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Book Review

Springer Handbook Of Enzymes Volume 1, Class 5. Isomerases

Dietmar Schomburg, Ida Schomburg (Eds.); Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, 2001, x + 752 pages, ISBN 3-540-41008-2, £216.50

Enzymes are used throughout all branches of science and all the time they are being put to new uses. The reason for this being that there are so many different types of enzyme. With full genomes of many organisms being sequenced, proteome and transcriptome analyses are beginning to provide us with new enzymes and a better understanding of the ones we already use. The data this research produces is hard to collect, interpret and standardise as it is widely distributed among journals from different fields. But a systematic collection of this information is essential for the application of this knowledge in the fields of agriculture, medicine, biochemistry and many other fields.

Springer Handbook of Enzymes Volume 1 Class 5 Isomerases is the printed version of part of an enzyme data bank called BRENDA. The data bank has been developed into a full metabolic database. The book does not have chapters but is split into sections for each enzyme. The book devotes a few pages to each enzyme covering things like its

source organism, names, CAS registry number, reaction and specificity, structure and stability. Each enzyme is also given its own references at the end of its section; this allows the reader to get an even more detailed set of data for the enzyme they require. There is an index at the front of the title that alphabetically lists all of the enzymes contained within the title; this makes it easy to find the enzyme that is required.

The *Springer Handbook of Enzymes Volume 1 Class 5 Isomerases* is an indispensable source of information for researchers in biotechnology, biochemistry, organic and analytical chemistry, and food sciences. Added to the other volumes you have a comprehensive database on enzymes, which is useful for any scientist or researcher who is involved in any work or research to do with enzymes. This handbook is especially suited to libraries in which it can be added to the other 24 volumes, which would be a good addition to any scientific reference section.

J.F. Kennedy*
M. Joyce
ChembioTech Laboratories,
Institute of Research and Development,
University of Birmingham Research Park,
Birmingham B15 2SQ, UK

* Corresponding author.