
Organic Insecticides. Their Chemistry and Mode of Action. *Robert L. Metcalf.* Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York. 1955. x + 392 pp. \$8.50.

This book, addressed to organic and biochemists, entomologists, and toxicologists, has been written by an expert qualified in all these fields. It presents in a single volume a comprehensive coverage of the organic chemistry, insect and mammalian toxicity, relation of structure to toxicity, mode of toxic action and of detoxification of organic insecticides, both synthetic and natural. In addition there are chapters titled: "Joint Action of Insecticides" and "Insecticide Resistance".

While fully documented with references listed at the end of each chapter (about 29 pages total of reference lists), *Organic Insecticides* is much more than a compilation of data. It is rather a well organized, readable discussion which will be meaningful alike to the organic chemist, applied entomologist, and toxicologist, although each will read it from a different viewpoint. The book is also directed to students, but the less-advanced student without a fair background in both chemistry and entomology will find it heavy going. For the advanced student it offers the basis and stimulus for future achievements.

Proofreading this volume must have been a herculean task for about half the pages of the text are interspersed with diagrams of structural formulae, chemical reactions, or tabular material. There are 70 numbered tables plus some unnumbered ones. The reader is supplied with both structural formulae and exact chemical names for most of the materials discussed.

A 16-page index completes this excellent treatise.

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