

*Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry*. 8th Edition. *Sn — Organotin Compounds, Part 15. Dibutyltin-Oxygen Compounds*. Springer-Verlag. Berlin etc., 1988, xiv + 442 pages. DM 1918, ISBN 3-540-93561-4.

This volume is the latest addition to the excellent series on organotin compounds that began in 1975. It continued the treatment of mononuclear organotin compounds containing Sn–O bonds, and deals mainly with n-Bu<sub>2</sub>Sn-oxygen compounds in which R = n-Bu, i-Bu, sec-Bu, or t-Bu, ranging from n-Bu<sub>2</sub>Sn(OH)<sub>2</sub>, through organyl oxides such as n-Bu<sub>2</sub>Sn(OR)<sub>2</sub>, bis-carboxylates, n-Bu<sub>2</sub>Sn(O<sub>2</sub>Cr) (and n-Bu<sub>2</sub>SnO<sub>2</sub>C ~ ~ COO), and peroxides, n-Bu<sub>2</sub>Sn(OOR)<sub>2</sub>, to compounds with the tin linked through oxygen to other elements such as Si, N (e.g. Bu<sub>2</sub>Sn(ONO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), P, As, and Ti. Only 11 pages are required to cover the much smaller range of i-Bu, sec-Bu, and t-Bu derivatives.

The need to denote a whole, rather long, volume to the compounds dealt with arises from the considerable industrial importance of the di-n-butyl derivatives, especially di-n-butyltin dilaurate, used very extensively as a stabilizer in polymers, particularly poly(vinylchloride), and, for example, as a catalyst for polyurethane formation and cross-linking of silicone rubber. Some 115 pages are devoted to this compound, 100 of them to references to patents dealing with its applications.

The literature has been searched to the end of 1985. The quality of the material and the standard of its presentation match those of the earlier volumes on organotin compounds, and the authors, H. Schumann and I. Schumann, have done an excellent job. The English is good (a Dr. Grant being thanked for his help in this respect).

Any organization concerned with organotin chemistry will be at a disadvantage if it does not possess this fine series on organotin compounds, and those concerned with organic synthesis should be laying down a stock of the volumes in recognition of the high probability that these compounds will begin to play a major role in such synthesis in the coming years.

*School of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences,  
University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QJ (Great Britain)*

**Colin Eaborn**