

Book reviews

Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry. Sn — Organotin Compounds. Part 13. Other R₃Sn-Oxygen Compounds, R₂R'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 R₃Sn–O compounds in which the organic group R can be anything other than Me, Et, Pr, and Bu, and with related R₂R'Sn–O and RR'R''Sn–O compounds. The oxygen-linked ligands are usually of the types, OH, OR, and O₂CR, 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 Me₂Sn(CH₂)₃O, Et₂SnCH₂CH₂P(O)(Ph)O, and CH₂-(CH₂)₄Sn(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

Sonochemistry by K.S. Suslik. The next review (77 pages), an excellent one, is of Carbene and Carbyne Complexes of Ruthenium, Osmium, and Iridium, by M.A. Gallop and W.R. Roper (who has contributed very importantly to the subject), and this is followed by an authoritative account of Borabenzene Metal Complexes (38 pages) by G.E. Herberich (again the pioneer in the field) and H. Ohst. The last three chapters, all well written, are on The Synthesis of Organometallics by Decarboxylation Reactions (39 pages), by G.B. Deacon, S.J. Faulks, and G.N. Pain; Detection of Transient Organometallic Species by Fast Time-Resolved IR Spectroscopy (40 pages), by M. Poliakoff and E. Weitz; and Carbonyl Derivatives of Titanium, Zirconium, and Hafnium (63 pages) by D.J. Sikora, D.W. Macomber, and M.D. Rausch.

In a series so consistently good this is a vintage issue, and the editors are once again to be congratulated, and thanked for their efforts.

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AUTHOR INDEX

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Angelici, R.J., (323) C25 | Hemmer, R., (323) C29 | Periasamy, M., (323) 145 |
| Atwood, J.D., (323) 231, 247 | Hofmann, W., (323) 161 | Preut, H., (323) 173 |
| Bernard, K.A., (323) 247 | Holder, A.J., (323) 261 | Rees, W.M., (323) 233 |
| Blake, A.J., (323) 261 | Huber, F., (323) 173 | Richmond, M.G., (323) 219 |
| Bush, R.C., (323) C25 | Hughes, D.L., (323) C29 | Roberts, Y.V., (323) 261 |
| Churchill, M.R., (323) 233, 247 | Hyde, T.I., (323) 261 | Savignac, P., (323) 135 |
| Collignon, M., (323) 135 | Jacobson, R.A., (323) C25 | Schröder, M., (323) 261 |
| Den Haan, K.H., (323) 181 | Janik, J.Fr., (323) 149 | Schumann, H., (323) 193 |
| Duesler, E.N., (323) 149 | Janik, T.S., (323) 233, 247 | Templeton, J.L., (323) 199 |
| Ellis, A.B., (323) 207 | Kochi, J.K., (323) 219 | Teuben, J.H., (323) 181 |
| Eshuis, J.J.W., (323) 181 | Lavery, A.J., (323) 261 | Teulade, M.-P., (323) 135 |
| Fettinger, J.C., (323) 233 | Leigh, G.J., (323) C29 | Thewalt, U., (323) C29 |
| Gron, L.U., (323) 207 | Luxemburger, G., (323) 161 | Thompson, J.S., (323) 233 |
| Haan, K.H. den, (323) 181 | McGeary, M.J., (323) 199 | Tomaszewski, S., (323) 233 |
| Haller, K.J., (323) 207 | Nadvornik, M., (323) 161 | Walker, D.G., (323) C29 |
| | Narayana, C., (323) 145 | Werner, H., (323) 161 |
| | Paine, R.T., (323) 149 | Westhoff, T., (323) 173 |
| | | Wielstra, Y., (323) 181 |