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## Critical Reviews in Analytical Chemistry

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**A Review of: "Photodegradation of Water Pollutants, Martin M. Halmann, CRC Press, Boca Raton, 1996, 320 pp. ISBN 08493-2459-9. (Hardbound), \$74.95"**

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## BOOK REVIEW

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### **Photodegradation of Water Pollutants**

**Martin M. Halmann**

**CRC Press, Boca Raton, 1996**

**320 pp. ISBN 08493-2459-9. (Hardbound), \$74.95**

**Reviewer: Peter C. Uden, Department of Chemistry, University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst, MA 01003.**

There are a number of goals set for this text by the author — an acknowledged authority in the fields of organic photochemistry and water pollutant treatment and detoxification. For the practicing environmental chemist and engineer, it aims to provide a rigorous and extensive chemical background relating to the wide range of photochemical reactions undergone by both inorganic and organic species during treatment processes carried out either with or without other chemical agents. For researchers and students it provides a comprehensive review of the theory and practice of anion and cation inorganic and organometallic photochemistry. It further surveys reaction chemistries of hydrocarbons, halocarbons, organosulfur, — nitrogen and — phosphorus compounds and provides a fertile basis for developmental detoxification chemistry. It also targets as a support text for advanced course work in environmental science and engineering.

The material is presented in an attractive, well-organized fashion with a good balance of photochemical reaction chemistry and literature review and critique. The literature citations are extremely comprehensive and draw together the wide range of subject areas and journals wherein this diverse field is referenced. The reader with less chemical background may find it necessary to supplement the material with background reference to fundamental organic reaction chemistry but the book's layout should make this quite straightforward. The reader may choose to focus upon the particular organic or inorganic pollutant class of their interest, and derive a coherent view of the necessary chemical background, without need to review the whole text. The final chapters on natural transformations and treatment processes in groundwater, wastewater, fresh and ocean waters, and on overall evaluation of photodegradation processes were found by this reviewer to be of considerable value to the general reader as well as the specialist.

This is indeed a book for the specialist, or at least for the focused professional. However it is a valuable resource for pertinent chemical information, clearly presented which should certainly be in any library of analytical and environmental water and pollution chemists.