and K. Dehnicke, Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, New York, 1986, xvi + 206 pages, DM 220. ISBN 3-13-686701-7.

It must be said that our first reactions to this book were all negative. Firstly, the title suggested that the text would be in German; secondly, the book has been produced in a camera-ready copy format which is not immediately pleasing to the eye; thirdly, the manner of finding information in the volume seemed eccentric; finally, at £0.30 per page (three times the current average price of a research volume), it seemed grossly overpriced. However, having now been using this book for several weeks, we are completely converted—it is that rare commodity, a truly useful volume.

For those who do not read German, relax—the only German text is in the foreword, and this is translated into English. The book presents, in tabular form, the infrared and Raman stretching frequencies $\nu(\text{ME})$ for a wide range of complexes, where M is a lanthanide, actinide, or first, second or third row transition metal and E is F, Cl, Br, I, O, S, Se, Te, N, P, As, Sb, C, Si, Ge, Sn, Pb, B, Ga, In, Sc, Ti, Hf, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, W, Mn, Tc, Re, Fe, Ru, Os, Co, Rh, Ir, Ni, Pd, Pt, Cu, Ag, Au, Zn, Cd, Hg or H (in order of priority of tabulation). The book cites 1443 references, and includes many from 1985 (n.b. the confusing statement “The literature was selected to be as actual as possible”, which occurs in the English “translation” of the foreword, really means “The literature was selected to be as up-to-date as possible”—Aktualität was incorrectly interpreted). Once accustomed to the system, the book is really easy to use. Thus, $\nu(\text{V}=\text{O})$ for $[\text{VOCl}_4]^-$ is found under OV, whereas $\nu(\text{VCl})$ for the same anion is found under Cl_4V . Similarly, $\nu(\text{RuO})$ for both $[\text{Ru}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{3+}$ and $[\text{Ru}(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)_3]^{3-}$ is found under O_6Ru .

We wholeheartedly recommend this book to any practising synthetic coordination or organometallic chemist. It is a truly invaluable volume, and should be in the personal collection of all active researchers. Its value is enhanced further when one recalls that Nakamoto was published in 1978, Ross in 1972, and Ferraro in 1971: this new volume highlights just how dated the standard texts have become.

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