

Book review

Atta-ur-Rahman (Ed.), 2005. Studies in Natural Products Chemistry, Bioactive Natural Products, vol. 30 (Part K). ISBN: 0444518541, Elsevier, Amsterdam, pp. 850 (approx.)

This is another weighty addition (963 pages) to this series. It consists of 20 assorted review chapters together with an extensive index (114 pages). The chapter topics are: Synthetic routes to discodermolide and pironetin (J. Cossy and S. Bouzbouz), Antitumor and vascular physiological effects of natural products (Y. Kimura), Anti-obesity effects of natural products (L.-K. Han et al.), Bioactive phenolic lipids (A. Kosubek and J.H.P. Tyman), The use of natural products as sources of new analgesic drugs (R.A. Yunes et al.), Access to natural and synthetic biologically active polyphenols (P. Cotellet), Labiate flavonoids and their bioactivity (A. Ulubelen et al.), Biological activity of quinones (M.J.A. Martinez and P.B. Benito), Serotonin and the etiology of autism (M. Ruiz-Rubio and L.A. McInnes), Antiviral activities of polysaccharides from natural sources (M.J.A. Martinez et al.), Recent advances in the chemistry of bioactive 3-deoxyulosonic acids (A. Banaszek and J. Mlynarski), Structure–activity relationships of naturally occurring active forms of vitamin D analogues (Y. Tachibana and M. Tsuji), Charged carotenoid species (S. Liaen-Jensen and B.F. Lutnaes), Bioactive constituents of the genus *Hernandia* (J.-Q. Gu and A.D. Kinghorn), A survey of the *Hypericum* genus: Secondary metabolites and bioactivity (P. Avato), Bioactive triterpenoids and related compounds from the Celastraceae (N. Alvarenga and

E.A. Ferro), Biologically active substances from the genus *Baccharis* L. (Compositae) (M.J.A. Martinez et al.), Host defensive and pharmacological study of *Chlorella vulgaris* strain CK (T. Hasegawa et al.), Pharmacological activity of new μ , δ , κ receptor agonists and antagonists (A. Capasso and A. D'Ursi), Earthworm fibrinolytic enzyme (J. Zhao et al.).

Most people will find something of interest in this volume but whether they will want to have the book as a whole is another matter since the range of subject matter is very wide. Many of the reviews are excellent but a few leave much to be desired, especially in terms of structural diagrams and some nomenclature. How is it possible to publish such awful diagrams (e.g., see chapter 17)? Are there no editorial guidelines? Did anyone actually look at the diagrams before publication? In chapter 8 rings are not properly joined together and in chapter 7 the conformational drawings of sugars are generally dire (with the odd L-glucose and D-rhamnose thrown in for good measure!). This is a disappointing aspect of this volume, which certainly should have been avoided.

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