

JOURNAL REVIEW

Natural Product Reports G PATTENDEN (Senior Editor) R S C, London, 1984, six issues per year £30 (R S C members), £120 (non-members)

This new bimonthly journal will replace four of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Specialist Periodical Reports 'The Alkaloids' (volume 13, just published, will be the last), 'Terpenoids and Steroids' (volume 12), 'Biosynthesis' (volume 7), and 'Aliphatic and Related Natural Products' (volume 3) These have always been essential reading for those interested in natural products, and have provided the most comprehensive coverage available of recent research in their respective areas. Of late, the cost of these publications has increased to such an extent that it is unlikely that many individuals will purchase all of the most recent volumes (total cost £91 for R S C members and £160 for non-members) In purely financial terms the new journal thus represents something of a bargain, especially for R S C members.

As to the coverage, overall this will remain much the same, but occasional selective reviews by experts will also appear. Thus in the first issue there is an excellent special

account of the rotenoids by Professor Crombie, as well as literature surveys (mainly of 1982) covering the indole alkaloids (J E Saxton), triterpenoids (R B Boar), carotenoids and polyterpenoids (G Britton), and macrocyclic microbial metabolites (R C F Jones). These surveys follow the general pattern used in the S P R s, and later in the year we are promised reviews of many other classes of natural products, including various types of alkaloids, steroids, polyketides, sesqui- and diterpenoids, and pheromones.

One major advantage over the S P R s will be the inclusion of an annual subject index (as well as an author index), and the larger format allows structures and the associated descriptive passages to appear more often in juxtaposition. Professor Pattenden has assembled an impressive editorial board, and if the standard of this excellent first issue is maintained, the journal will make a worthy successor to the four S P R s.

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