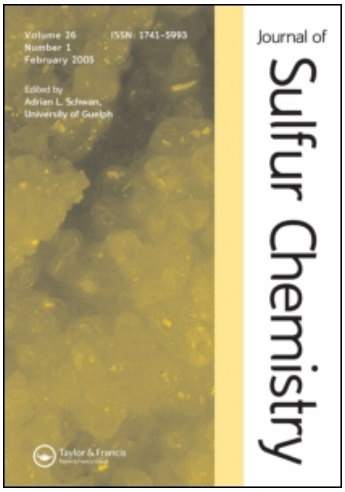

Journal of Sulfur Chemistry
Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713926081

A Review of: "Organic Compounds of Sulphur, Selenium, and Tellurium. Volume 6 {Specialist Periodical Reports}. Senior Reporter: D. R. Hogg (University of Aberdeen). The Royal Society of Chemistry. London. 1981. XVI 331 pp. £60. Available also from the American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., and Verlag Chemie, Weinheim, West Germany."

Lamar Field[a]
[a] Vanderbilt University,

To cite this Article Field, Lamar(1982) 'A Review of: "Organic Compounds of Sulphur, Selenium, and Tellurium. Volume 6 {Specialist Periodical Reports}. Senior Reporter: D. R. Hogg (University of Aberdeen). The Royal Society of Chemistry. London. 1981. XVI 331 pp. £60. Available also from the American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., and Verlag Chemie, Weinheim, West Germany."', Journal of Sulfur Chemistry, 2: 5, 213 — 214
To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/01961778208082437
URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01961778208082437

Sulfur Reports
Volume 2 (5), October 1982, pp. 213–214
0196-1772/82/0205–0213/$06.50/0

Printed in the United States of America

BOOK REVIEW

Organic Compounds of Sulphur, Selenium, and Tellurium. Volume 6 (Specialist Periodical Reports). Senior Reporter: D. R. Hogg (University of Aberdeen). The Royal Society of Chemistry. London. 1981. XVI + 331 pp. £60. Available also from the American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., and Verlag Chemie, Weinheim, West Germany.

This volume is the sixth in a biennial series, which began with a review of the literature of organic compounds of sulfur, selenium, and tellurium that appeared from 1969 to 1970. Volume 6 extends the coverage from April of 1978 through March of 1980 (February for 7%). Volume 6 is a worthy successor to Volumes 1–5.

As with Volume 5, economic considerations are said to have led to changes. Indeed, in contrast to over 800 pages in Volumes 2 and 3, then over 500 in Volumes 4 and 5, Volume 6 has dropped to 331 pages; details about sulfur-containing heteroaromatic compounds have been transferred to the series "Heterocyclic Chemistry", although 31 pages nevertheless report highlights in this area. Despite the reduction in pages, spot checks of papers by several authors indicate that Volume 6 covers the literature quite commendably, a remark buttressed by an author index comprising 29 pages of 3-columned fine print.

No significant critical comment is warranted. The reporting is clear, and only a couple of misprints were noted in the entire volume. Although the necessity for terseness might lead such a volume into being a mere catalog of facts, the book is readable, and the writing generally is about as graceful and interesting as the circumstances permit; there are frequent interpretations, correlations, cross references, and critical comments. One suggestion for the future might be that since the frequently used label "Scheme" occupies a line by itself, filling the unused space by a brief title that states the purport of the scheme would facilitate skimming, no matter that doing so would be unconventional (use of Arabic rather than Roman numerals for compounds also once was heretical). Another suggestion, not really practicable perhaps at this late juncture, is that the word "Compounds" in the title is somewhat misleading since it implies broad coverage that extends to the industrial, biological, and every other conceivable aspect; since the volume really emphasizes important basic new *chemistry,* and is not merely a potpourri of compounds of widely varied use or interest, *Organic Chemistry of . . .* might be more appropriate in the title than *Organic Compounds of. . . .* It should be added, however, that a number of key references to biological aspects are given, although such matters understandably receive relatively slight discussion.

The organization follows that of Volume 5, but coverage has been extended of ylides and carbanionic compounds of selenium and tellurium, as well as of dithiocarbamates, xanthates, and trithiocarbonates. There is no subject index, but as usual a detailed 10-page table of contents should permit location of most items of interest.

In a survey of topics covered, only sulfur-containing systems will be mentioned, but it should be understood that analogous systems of selenium and tellurium are covered when relevant literature appeared. A noteworthy point of each section is the effort at the outset to cite all pertinent reviews. Chapter 1 (78 pages) deals with aliphatic com-

pounds and compounds containing exocyclic functional groups of sulfur; after a survey of spectra and other physical properties, groups reviewed are thiols, thiol esters, sulfides, sulfonium salts, thioacetals, trithio-orthoesters, sulfuranes and hypervalent compounds, sulfoxides, sulfones, thiocyanates and isothiocyanates, disulfides, thiolsulfinates and thiolsulfonates, α-disulfoxides, and sulfenic, sulfinic, and sulfonic acids with their derivatives.

Chapter 2 (69 pages) covers ylides, carbanions, and related structures; this chapter contains an abundance of clearly expressed and stimulating material on synthetic methodology and well deserves perusal by all preoccupied with such matters. Chapter 3 (59 pages) reviews thiocarbonyl compounds, and Chapter 4 (26 pages) rings of 3–4 members; Chapter 4 also includes rings with more than one hetero atom, such as dithietans, thiazetidines, and heterocycles containing phosphorus, silicon, germanium, and boron. Chapter 5 (38 pages) covers saturated cyclic compounds with five or more members, for example sultenes, sultines, sultones, sulfites, and sulfates. Both Chapters 4 and 5 include derivatives such as oxides and imides. Chapter 6 concludes the book with the highlights mentioned above on heteroaromatics.

The reporters, the Senior Reporter, and the Royal Society of Chemistry deserve commendation and thanks for this valuable and highly recommended volume. All good libraries should endeavor to hold the entire series as one of ever increasing value for retrospective searches, as well as for the more obvious immediate values of keeping readers current and of providing them with ideas. Any chemist at all involved with the chemistry of sulfur, selenium, or tellurium is likely to be well repaid by seeking access to Volumes 1–6. It is a pity that the high cost will preclude many from having it on personal bookshelves where it belongs; Volume 5 was available in soft cover, and one hopes that efforts will be made in the future to reduce prices by any such means that will facilitate greater private ownership. In any event, one hopes that the Society will successfully fight the battle against rising costs and will continue to contribute this unique and important series indefinitely.

Lamar Field
Vanderbilt University