

The Chemistry of Organic Silicon Compounds

S Patai (general ed)

Updates on the Silicon-Heteroatom Bond

D A Armitage (ed)

Wiley, Chichester, 1991

540 pages, £90. ISBN 0 471 92904 2

Most chemists reach first for the appropriately coloured Patai volume when looking for the reactions of a particular system or functional group. The previous publication, *The Chemistry of Organic Silicon Compounds*, like its predecessors in this series, provide a useful coverage of particular topics, but there was one important omission from the main text; it lacked any detailed account of the reactions of the silicon-nitrogen bond. This omission has now been rectified, in that this recent 'Update' volume includes a chapter on the silicon-nitrogen bond, together with an appendix to the Si-N chapter covering publications over the past few years. The observation by the author that there have been 300 references to silicon-nitrogen chemistry over the past three years in the RSC *Specialist Reports on Organometallic Chemistry* shows that there was a definite need for these chapters, if a relatively comprehensive coverage of modern organosilicon chemistry were to be achieved within the series.

In addition to the two chapters on the reactions of silicon-nitrogen compounds, the 'Update' volume contains five other chapters on silicon-heteroatom chemistry, previously published in the main volume. Each of these chapters has an appendix containing material produced over the past few years and not included in the original chapters. The very long lists of references in these appendices is an indication of the enormous and growing general interest in silicon chemistry.

The 'Update' volume together with the two main volumes are of value not only to the silicon specialist but to all organic and organometallic chemists and an essential purchase for all academic libraries with a chemistry collection.

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Chemistry and Technology of Silicon and Tin

Proceedings of the First Asian Network for Analytical and Inorganic Chemistry International Conference on Silicon and Tin

V G Kumar Das, S W Ng and M Gielen (eds)

Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1992

611 pages. £80.00

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In October 1989, the 1st International Chemical Conference on Silicon and Tin, which was organized by the Asian Network for Analytical and Inorganic Chemistry (ANAIC), was held at the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. This Conference—the first of its kind in south-east Asia—under the Organizing Chairmanship of Professor V. G. Kumar Das, was highly successful and attracted a large number of participants from all over the world, most of whom enjoyed the opportunity to visit the region for the first time.

The Conference was addressed by many distinguished scientists, including the Nobel Laureate, Professor Herbert C. Brown, and it is therefore particularly welcome that the proceedings are now available, collected together in this volume. Specific themes addressed in the Conference were: new insights into chemical synthesis, reactivity, and structure; applications in catalysis and solid-state chemistry; polymers and materials science applications; Biological effects; and advances in analytical detection. The papers have been arranged in three parts comprising, respectively, 18 plenary and keynote lectures, 34 selected papers from oral and poster presentations, and abstracts of the remaining 51 papers. They give an excellent overview of current research into many areas of tin and silicon, encompassing both inorganic and organometallic derivatives and fundamental and applied studies. There is much here that will be of interest to scientists and technologists in such diverse fields as electronics, glass, ceramics, agriculture and medicine. The volume is well presented and referenced and is highly recommended to those with an interest in silicon and tin.

It should be noted that a follow-up Conference will be organized by the same team in Kuala Lumpur, during the period 8–11 November 1993.

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