

Book review

Cyclodextrins and Their Inclusion Complexes, by J. SZEITLI, Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, 1982, 296 pages, \$30.00.

Since their discovery over eighty years ago, cyclodextrins have aroused steadily increasing interest, especially associated with their ability to form inclusion complexes with a variety of organic and inorganic substances. However, in spite of potential applications of these properties in many fields, cyclodextrins remained, until recently, little more than laboratory curiosities. The present trend for an exponential increase in the number of papers and patents on the subject is mostly a result of a concentrated effort in applied research (carried out especially in Japan and Hungary), which in turn encouraged industrial production of cyclodextrins.

This book (whose author has contributed to many developments in the field) is a timely and comprehensive treatise on basic and applied aspects of cyclodextrins. The chemistry, biochemistry, and preparation of cyclodextrins, cyclodextrin derivatives, inclusion complexes, physico-chemical effects of inclusion in solution, and applications of cyclodextrins in the pharmaceutical, food, and chemical fields are covered in seven chapters, with more than 800 references. Special emphasis is given to physico-chemical properties that are modified upon inclusion of guest molecules, effects of derivatisation on inclusion properties, catalytic effects that make cyclodextrins attractive as enzyme models, and toxicology, as well as to actual and potential industrial applications.

Examples are illustrated by a generous number of formulas, Tables, and Figures. Very few typographical errors were spotted. This easily readable book should be useful for the chemist and biochemist in academe and industry, as well as for students wishing a simple but comprehensive introduction to the field.

A comment on nomenclature is in order. The use of the term "cyclodextrin" ceased years ago in the biochemical literature; it was first replaced by "cycloamylose", a term now discarded by the International Union of Biochemistry in favour of "cyclomaltohexaose", "cyclomaltoheptaose", etc.

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