

(cyclopolygermanes) and related heterocycles (I. Haiduc and M. Dräger, 5 pages, 20 refs.), germanium-containing heterocycles (I. Haiduc, 10 pages, 76 refs.), cyclostananes (P.G. Harrison, 5 pages, 10 refs.), tin–nitrogen and tin–phosphorus heterocycles (M. Veith, 18 pages, 46 refs.), and tin–oxygen, tin–sulphur, tin–selenium, and tin–tellurium heterocycles (B. Mathiasch, 16 pages, 59 refs.).

Most of the authors do not have English as their mother tongue, but I was struck throughout by the excellent English style. I noticed very few trivial errors.

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Preparative Chemistry Using Supported Reagents, edited by P. Laszlo, Academic Press, 1987, \$110, xiv + 545 pages, ISBN 0-12-437105-1.

This volume, of 27 chapters, covers a very wide range of topics in the field of the use of supported reagents in organic and inorganic chemistry. This is not merely a “how-to” book for the organic chemist (though much material of this kind is available in it), but is a serious attempt to describe what is actually going on, at least as far as it is known. The first section of the book deals with general principles, opening with a chapter by the editor in which he surveys the field and demonstrates his own boundless enthusiasm for it. The second chapter deals with the theory of fractals; this is very important for an understanding of surface chemistry, but this account is definitely not an easy introduction for someone whose mathematics is a little rusty. Other sections consider photochemistry and electrochemistry of adsorbed species. Chapter 6 describes in some detail some practical considerations of setting up supported reagents, and anyone planning to use this technique will find this an invaluable introduction.

Part 2 of this volume deals with physico-chemical studies of the structures of solid supports, considering such techniques as photoelectron spectroscopy, Auger, EELS, EXAFS, SIMS *, magnetic resonance and X-ray studies. Parts 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the book dealing respectively with reagents supported on polymers, graphite, alumina and silica will be both the most familiar and probably the most interesting for both the organic and the organometallic chemist. There is a good deal of descriptive chemistry, and all the main areas seem to receive due consideration, but there is no attempt to be comprehensive and most of the authors are clearly at least as concerned to understand the reactions as to describe them.

Part 7 of this volume reviews the use of zeolites as supports, focussing particularly on molecular sieves and shape selective catalysts. The final major topic covered is the use of clays as supports for catalysts and reagents for isomerisation, oxidation and reduction, hydrogenation and anion activation reactions.

* EELS = electron energy loss spectroscopy; EXAFS = extended X-ray absorption fine structure; SIMS = secondary ion mass spectrometry.

This is a beautifully produced volume, with very few typographical errors. The diagrams are clear and readable. There are extensive references in all the chapters, running through 1986 in most cases, with a few to 1987. The index is well set out, but there are quite a number of omissions. This is a good book, at a price which is high rather than excessive by modern standards, but the amount of background knowledge assumed by many of the authors is quite high. Few readers will be expert in all the areas discussed, and the unfamiliar ones may well prove heavy going if ultimately rewarding. Libraries should certainly buy this volume, and chemists and surface scientists should read it, but I imagine that it will not find its way into many private collections.

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