

ORGANOMETALLICS

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Editorial

The Editor's Page

Our cover molecule is tetramethyldiarsine, Bunsen's cacodyl, which he believed to be a "radical" (no unpaired electrons involved—the electron was still unknown in the 1840s). Cacodyl and cacodyl oxide, $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{As}]_2\text{O}$, were the major components of Cadet's fuming arsenical liquid, as such the first organometalloidal compounds to be prepared. Cacodyl is of historical significance not only for this reason. The ideas of Bunsen concerning its nature led directly to the preparation of the first main-group organometallic compounds, diethylzinc and ethylzinc iodide, by Frankland in 1849, which will be featured on a future cover. The cover essay is a bit long, but the story of these molecules is a long and interesting one, beginning with their discovery in 1757 on to their use as ligands in transition-metal coordination chemistry in recent times.

Thanks are due to Professor Arnold L. Rheingold, who provided the figure on the cover.

Dietmar Seyferth
Editor

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