

Book Review

***Bioinorganic Chemistry:
Inorganic Elements in the Chemistry
of Life. An Introduction and Guide,*
edited by Wolfgang Kaim
and Bridgette Schwederski**

Wiley, New York; 1994; 401 pp.; ISBN 0471-94369X

Metal ions play diverse and critical roles in biology. Recognizing this, the associated discipline of bioinorganic chemistry has undergone explosive growth over the last two decades. Consistent with the emergence of this discipline as a "maturing frontier," several new texts have emerged over the last two years with varying strengths. The current volume by Kaim and Schwederski offers a traditional and rather encyclopedic approach; a "Cotton and Wilkinson" of bioinorganic chemistry. As such, it makes an excellent monograph for convenient reference. It is not so detailed as Siegel's series nor pedagogically oriented as Berg and Lippard's recent textbook. It occupies a middle ground as a compact and user-friendly monograph, suitable for a research library, but which might also be used in a classroom setting. References are reasonably thorough, up-to-date, and copious; appropriate illustrations are provided. In that sense, the work appropriately matches its subtitle "An Introduction and Guide." I will find it a useful addition to my own library and can recommend it accordingly.

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