

Book reviews

Organic Chemical Nomenclature; by P. Fresenius, Ellis Horwood, Chichester, 1989, 294 pages, £55.00. ISBN 0-7458-0157-9.

This book is in the main an English translation of the second edition (1983) of a highly regarded German text, supplemented by a little additional material. The account is not intended simply to serve as a reference work but also “to promote appreciation of nomenclature problems, the correct recognition of a scientific name, and the ability to establish the name from the formula and vice versa”. The book’s subtitle, ‘Introduction to the Basic Principles’, emphasises this aspect.

The IUPAC recommendations form the essential basis for the account, but trivial and international non-proprietary short names for individual pharmaceutical products are mentioned where appropriate. In line with IUPAC conventions, the spelling sulfur is preferred to sulphur in terms such as sulfido, sulfane, and sulfate, but, probably by error, sulphur itself appears at some points (e.g. page 144) and sulphate rather than sulfate in the index.

The main chapters deal with: (i) hydrocarbons; (ii) heterocyclics; (iii) nomenclature procedures; (iv) compounds with characteristic (functional groups); (v) polyols, carbohydrates, cyclitols; (vi) polymers. There is also a brief but useful final chapter dealing with etymological and other guidance on the derivation and explanation of scientific terms (e.g. butane, from the Greek *butyron*, butter; stereo, from the Greek *stereos*, solid, fixed).

The only organometallic compounds considered are those of silicon, for which IUPAC suggested conventions are briefly indicated. (I am puzzled though by the representation of disiloxane as $\text{H}_3\text{Si} \leftarrow \text{O} - \text{SiH}_3$, though presumably I would find the explanation if I read all of the book.) The volume will nevertheless be of value to organometallic chemists in working out the names of organic substituents and ligands, and, of course, of organic compounds produced in organometallic reactions.

The account is clearly presented, and the English translation (by A.J. Dunsdon) unusually well done. The book should be available in all chemical libraries, even those in which other books on organic nomenclature are provided, and many authors will want personal copies.

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Naming Organic Compounds; by E.W. Godly, Ellis Horwood, Chichester, 1989, 267 pages, £39.95, US\$78.10. ISBN 0-7458-0359-8.

In the words of the Introduction, “This work was undertaken in the context of the application of Council Directive 79/831/EEC, of 18th September 1979, amend-