

Handbook of Enzyme Inhibitors. By H. Zollner, VCH Verlagsgesellschaft, Weinheim, 1990. xi + 440 pp. Price D.M. 194.00. ISBN 3-527-26994-0.

Enzymic inhibition is of great importance for a number of reasons. An inhibitor can stop an enzymic reaction without having any effect on the products present. This is not the case with other enzymic cessation techniques (e.g. pH and temperature), which often alter enzyme catalysed products. Inhibitor studies have contributed to our understanding of metabolic processes, enzymic active sites and enzyme mechanisms. Inhibitors themselves are gaining interest in both pharmaceutical and pesticide fields.

Despite the fact that inhibitors are of great importance, it can often take hours of research to establish all of the known inhibitors of a particular enzyme. The 'Handbook of Enzyme Inhibitors' aims to make this possible in minutes by allowing a search for the

inhibitors of a particular enzyme, and for the enzymes which are inhibited by a particular inhibitor. It does this via two extensive (if not comprehensive) lists. Once the required information has been found one is frequently presented with the K_i value or the effective concentration of the inhibitor. The source reference of this data is also shown.

This volume will be an indispensable source of information for biochemists, biologists, pharmacists, toxicologists, enzymologists and any other related scientists. Although reviewing this book is a little like reviewing a telephone directory, we can envisage many enzyme laboratories where the 'Handbook of Enzyme Inhibitors' is used more frequently than British Telecoms' tome.

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