

Preface: 5th International Conference on Environmental and Biological Aspects of Main-Group Organometals (ICEBAMO-5), Graz, Austria, June 2001

This special issue of *Applied Organometallic Chemistry* brings together papers based on work presented at the 5th International Conference on Environmental and Biological Aspects of Main-Group Organometals (ICEBAMO-5), held at Schielleiten Castle, near Graz, Austria, 5–9 June 2001. It was at the 4th ICEBAMO meeting in Odense, Denmark, in 1998, that we applied to be the hosts and organizers of the 5th Conference. We were very happy and honoured to receive confirmation that the meeting could be held in Graz. As all the previous ICEBAMO meetings had been very enjoyable, we in the working group were aware that we had a lot to live up to and had a difficult job ahead. For myself, as this was the first meeting I had organized, I have to admit to being anxious about whether all the attendees would be happy with the conference. Happily, the number of positive emails we received after the conference gave us the clear impression that it was a success, not least from the viewpoint of organization and ambience. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my co-workers and the student team for all their efforts in making the meeting so successful. Special thanks are due to all the participants in the meeting, who created a warm atmosphere with many fruitful discussions. The present issue of AOC gives everyone the chance to recall the work of the meeting and to judge the success of the 5th ICEBAMO from a scientific point of view. As a final point, readers will be interested to know that, at the 5th ICEBAMO, a venue for the 6th Conference was selected: Pau in France, to be organized by Dr O F X Donard.

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