

Contents

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Preface | xiii |
| Preface for Volumes 1–10 | xiv |
| Contributing Authors | xv |
| Contents of Volumes 1–15 | xxix |

| | |
|--|----------|
| 49 / Bio-inspired Molecular Devices Based on Systems Found in Photosynthetic Bacteria | 1 |
| <i>Pierre D. Harvey, Christine Stern and Roger Guilard</i> | |
| List of Abbreviations | 3 |
| I. Introduction | 5 |
| II. Electron and Energy Transfer | 8 |
| A. Basic Elements of Photophysics | 8 |
| B. Electron and Energy Transfers | 11 |
| C. Intramolecular Processes | 14 |
| D. The Förster Mechanism | 15 |
| E. The Dexter Mechanism | 16 |
| F. Energy Delocalization Across Identical Chromophores (Exciton) | 17 |
| G. Back Energy Transfer | 17 |
| III. Pacman Porphyrin Complexes, Special Pairs and Chemical Models | 19 |
| A. Synthesis of Pacman Bisporphyrins, Biscorroles and Porphyrin-Corroles | 20 |
| 1. Bisporphyrins | 20 |
| 2. Biscorroles | 21 |
| 3. Porphyrin-Corroles | 24 |
| 4. Synthesis of a Trimacrocyclic | 28 |
| B. Metalation of Pacman Bisporphyrins, Biscorroles and Porphyrin-Corroles | 32 |
| C. Geometry Optimization of the Dyads | 34 |
| 1. Modulation of the Ct–Ct Distance by the Choice of an Appropriate Spacer | 35 |
| a. Free-base Pacman Bisporphyrins | 35 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| b. Geometrical Data of 35 X-ray Structures of Pacman Bisporphyrins | 35 |
| 2. X-ray Characteristics of Monometalated Bisporphyrins | 41 |
| 3. X-ray Characteristics of Bismetalated Bisporphyrins | 42 |
| 4. Cofacial Bisporphyrins Held by a Calix[4]arene Spacer | 44 |
| 5. X-ray Characteristics of Mono- and Bismetalated Porphyrin-Corroles | 46 |
| a. Monometalated Porphyrin-Corroles | 46 |
| b. Bismetalated Porphyrin-Corroles | 48 |
| 6. X-ray Characteristics of Mono- and Bismetalated Biscorroles | 48 |
| IV. Special Pairs and Chemical Models | 50 |
| A. Structures of the Reaction Centers | 50 |
| B. Chemical Models | 56 |
| 1. Selected Cofacial Systems | 56 |
| 2. Cofacial Bisporphyrins Held by Flexible Chains | 57 |
| 3. Cofacial Bisporphyrins Held by Rigid Spacers | 67 |
| 4. Cofacial Bisporphyrins Held by a Calix[4]arene Spacer | 91 |
| 5. Other Topics with Cofacial Systems | 97 |
| V. Description of the Photonic Devices for the Antenna Effect for Three Photobacteria | 103 |
| A. Cyanobacteria | 103 |
| 1. Structure and Dynamics | 103 |
| 2. Dendrimers | 106 |
| B. Purple Photosynthetic Bacteria: Structure and Dynamics | 131 |
| 1. Supramolecular Structures of LH I and LH II. | 132 |
| 2. Excited State Dynamics of LH I and LH II. | 136 |
| 3. The Role of the Rhodopin Glucoside | 138 |
| 4. Cyclic Chemical Models | 140 |
| 5. Models Proposed by Kobuke and Coworkers | 146 |
| C. Green Sulfur Bacteria. | 161 |
| 1. Structure and Dynamics | 161 |
| 2. Chemical Models | 163 |
| VI. Conclusion and Perspectives | 166 |
| VII. Acknowledgments | 168 |
| VIII. References | 168 |

50 / Self-Assembled Porphyrin Nanostructures 181

Craig J. Medforth and John A. Shelnutt

| | |
|--|-----|
| List of Abbreviations | 182 |
| I. Introduction | 182 |
| II. Synthesis and Structure | 183 |
| A. Overview | 183 |
| B. Ionic Self-Assembly | 184 |
| C. Coordination Polymerization | 188 |
| D. Reprecipitation | 190 |
| III. Optical, Electronic and Photocatalytic Properties | 194 |
| A. UV-Visible Absorption and Emission Spectra | 194 |
| B. Photoconductivity | 196 |
| C. Reductive Photocatalysis and Metal Growth | 200 |
| IV. Current and Future Uses of Porphyrin Nanostructures and Nanocomposites for Solar Energy Production and Utilization | 205 |
| A. Solar Hydrogen Production | 205 |
| B. Hydrogen Production Using Porphyrin Nanostructures as Light-Harvesting Arrays | 210 |
| C. Carbon Dioxide Reduction. | 211 |
| D. Photovoltaics and Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells | 212 |
| E. Novel Electrocatalysts for Fuel Cells | 214 |
| V. Conclusions | 218 |
| VI. Acknowledgments | 219 |
| VII. References | 220 |

