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Bioinorganic Chemistry

Preface

The evolution of living species on a planet loaded with minerals permitted Mother Nature to incorporate metal ions into her structures and optimize their use for a wide variety of functions. We have come to recognize that the crucial roles played by these ions do so in systems of considerable complexity where the local stereochemistry is often very different from that usually associated with a given ion, and where the three dimensional structure and second or outer-sphere interactions are critical.

Some researchers have chosen to search for synthetic models which mimic the biological function, while others have worked with the natural system to elucidate its complexity. In the latter case this often involves working with proteins and enzymes of exceedingly large size and developing procedures for such investigations.

This volume presents a mix of chemical, physical and theoretical studies both of model systems and the real protein environment. The bioinorganic field is now extremely large and this volume can only present a glimpse at the extraordinary variety and subtlety of biological metal-containing systems. We hope it will prove useful both in providing an update to established workers and fascinating the neophyte.

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Editor