

Book Review

Antifungal Azoles, L. Zirngibl. Wiley-VCH, 1998. Hardback. DM 298. ISBN 3-52729487-2.

This book represents a comprehensive survey of developments in the field of antifungal azoles spanning a period from 1980 through June, 1996, with an appendix including significant references through October of 1997. It is an extension of the author's earlier review (*Prog. Drug Res.*, 27, 385, 1983), which covered the preceding fifteen years. The organization will be familiar to those who know the earlier work. The author is a recognized authority in the area, and he cites, by name, several other experts in the field for their comments and suggestions in preparing the manuscript. Thus, one may assume that the coverage has been thorough and that it accurately assesses the significance of developments over the period covered and projections for the future.

The book focuses upon 1-substituted-1*H*-azoles. A brief introductory chapter summarizes activity over the years covered and describes the scope of coverage and notational conventions used. Subsequent chapters are arranged according to the nature of the 1-substituent groups, and chapters are subdivided according to variations within the 1-substituent and in the identity of the azole. Coverage does not include compounds with functionally-substituted azole rings such as nitroimidazoles or bicyclic azoles such

as benzimidazoles. Each chapter begins with a graphical representation of the chronology of patent applications over the span from 1980–1995 for compounds of the class covered in that chapter.

Structural representations are used liberally to illustrate the text, and brief discussions of major synthetic approaches and ranges of fungicidal activity, encompassing both medical and agricultural applications, of the various classes of compounds are included. Biochemical or pharmacological studies with respect to mode of action on the molecular level are not within the scope of coverage.

The work is extensively referenced at every point. The book is 292 pages in length, and the references section occupies 75 pages. There are nearly 2800 references from both the published and patent literature, with a particularly strong emphasis on the latter. The references section provides a definitive bibliography for the years covered, which anyone working in the field will find extremely valuable.

The book is written for the specialist in the field of antifungal azoles and will surely be welcomed as an indispensable source of information for anyone who is currently engaged in or is planning future research in the area.

J. F. Hansen, Illinois State University