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Supramolecular Chemistry

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BOOK REVIEW

Supramolecular Photochemistry

Vincenzo Balzani and Franco Scandola. Published by Ellis Horwood (Simon and Schuster International Group), 1991, SBN 13-877531-1, 427 pp, Price US\$117.50.

Although there are many edited volumes in the supramolecular chemistry field, the present monograph is a unified textbook on the title subject. After a brief discussion of 'scope and limitations', the authors cover basic 'principles of molecular photochemistry' in the second chapter (20 pp) and 'supramolecular properties' in the third (22 pp). These introductory chapters are well handled and permit the non-expert to wade into the more detailed information that follows. The remaining nine chapters are as follows: (4) control and turning of excited-state properties of molecular components; (5) covalently-linked systems: photo-induced electron transfer; (6) covalently-linked systems: electronic energy transfer; (7) structural changes in photoflexible systems; (8) ion pairs; (9) electron donor-acceptor complexes and exciplexes; (10) host-guest systems; (11) other systems; and (12) photochemical

molecular devices. These chapters are followed by both an author and subject index.

This volume is truly a textbook. Chemical structures are often accompanied by schematics of the experimental systems and cartoons of what occurs chemically. These diagrams and cartoons aid substantially in educating the non-expert reader. In addition, though, the intent of many experiments is described by the authors in a way that makes the results both comprehensible and significant. Some portions of the volume become necessarily descriptive as different related systems are recounted. This does not detract from the overall informative approach in this excellent volume.

G. W. Gokel