The Chemistry of Inorganic Homo- and Heterocycles

Volume 1

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D. B. SOWERBY

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Preface

The chemistry of inorganic homo- and heterocycles is becoming a self-consistent branch of modern inorganic chemistry, and international symposia on inorganic ring systems have already taken place (IRIS Symposia: Besançon 1975, Madrid 1977, Göttingen 1978, Graz 1981, Paris 1985), thus recognizing the legitimacy of this science.

Although inorganic ring structures were correctly suggested for several compounds as early as the second half of the 19th century (for example for metaphosphates and cyclophosphazenes), it was only after diffraction methods for structure determination became available, that cyclic structures were confirmed for elements other than carbon. This was then followed by intensive research in the field.

The classical period of inorganic ring chemistry was dealt with in 1970 in a comprehensive two-volume monograph "The Chemistry of Inorganic Ring Systems" (by Ionel Haiduc), which covered the literature published up to 1969. More recent literature, published since 1979/1980 is reviewed in a series of annual surveys, initiated by the same author. Thus the review covering the year 1980 was published in *Reviews in Inorganic Chemistry* **5** (1983) 7–121, and will be followed by further annual reviews, now in preparation. This left a gap of about ten years (1969–1979) to be covered by a comprehensive monograph, which would collect the information published during a decade of research and progress. This book is intended to fill this gap, and also to bring in some more recent results. Because of the rapid development in the chemistry of inorganic ring systems and the accumulation of a large body of information, most of it of great significance, the task of reviewing the literature of a whole decade could not be performed by a single person.

The present book was written by a team of internationally recognized experts in the field, who have actively contributed to its development. Their first-hand knowledge and expertise in the field was invaluable in preparing an authoritative survey of inorganic homo- and heterocyclic chemistry. Some short chapters were written by the editors themselves.

A difficult task was that of finding acceptable nomenclature. Since no

IUPAC rules for naming inorganic rings are available, the editors suggested to all contributors that they use the same nomenclature as in Haiduc's 1970 monograph. Some, however, preferred other naming procedures, and the editors felt that they should not impose their own preferences. The nomenclature is briefly explained in the Introduction.

Readers will be aware of the substantial editorial difficulties in producing a work of this complexity, not least of which are those concerned with meeting deadlines and operating within a given overall length. As a consequence of the latter, most articles were subject to editorial revision.

We are grateful to the many contributors to this book for their participation in this endeavour, for their patience and understanding of the somewhat difficult circumstances and long delay in assembling such a large work with so many participants. We acknowledge assistance from the British Council and the Romanian Ministry of Education and are indebted to our families for their understanding.

Ionel Haiduc
D. Bryan Sowerby

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