

BOOK REVIEW

Microbial Transformation and Degradation of Toxic Organic Chemicals, edited by Lilly Y. Young and Carl E. Cerniglia. Wiley-Liss, New York, 1995. \$89.95, cloth. xii + 654 pages. ISBN 0471521094.

This book is a collection of 17 specialized reviews from 34 contributors concerning various aspects of microbiology in control of toxic organic chemicals. The book is edited into four topics: *The Issues*, consisting of two introductory chapters which overview microbial versatility and chemical contamination of the environment; *The Microbiology*, which covers the detailed microbial degradation mechanisms of a wide range of environmental chemicals such as petroleum hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls, organohalides, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, homocyclic aromatics, and organopollutants; *Applications in Cleanup and Bioremediation*, where five reviews are devoted to bioremediation of industrial wastewater, solvents, chlorinated aromatics, and fuel-derived waste; and *Future Trends*, which examines the application of molecular biology and biotechnology in control of hazardous

chemicals, and risk assessment. A 24-page index is included. References are updated in most reviews.

At a glance, the chapter by N. G. Swoboda-Colberg contains several mistakes in structural drawings of certain compounds (for example, benzo[3,4]fluoranthene, indeno[1,2,3-*cd*]pyrene, formaldehyde, etc.). Considering the nature of this book as a reference source, sloppiness of this kind is embarrassing. Nonetheless, the extensive information contained in this book should be useful to experts or novices in toxicology, environmental science, and medicinal chemistry, as well as microbiology.

Bongsup P. Cho, Ph.D.
Department of Medicinal Chemistry
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881