
An even more wide-spread use of Beilstein's Handbook of Organic Chemistry all over the world was prevented by its German language. A great majority of organic chemists wanted to read and use "Beilstein", but their difficulties with the German vocabulary and grammar were too a great obstacle to overcome. Therefore, it is a welcome achievement that from the fifth supplementary series on Beilstein's language will be English.

This series starts with volume seventeen that deals with heterocyclic compounds. The reason for the choice of this topic is the readers' preference for this class of compounds, as many researchers are nowadays engaged in investigations on heterocyclic substances. All the papers published in the two decades encompassing the years 1960—1979 are included in the fifth series. As this period was a real high-light in organic chemistry, the reader will enjoy turning over the leaves in order to realize the pulsating actuality of Beilstein's fifth series. This is also reflected in the nomenclature, which strictly follows the rules of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and the abbreviations of journals, which are now in accordance with the international standard abbreviations used in Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index.

About 1.5 million compounds referred to in the chemical literature that appeared between 1830 and 1959 were described in the first 290 volumes of the Handbook. The new series will contain data on about 3 million organic chemical compounds. Nobody who is familiar with Beilstein will have to readjust himself. The system used in the hitherto existing volumes has not been altered. Therefore, finding one's way in the new volume of Beilstein's Handbook will be as easy as in the preceeding ones. It can be assumed that Beilstein will now be used by a greater number of organic chemists whose native tongue is not German.

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The technique of centrifugation is currently used in nearly all laboratories dealing with the isolation of macromolecules, subcellular particles, and cells. Therefore, familiarization with this method is a must for everyone working in biochemistry, chemistry of natural compounds, and cell and molecular biology. A good book covering all aspects of centrifugation, especially the practical aspects, and being up-to-date, has not been available for a long time. Rickwood's book is an excellent one, as it directly relates to the laboratory use of the technique.

After having read "Centrifugation (2nd edition): A Practical Approach" everybody will be able to choose the best type of centrifugal separation (differential pelleting, rate-zonal centrifugation, isopycnic centrifugation), the best type of rotor (vertical, fixed-angle, swing-out), and the best types of tubes, gradient media, and centrifugation conditions for each purpose. Especially delightful is the fact that many details are included in the description of the procedures, making this cookery-book remarkably comprehensive. At no point the reader is left to himself, as explanations tell him why the procedures are performed in a specific way and how the results would be altered by changing the conditions.

Although the book is primarily written for the novice who wants to learn the theory and practice of preparative and analytical ultracentrifugation, experienced research workers will also profit from it. Many hints in the book encourage the scientists who have used definite centrifugation conditions for many years to change them in order to achieve a maximum resolving power with their ultracentrifuge. This is especially accomplished by description of new types of rotors and centrifugation media that were not available in the past. The appendices are a useful reference source and will be continuously used.

If the reader looks for the definitive book on centrifugation, he should know that it now exists: it is Rickwood's book.

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