

Natural Products in the Chemical Industry

written by Bernd Schäfer, 2nd ed., Springer: Heidelberg, 2014, hardcover, 831 pp, € 94.99/£ 85.50, ISBN 978-3-642-54460-6

This book describes natural products chemistry with the eyes of an industrial chemist. Prof. Dr. Bernd Schäfer of the BASF has divided his book into eight chapters, each containing the chemistry of natural products with similar properties: colorants, flavones and fragrances, amino acids, pharmaceuticals, hormones, vitamins and agrochemicals. All chapters are written in a very didactic fashion including numerous details concerning industrially relevant natural products including biological properties, biosynthetic metabolism, a structure determination and industrial synthetic aspects. Each chapter is abundantly illustrated and very agreeable to read. Modern developments including novel applications and new synthetic routes are always included. Chapter 5 dealing with pharmaceuticals is especially well elaborated and will be of great interest to undergraduate and graduate students as well as teachers in pharmacy, organic synthesis or industrial chemistry. This chapter covers

important classes of pharmaceuticals, the historical perspective and a range of important chemical, biochemical and synthetic pieces of information.

Always included summaries in bullet points allow remembering the important facts described in each paragraph. The book is very pleasant to read, instructive and very didactic. The study of various retrosynthetic analyses (for example, in the case of retinol acetate) will be of great interest to undergraduate students. An extensive subject index makes it easy to rapidly search information. Prof. Schäfer has written a quite unique book that has been admirably translated into English for this second enlarged edition. This book should be part of any chemist's library who is interested in natural product chemistry.

Prof. Dr. Paul Knochel, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany