

Book review

Organoderivatives of Rare Earth Elements

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Organolanthanide chemistry has been growing throughout the last decade, and the subject matter of this book should be of interest to lanthanide chemists as well as to the wider community of organometallic chemists. The major part of the book is devoted to compounds containing lanthanide-to-carbon bonds: there are chapters on complexes with σ -alkyl and aryl, η^3 -allyl, cyclopentadienyl and cyclic polyene ligands, and organolanthanide hydrides are given a chapter to themselves. As well as covering these formally organometallic compounds, the text also includes chapters on lanthanide amides, organophosphides, chalcogenolates and alkoxides.

The book is a translation of the original Russian work which was published in 1989 and covered literature up to

the middle of 1986. The quality of the translation is somewhat variable: in many places the prose is irritatingly difficult to read and in a few places it is incomprehensible (what *is* meant by 'laser desciend'?). Although there has been some revision to include literature up to 1990, and a few key articles from 1991, there are very few references to literature more recent than 1989. A very large proportion of the literature cited is published in Russian.

The authors have produced a compendium of facts rather than a critical review of the state of knowledge in the area: for example there are many comprehensive tables of colours, melting points and solubilities of compounds, which for most readers will be of little interest, whereas the introductory chapter on the general properties of organolanthanide compounds is very short. As a result this book will be of some use to workers who are active in lanthanide chemistry, especially those who do not have easy access to a well-stocked library, but it is not an ideal introduction for the more general reader.

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