

Organotin Chemistry

A. G. Davies

VCH, Weinheim, 1997

327 pages. £100

ISBN 3 527 29049 4

Professor Davies has been one of the leading figures of organotin chemistry over the last two decades, and has produced in this book an authoritative overview of the main themes of the subject. The book is presented in 19 chapters, starting with a brief account of the history and nomenclature of the subject, followed by an introduction to the main physical methods used in the study of organotin compounds. The remaining chapters account for the reaction and structural chemistry of organotins, and are arranged in a format which loosely follows the chapters authored by Professor Davies in the two editions of *Comprehensive Organometallic Chemistry*. The subject matter is thus comprehensive, with chapters devoted to the various classes of Sn–X bond (X=C, halide, N, S, O etc.), though by no means exhaustive in its coverage. The references cited are sufficient to introduce the reader to the topic and include a large number of recent publications.

There are two areas of omission which should be noted. The role of organotins in organic synthesis is only dealt with tangentially, as a companion volume covering this material was planned under the authorship of Wilhelm Neumann before his untimely death. More conspicuous by its absence is any chapter covering the industrial applications of organotins, which will disappoint many readers who are working in the interdisciplinary area of applied organometallic chemistry.

The work is generally well produced, but the frequent occurrence of 'sn' rather than 'Sn' in some of the early chapters is irritating. To its credit though, the book has an

excellent referencing system, an expanded form of which (ca 2500 references) is available on disc and which can be searched by either a word processor or one of the standard packages such as EndNote. The author has included instructions on how to download the free EndNote Demo package from the WWW, which can be used to scan the database for authors, keywords etc. The reviewer experienced some difficulty in using the reference file in the form supplied with the book, but the problem was resolved after consultation with the author, who is willing to supply other forms of the file which are more compatible with the Demo version of EndNote. The complete version of EndNote will, in addition, allow users to take references from the database directly into their own papers or for other purposes.

This book will appeal to anyone involved in organotin chemistry, and will no doubt become required reading for new workers in the field. It represents an alternative to *Comprehensive Organometallic Chemistry* for those wishing to add to their personal library, though at £100 it is not cheap. Surely the publishers are doing no favours to either themselves or the author by setting the price so high. For many research groups in these times of financial stringency, a library-purchased edition of *Comprehensive Organometallic Chemistry* will appear the more attractive option.

K C MOLLOY
University of Bath, UK