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### Book reviews

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*The Silicon–Heteroatom Bond*, D.A. Armitage, R.J.P. Corriu, T.C. Kendrick, B. Parbhov, T.D. Tilley, J.W. White and J.C. Young, Wiley, Chichester, 1991. x + 529 pages. £90.00. ISBN 0-471-92904-2

I have to say at once that I disapprove strongly of the publishers' action in bringing out this book. It is presented as an 'Update' volume in the series on the Chemistry of Functional Groups, edited by S. Patai, in particular of 'The Chemistry of Organic Silicon Compounds', which appeared in 1989. It consists of five chapters from the latter publication, reproduced in full, word-for-word, one chapter which was intended to appear in it, and 'update' chapters for all six originals. The consequence is that of the *ca.* 480 pages of actual text, *ca.* 242 deal with new material and 238 are simply reproductions. (But for the chance that one of the initial reviews appears here for the first time the ratio of old to new would be *ca.* 5/3.) This is carrying duplicate publication too far, and represents an unacceptable exploitation of scientific libraries by the publishers. (I like to think the editors and authors will also feel somewhat ashamed.) The implication of their approach is that in 1993 there will be a further volume of *ca.* 720 pages, of which *ca.* 160 will be new, and in 1995...!

It is not as though the collection of chapters has any particular coherence that might justify its unusual nature. Virtually all organosilicon chemistry can be regarded as heteroatom chemistry in the sense that only compounds containing exclusively Si–C and/or Si–H bonds are excluded by definition, and even accounts of these could be included on the basis that almost all reactions at these bonds generate silicon–heteroatom species. Certainly every other chapter in the original 1989 publication could equally well have appeared in this update.

The update chapters, like the originals, are of high quality. They deal with (a) hypervalent silicon compounds (by R. Corriu and J.C. Young); (b) siloxane polymers and co-polymers (by T.C. Kendrick, B. Parbhov and J.W. White); (c) organosilicon derivatives of phosphorus, arsenic, antimony, and bismuth (by D.A. Armitage); (d) chemistry of compounds with silicon–sulfur, silicon–selenium, and silicon–tellurium bonds (by D.A. Armitage); (e) transition metal–silyl derivatives (by T.D. Tilley); and (f) chemistry of compounds with silicon–nitrogen bonds (by D.A. Armitage). In the last case the parent chapter makes its first appearance.

Libraries that take the Patai series will no doubt feel compelled to take this volume (and its future sister publications) but individuals contemplating its purchase should ask themselves whether they wish to spend so much on a book half of which reproduces accounts already available to them.

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