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A review of: "ORGANIC COMPOUNDS OF SULFUR, SELENIUM AND TELLURIUM, Vol. 5. (Chemical Society of London, Specialist Periodical Reports). Chemical Society of London, 1979. XXV 522 pp. (\$100.00; £39.00)"

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Book Review

ORGANIC COMPOUNDS OF SULFUR, SELENIUM AND TELLURIUM, Vol. 5. (Chemical Society of London, Specialist Periodical Reports). Chemical Society of London, 1979. XXV + 522 pp. (\$100.00; £39.00)

Volume 5 follows the pattern of earlier volumes in this series, under the direction of D. R. Hogg, Senior Reporter, in cooperation with seventeen well-recognized contributors. The Report covers the literature published between April 1976 and March 1978. The increased cost of printing, even in view of a greater volume of research output to be covered, has necessitated a decrease in the total space devoted to the published report, in comparison to earlier volumes. Nevertheless, the skillful condensation techniques used by the reporters has compensated for the economic stringencies imposed by necessity.

Indeed, the volume is a veritable treasury of new information for those interested in the organic chemistry of sixth group elements. The work of ca. 6800 individual authors is cited. The topics covered include Aliphatic Systems (69 pp.); Ylides (47 pp.); Thiocarbonyl and Selenocarbonyl Compounds (68 pp.); Small-Ring S and Se Compounds (25 pp.); Saturated Cyclic Compounds (14 pp.); Thiophenes and Se and Te Analogs (57 pp.); Dithiols (28 pp.); Thiopins and Dithiins (7 pp.); Isothiazoles and Related Compounds (12 pp.); Thiazoles and Related Compounds (33 pp.); Condensed Ring Systems Incorporating Thiazole (37 pp.); Thiadiazoles and Selenadiazoles (23 pp.); and Beta-Lactam Antibiotics and other Natural Sulfur Products (26 pp.).

A subject index is not included. However, the section headings within the chapters stand out clearly and are given also in the Table of Contents—which serves as a basic *Subject Index*. The factual listing of information in the text is done quite well and clearly, with full references to the literature. The text is amply illustrated with structural formulas and equations, which are very well done technically. This reviewer found no typographical errors of consequence, although his search for these was cursory.

The journals which are covered include all the journals which are abstracted in Chemical Abstracts. The editor has inserted cross-references within the text to bring out results in various sections of the report.

At £100 (\$39) for the 480 pages of text and 43 pages of Author Index, the volume is still quite fairly priced for multiple user groups at about 20 cents per page. Surely, it is essential for research workers carrying out work on sulfur and selenium, as well as tellurium. Individuals should also give consideration to acquiring this total research reference, since return to this volume for browsing and finding a lead to the literature is definitely conducive to the generation of new ideas which may well bear fruit in one's own research. This reviewer and his colleagues have already found the Report useful in this capacity and it is definitely a library contribution that continues the high quality of the series. The blending of many disciplines is clearly evident throughout the Report. This is a hallmark of the scope and significance of sulfur chemistry, and the chemistry of selenium as well.

NORMAN KHARASCH