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*Nomenklatura organskih spojeva*

[Nomenclature of Organic Compounds]

Školska knjiga  
Zagreb, 2004

The nomenclature of chemical compounds was developed to help the chemists distinguish between different classes of chemicals and to aid them in anticipating the reactions in which a chemical would be likely to participate. To be useful for communication among chemists, nomenclature of chemical compounds should also include an explicit or implied relationship to the structure of the compound so that the reader can deduce the structure from the name.

The textbook *Nomenklatura organskih spojeva (Nomenclature of Organic Compounds, Školska knjiga, Zagreb, 2004)* written by Vladimir Rapić, a distinguished professor of organic chemistry at the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb, provides a quick guide to the rules of organic chemical nomenclature. This 3rd edition, which supersedes both the 1991 and the 1995 editions, is based on the rules given

in the 1979 edition of the IUPAC *Nomenclature of Organic Chemistry*, commonly known as the »Blue Book«, and has been updated by the nomenclature recommendations published in 1993 in the *Guide to IUPAC Nomenclature of Organic Compounds*. In preparing this new edition, the author took the opportunity to rationalize, clarify and extend nomenclature systems described in previous editions, and incorporated a new chapter dealing with the nomenclature of carbohydrates. The textbook is well organized and concise, and it is certainly an important contribution to the Croatian chemical literature.

The content is divided into six chapters: 1. *Hydrocarbons and heterocyclic systems*, 2. *Substitutive and functional class nomenclature*, 3. *Compounds with characteristic groups*, 4. *Stereochemical specification*, 5. *Carbohydrates*, and 6. *Appendix*. Useful appendices provide the names of different substituents, interpretations of terms, prefixes and suffixes. In addition, appendices supply the reader with test questions (and answers), arranged in order of difficulty, for practicing the naming of organic compounds.

To end this review, this textbook can be used as reading material for graduate and postgraduate students taking organic chemistry courses and I also recommend it to all university libraries, research chemists, chemical engineers and technologists.

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