

Book reviews

Molekulyarnaya struktura kremniorganicheskikh soedinenii (Molecular structure of organosilicon compounds); by E.Ya. Lukevics, O.A. Pudova, and R.Ya. Sturkovich. Zinatne Publishers, Riga, 1988, 296 pages, 1 rub.70 kop. (in Russian).

The Western chemist has seldom the opportunity to learn about books published in Russian, except for the few that are translated into English. This is why I would like to call the attention of the readers of this Journal to a recent book by E. Lukevics and his colleagues.

The book under review presents in one volume much detailed information about the molecular structures of organosilicon compounds obtained by X-ray and other diffraction methods. Interatomic distances and bond angles are provided for each compound cited, in many cases in tabular form. The structures are commented upon in a highly readable fashion, in a text which emphasizes all the features worthy of mention. The book is extremely useful for the organosilicon chemist looking for structural data. The location of information is greatly assisted by the provision of a formula index (listing 1030 entries). There is a list of 1251 references, supplemented with a further list of 287 citations of articles published after the manuscript was completed. A useful feature is the publication of the full title of each paper cited. For technical reasons the Russian publications are cited separately, and are followed by those in Roman type.

The topics covered (in four chapters) are: (1) Organosilanes (including hydrosilanes, tetraorganosilanes and silacycloalkanes); (2) Polysilanes (linear, cyclic and disilenes); (3) Hetero-organosilicon compounds (organosilicon derivatives of Group I–VIII elements, including silazanes, siloxanes, halogenosilanes, transition metal and main group derivatives), and (4) Compounds with five- and six-coordinate silicon.

The book is a very handy source of reference and I find myself consulting it quite frequently. An English translation would be valuable so that it will reach chemists not able to read Russian.

The Western reader will be surprised by the unbelievably low price of the book: 1.70 roubles, which on the official rate of exchange is less than US \$2.00. I received my copy as a gift from the senior author, but I believe the book can be ordered from the publisher. The address is: Izdatel'stvo ZINATNE, 226530 RIGA, ul. Turgeneva street 19, U.S.S.R. It is worth trying to get it, even for someone who cannot read Russian. The structural formulae (with the bond distances and angles drawn on them), the tables, and a little guess-work will usually provide the information sought. At its price it could be bought as a curiosity, but, I am sure, that anyone acquiring it will find it very useful.