The Chemistry and Biology of Benz[a]anthracenes


This is one of Cambridge’s Monographs on Cancer Research. This highly specialized book is divided into two parts: chemistry and biology. In Part 1 the syntheses of benz[a]anthracenes are covered from the middle 1930s to end of 1984. The present state of synthetic approaches to benz[a]anthracenes is organized into several different categories. Advantages and difficulties in various synthetic routes are pointed out. The author’s preface states that because many of the older methods have not been restudied, it is left to the reader to decide the best course of action in any chosen case. This part contains 372 numbered references.

In Part 2 the biological properties of benz[a]anthracene and its substituted derivatives are discussed in relation to the literature available up to the end of 1985. The authors indicate that these types of compounds can be formed during combustion of organic matter (such as coal and tobacco) and are widely distributed throughout the environment, being present in the air, in water, and in soils. Because of their occurrence in the environment and because certain benz[a]anthracene derivatives exhibit potent biological activity, they have been the subject of intense study. This part contains 24 pages of unnumbered references.

The text of Part 2 is divided into four sections: metabolism, interactions with cellular macromolecules, mutagenicity, and carcinogenicity. A brief, general, historical perspective is presented at the beginning of the metabolism section.

The book should be useful to those involved in cancer research.—M.A. TABATABAI, Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011.

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ERRATA

Effect of Meteorological Parameters on Ammonia Loss from Manure in the Field


Flux density data in Fig. 1 and 2 (page 433) are correct, but values given in Table 4 and in Fig. 3 and 4 (page 435) have erroneously been divided by a factor of 4. This error does not affect correlation, strength of regression, or conclusions, but will affect slope and interception of the regression line correspondingly.

The authors apologize for the inconvenience.