

Book Review

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Organometallics

Wiley-VCH, 2006, 3rd edn,
818 pp; price £49.00/€82.50
ISBN 3-527-29390-6 (paperback)

This, the third completely revised edition of *Organometallics*, comes some 14 years after the second edition. Apparently this English edition is published simultaneously with the fifth German edition. By and large, this third edition sticks to the same general layout as the previous editions. It starts with an introduction of 20 or so pages, before spending some 250 pages on main group organometallics, 300 odd pages on d-block organometallics, 20 pages on f-block organometallics and then the best part of 100 pages on organometallic catalysis. There are a number of appendices, including one on further reading, and the book references the literature throughout. The new edition is certainly up to date, including information on the 2005 chemistry Nobel prize.

This book is not suitable for, nor was it designed for, undergraduates:

it is a reference book that assumes a decent level of chemistry. That said, the explanations of relatively basic concepts are not patronizing and are worth a read, even by a reader who thinks they know it all already. I found the organization of this (and the previous editions) somewhat idiosyncratic, but a clear contents page and a good index allow relevant sections to be found with ease. One of the strengths of the previous edition, the detail on synthetic procedures, is maintained. The collation of all the material on catalysis into a single chapter strengthens the book considerably. This edition is certainly comprehensive, one might even say exhaustive, and covers everything an organometallic chemist could wish for.

On the negative side, I found the diagrams of an inconsistent standard. Some diagrams were clearly new, and done to a high standard, with consistent fonts and bond lengths/widths, whereas many are clearly carried over from previous editions. Whilst this does not change the accuracy of the diagrams, it

does contribute to the feeling that the book is a draft, rather than a final version. There are occasional mistranslations and some strange sentence construction that result from translation, but not so many as to render the text difficult to read. These negative aspects do not really interfere with the reading of the book, but they give a general impression of shoddiness. This is a good book, but it could so nearly have been a great book.

In conclusion, this book will be a valuable resource, and every research group should have a copy handy. It is only a pity that it is not priced a little more keenly so that every graduate student in organometallic chemistry could be made to buy a copy.

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DOI:10.1002/aoc.1136