

BOOK REVIEW

Progress in Terpene Chemistry: edited by D. JOULAIN, Edition Frontières, Gif-sur-Yvette, France, 1987, 452 pp, FF 550.

This volume is a collection of 39 papers which were given at the Symposium on the 'Chemistry of Terpenes' held in Grasse (France) in April, 1986. Some of the papers are in English and others are in French. They cover a wide area of terpene chemistry ranging from the industrial syntheses of terpenes and their relatives through to the isolation of new terpenoids and the application of spectroscopic methods to their structure elucidation. Obviously with the venue of Grasse the major emphasis in the topics is on subjects of interest to the perfumery industry but this is by no means exclusively so. Following the substantial opening chapters by P. Teisseire on general synthetic routes to monoterpenes and by W. Oppolzer on applications of the ene reaction in the stereoselective synthesis of terpenes, there are papers on the oxidation of geraniol, on commercial syntheses based on geraniol and on the use of Δ^3 -carene as a source of perfumery products. The sesquiterpene area is represented with papers on the cadinanes, triquinane synthesis, santonin chemistry, the trichothecene mycotoxins, the sesquiterpenes of ylang-ylang oil

and Artemisia oil. The diterpenes are represented by a paper on the clerodanes from *Teucrium* species whilst the triterpenes are represented by papers on lichen constituents, synthesis in the quassinoid area and interestingly on the origin of the irones in *Iris* species. New NMR techniques are illustrated by a paper on their application to sesquiterpene structure determination. Several of the papers are devoted to the biological roles of the terpenes including an interesting contribution on the sesquiterpenes of various *Lactarius* species in which they may act as antifeedants.

The book is quite well produced from camera ready copy although the quality of some of the diagrams in the earlier part of the book was rather uneven. The book made interesting reading and it is a substantial record of what must have been a good symposium. Whilst it is by no means a complete record of current progress in terpenoids, it can nevertheless be recommended as a library volume providing reviews of a number of developing facets of the subject.

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