

Book Reviews

Amino-Carbonyl Reactions in Food and Biological Systems. Edited by M. Fujimaki, M. Namiki and H. Kato. Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1986. xvi + 588 pp, ISBN 0-444-99510-2. Price: US \$127.75, Dfl. 345.00.

This book, which comprises Volume 13 of the *Developments in Food Science* series, presents the proceedings of the 3rd International Symposium on the Maillard reaction held in Japan in July 1985. The importance of the reaction between amino and carbonyl groups in carbohydrates, lipids, proteins etc. to give initially Schiff's base products and then, by a series of irreversible rearrangements such as the Amadori rearrangement, to give a wide variety of complex products without the aid of biocatalysts, is reflected in the number of contributions contained within this thick volume. The 60 contributions within this volume represent the majority of contributions presented at the conference plus several papers by authors unable to attend the meeting in Japan.

Following a historical introduction on the Japanese studies of the Maillard reaction, the remaining papers are divided into sections dealing with chemical aspects (22 contributions), technological aspects (9 contributions), biochemical aspects (25 contributions) and workshops (3 contributions). This subdivision of the contents is somewhat arbitrary but the contents pages and subject index allow full utilization of the diverse range of contents to be made.

Whilst the major theme of the papers concerns aspects of food technology (indeed the industrial sponsors represent many of the food companies in Japan) anyone with an interest in the chemistry or biochemistry of the amino-carbonyl interaction will find this volume of interest. It is recommended as essential reading for all research workers from food-related industries and can be used in part for background reading in academic teaching of higher level students. The editors are to be congratulated on producing a very worthwhile contribution to the scientific literature of this complex subject.

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