

Book Review

Color Chemistry. By H. Zollinger, VCH, Verlagsgesellschaft/Physik-Verlag, Weinheim, FRG, 1987. 367 pp. Price: DM 198.

The subtitle of this volume, viz., *Syntheses, Properties and Application of Organic Dyes and Pigments*, exemplifies succinctly what Professor Zollinger has attempted to present in this volume. Equally succinct must be the conclusion that the attempt has proved to be very successful and that the book can be strongly recommended to chemists of all interests and persuasions. It is, in fact, to chemists generally, and not solely to colour chemists, that the author has addressed himself. The book is, of course, as the title implies, a color chemistry text, but the emphasis is on presenting the subject as an integral function within the broader realms of inorganic, organic and physical chemistry. The text is therefore presented on the basis of the fundamental and characteristic features of color chemistry, and their inter-relationships and interdependence within the basic chemical sciences.

The scope of the book is demonstrated by its essential subdivisions, viz., color of organic compounds; polyene and polymethene dyes; di and tri arylmethane dyes and their aza analogues; aza[18]annulenes; nitro and nitroso dyes; azo dyes and pigments; carbonyl dyes and pigments; sulphur dyes; fluorescent brighteners; application of dyes; application of organic pigments; photo-, thermo- and electrochemical reactions of colorants; colorants for imaging and data recording systems; dyes in biochemistry, biology, medicine and analytical chemistry.

With such a scale of topics and 367 pages of text, one would not expect an in-depth encyclopaedic treatment. The author has however, extracted the essentials, and a lot more, and presented them with insight and clarity. The

book is liberally illustrated with structures, reaction schemes and pertinent reaction mechanisms, all of which add to the clarity of the presentation. One minor error noted is the structure of CI Acid Orange 7 (p. 109) where the extra hydroxy group could cause confusion. References are extensive and up to date (including 1986).

As Professor Zollinger comments in his preface, one aim of the book is to contribute to the extinction of parochialism and conservatism, and to present color chemistry in a broader interdisciplinary context. The volume is therefore recommended as essential reading not only to color chemists of all stages of their careers, but to chemists unilaterally. They will find it interesting, informative, stimulating and very readable.

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