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Interesting Errors in Sulfur Chemistry, 8

Alexander Senning[a]
[a] Kemisk Institut, Aarhtts Universitel, Århus C, Denmark

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INTERESTING ERRORS IN SULFUR CHEMISTRY, 8

ALEXANDER SENNING
Kemisk Institut, Aarhus Universitet, DK-8000 Århus C, Denmark

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TRICHLOROMETHANETHIOL

Trichloromethanesulfenyl chloride **1** is an important synthetic intermediate. In pre-IUPAC days **1** was frequently called *perchloromethyl mercaptan* (i.e. methanethiol in which *all* hydrogen atoms are substituted by chlorine), a name which is still used

CCl_3SCl, [594–42–3] **1** CCl_3SH, [75–70–7] **2**

by industrial chemists, especially in the patent literature. Unfortunately, Chemical Abstracts abstractors frequently translate *perchloromethyl mercaptan* to trichloromethanethiol **2** (i.e. methanethiol in which *all nonfunctional* hydrogen atoms are substituted by chlorine) which makes sense as far as semisystematic nomenclature goes, but, of course, ignores the chemistry contained in the abstracted documents and creates a CA chimera.

Thus, Chemical Abstracts through Volume 103 contains altogether 42 references to **2** which, of course, actually pertain to **1**. There are no CA references to the inherently unstable **2**.