

Book review

Systematic nomenclature of organic chemistry, D. Hellwinkel, Springer-Verlag, Berlin Heidelberg New York, 2001, 35 tables, 228 pages, soft-cover, \$ 19.95

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As theoretical chemistry has now become an integral part of organic chemistry, many theoreticians have discovered that they require a guide to organic nomenclature. While IUPAC volumes are definitive in this regard, they are also expensive and filled with so much detail that using them can be cumbersome. This book, by contrast, is reasonably tightly focused on those aspects of organic nomenclature most likely to be encountered for “typical” molecules and, because it is soft-cover, has a very attractive price at \$ 19.95.

Recommended systematic nomenclature is covered in good detail, and common nomenclature is also provided for those instances where it is most persistent, for example, heterocyclic compounds. The book is primarily devoted to the names of compounds composed of C, H, N, O, S, and halogen atoms. Only cursory coverage of

functionalities based on P is provided, and there is a nine-page chapter on metalorganic and metalloorganic compounds as well. There is also a 23-page chapter on the naming of carbohydrates; other classes of biomolecules are not included. Issues of stereochemical nomenclature are addressed in a final chapter, which also includes flow-chart-like instructions for assigning names to polyfunctional molecules.

The book includes 35 tables containing many example molecules. The organization of the longer tables is sometimes not obvious, which makes their use more time-consuming, but after some familiarization this poses no special challenge. The index is ten-pages long and includes functional group suffixes, making it possible to use the book in the reverse mode of assigning molecular structure with a name already in hand.