

Benzopyrenes

Eds: Martin R. Osborne and Neil T. Crosby

Cambridge University Press 1987 Pp. xiv + 329  
ISBN 0 521 30122X

This 18 chapter book constitutes an in depth treatise on a narrow group of chemicals, the benzopyrenes. The first 10 chapters concern the much studied carcinogen, benzo(a)pyrene, Chapter 11 is devoted to benzo(e)pyrene, Chapters 12-17 are concerned with analytical methods for the determination of benzopyrenes in environmental samples and the occurrence of benzopyrene in the environment, and the final chapter provides suggestions for further reading. The chemical, physical and biochemical aspects of benzo(a)pyrene seem to be dearer to the hearts of the authors than the more biological aspects and Chapter 10 fails to do full justice to certain areas of the huge literature on benzo(a)pyrene carcinogenesis. However, this is no more than a peccadillo in a book that deals with all the other aspects thoroughly, succinctly and well.

Each chapter is completed with a long list of references which are complete with the names of all authors, titles, year, journal, volume and first and last papers. This makes the book an excellent source of reference. This book deserves to be regarded as the key standard work on the subject of its title and merits a place on the bookshelf of every investigator working in this area of chemistry and environmental monitoring.

Francis J.C. Roe