

### Book reviews

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*Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry. Sn — Organotin Compounds. Part 13. Other R<sub>3</sub>Sn-Oxygen Compounds, R<sub>2</sub>R'Sn- and RR'R''Sn-Oxygen Compounds.* Springer, Berlin, etc., 1986, xii + 374 pages, DM 1456. ISBN 3-540-93533-9.

The Gmelin series dealing with organotin compounds, which began in 1976, is now well advanced, and with the appearance of this latest addition, now comprises thirteen volumes. This new survey, by H. Schumann and I. Schumann, is concerned with all R<sub>3</sub>Sn–O compounds in which the organic group R can be anything other than Me, Et, Pr, and Bu, and with related R<sub>2</sub>R'Sn–O and RR'R''Sn–O compounds. The oxygen-linked ligands are usually of the types, OH, OR, and O<sub>2</sub>CR, but compounds containing Sn–O–X linkages, where X = N, S, P, Se, As, Si, Ge, Li, Na, Ti, Zr and Re are also considered. There is also a fairly brief section on heterocyclic compounds such as Me<sub>2</sub>Sn(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>O, Et<sub>2</sub>SnCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>P(O)(Ph)O, and CH<sub>2</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>Sn(Me)OMe.

In each case, method of preparation, reactions, physical properties, crystal structures (where known), biological activity, and applications are indicated, often in tabular form; appropriately, considerable attention is given to biological effects. There are ligand and formula indexes. No-one interested in organotin chemistry could fail to find much interesting information in the volume, and no-one practising in the field can afford to be without it and its companion volumes.

The material is well organized and presented with admirable simplicity. The English is exceptionally good for this series, apparently as the result of the efforts of Dr. J.R. Clark.

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*Advances in Organometallic Chemistry. Vol. 25;* edited by F.G.A. Stone and R. West, Academic Press, Orlando, FA, etc., 1986, vii + 399 pages. U.S. \$79.50; £66.00. ISBN 0-12-031125-9.

As is usual in this excellent series, this volume presents a series of high quality reviews of various, mainly unrelated, aspects of organometallic chemistry.

The book begins with an account (44 pages) by A.G. Brook (the pioneer in the field) and K.M. Baines on silenes (species containing Si=C bonds); it is comprehensive, all the silenes known at the end of 1984 being listed, and well organized. This is followed by a review (27 pages) of Metalla-Derivatives of β-Diketones by C.M. Lukehart, and then a timely and interesting account (46 pages) of Organometallic