

Chitin and Chitosan. Edited by S. Hirano and S. Tokura. Japanese Society of Chitin and Chitosan, Tottori. 1982. 254 pp. ISBN 4-924695-001-1.

Chitin and Chitosan represents the proceedings of the Second International Conference on Chitin and Chitosan held in July, 1982, at Sapporo, Japan, and is a review of the current status of the knowledge of many aspects of chitin, chitosan and the related enzymology. The rapid publication of the conference proceedings (using typed camera ready copy) is a great credit to the editors, allowing European and American researchers access to the most up to date review of the subject available.

The 51 papers presented have been divided in sections dealing with analysis, preparation, properties, reactions and derivatives, conformation, biosynthesis, chitin related enzymes, enzyme immobilisation on chitin, adsorption of proteins and metals, biomass aspects, and applications in the fields of medicine, agriculture and industry and are adequately served by the addition of a subject index. Each paper is concisely written, with clear diagrams, tables, etc., and with references to the literature published up to 1981 (plus a number of papers which are 'in press'), making *Chitin and Chitosan* a comprehensive reference work for experts and researchers in the field. Academics, industrialists and students will also find the monograph a valuable reference work due to its wide ranging but expert coverage of the chemical, biochemical and biotechnological aspects of the subject. We congratulate the organisers and editors for the production of a successful conference and monograph.

John F. Kennedy
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