51 / Photochemistry of Chlorophylls and Their Synthetic Analogs 223

Hitoshi Tamiaki and Michio Kunieda

| | |
|--|-----|
| List of Abbreviations | 224 |
| I. Introduction | 225 |
| II. Characterization of Chlorophylls | 225 |
| A. Structures and Nomenclature | 225 |
| B. Light Absorption | 226 |
| III. Natural Chlorophylls. | 226 |
| A. In Photosynthetic Antennas | 226 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| B. In Organic Solvents | 229 |
| 1. π -Skeletal Effect | 229 |
| 2. Peripheral Substituent Effect | 231 |
| a. 3-Substituents | 231 |
| b. 7-Substituents | 232 |
| c. 8-Substituents | 232 |
| d. 12-Substituents | 232 |
| e. 13 ² -Substituents | 232 |
| f. 17-Substituents | 233 |
| g. 20-Substituents | 233 |
| h. Central Metals | 233 |
| 3. Solvent Effects | 234 |
| IV. Semisynthetic Chlorophylls | 236 |
| A. π -Skeletons | 236 |
| B. 3-Substituents | 240 |
| 1. 3-Ethenyl Substituents (3-C=C). | 240 |
| 2. 3-Ethynyl Substituents (3-C \equiv C). | 245 |
| 3. 3-Carbonyl and Related Substituents (3-C=X) | 246 |
| 4. 3-Monosubstituted-Methyl Substituents (3-CH ₂ X) | 250 |
| 5. 3-1-Monosubstituted-Alkyl Substituents (3-CHRX) | 250 |
| 6. Carbinols (3-C(OH)RR'). | 253 |
| 7. 3-Substituted Bacteriochlorins and Porphyrins | 255 |
| C. 7,8-Substituents | 255 |
| 1. 7-Substituents | 255 |
| 2. 8-Substituents | 259 |
| 3. Formylated Chlorins | 261 |
| 4. 3-Acetyl-Bacteriochlorins | 263 |
| D. 13,15-Substituents | 265 |
| 1. 13-Substituents | 265 |
| 2. Modified 5-Membered E-Rings | 266 |
| 3. Modified 6-Membered E-Rings | 267 |
| 4. E-Ring-Opening Substituents | 271 |
| E. 20-Substituents | 274 |
| F. Central Metals | 276 |
| G. π -Systems | 277 |
| 1. B-Ring Reduced Chlorins | 277 |
| 2. Stereoselectively D-Ring Reduced Chlorins | 280 |
| 3. Isobacteriochlorins | 282 |
| V. Fully-Synthetic Chlorophyll Models | 282 |
| VI. Conclusions | 284 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| VII. Acknowledgments | 285 |
| VIII. References | 285 |

52 / Chemistry, Biology and Medical Effects of Water-Soluble Metalloporphyrins 291

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| | |
|---|-----|
| List of Abbreviations | 294 |
| I. Introduction and Historical Perspective | 297 |
| A. Reactive Species, Cellular Signaling and Oxidative Stress. | 297 |
| B. Metalloporphyrins | 298 |
| II. Superoxide Dismutases and the <i>E. coli</i> Model | 304 |
| A. Superoxide Dismutases | 305 |
| B. Sources of Superoxide in <i>E. coli</i> | 305 |
| C. Superoxide Reactivity and Superoxide Targets | 306 |
| D. <i>SodAsodB E. coli</i> for Screening of SOD Mimics. | 307 |
| III. Design of Potent SOD Mimics. | 308 |
| A. Thermodynamic Effects | 308 |
| 1. <i>Ortho</i> Cationic Mn(III) <i>N</i> -Alkylpyridylporphyrins | 310 |
| a. Atropisomers | 315 |
| 2. <i>Ortho</i> Cationic Oxygen-Derivatized Porphyrins | 317 |
| a. Mn(III) <i>N</i> -Tri(ethyleneglycol)-Derivatized Pyridylporphyrin | 317 |
| b. Mn(III) Methoxyethylpyridyl- and Dimethoxyethylimidazolylporphyrins | 318 |
| 3. <i>Ortho</i> Cationic Fe(III) <i>N</i> -Substituted Pyridylporphyrins | 318 |
| 4. β -Substituted Isomeric Mn(III) <i>N</i> -Alkylpyridylporphyrins | 319 |
| 5. Mn(III) <i>N,N'</i> -Dialkylimidazolylporphyrins | 321 |
| 6. Mn(III) <i>N,N'</i> -Dialkylpyrazolylporphyrin | 321 |
| 7. <i>Para</i> and <i>meta</i> Mn(III) <i>N</i> -Alkylpyridylporphyrins | 321 |
| B. Electrostatic Effects and Revised Structure-Activity Relationships. | 323 |
| 1. Cationic Porphyrins. | 323 |
| 2. Anionic Porphyrins | 324 |
| a. β -Substituted Anionic Porphyrins | 324 |
| b. MnTBAP ³⁻ | 325 |
| c. Anionic Fe(III) Porphyrins | 327 |
| 3. Neutral Porphyrins | 327 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| IV. Reactivities Towards Other Reactive Species and Other Modes of Action | 328 |
| A. Superoxide Reducing Ability — Mimics of Superoxide Reductase | 329 |
| B. Peroxynitrite-Reducing Ability | 329 |
| C. Nitrosation | 331 |
| D. Catalase-Like Activity | 331 |
| E. Reactivity Towards HClO | 332 |
| F. Reactivity Towards Lipid-Based Reactive Species | 332 |
| G. Reactivity Towards Cellular Reductants | 332 |
| H. Inhibition of Activation of Transcription Factors | 332 |
| I. Pro-Oxidative Action | 334 |
| V. Synthesis and Purity of Mn Porphyrins | 334 |
| A. Synthesis of Mn Porphyrins | 334 |
| B. Purity and Characterization of Mn Porphyrins | 337 |
| VI. Stability of Mn Porphyrins: SOD Mimicking versus Mn-Transporting Mechanisms | 345 |
| VII. Mn Porphyrins <i>In Vivo</i> | 347 |
| A. Lipophilicity — Partition Coefficient between n-Octanol and Water, P_{OW} | 347 |
| B. Detection of Mn Porphyrins in Plasma, Tissues and Cellular Compartments | 348 |
| 1. HPLC/Fluorescence Method | 352 |
| 2. LC/ESI-MS/MS Method | 353 |
| C. Mn Porphyrins in Mitochondria | 355 |
| D. Mn Porphyrins in the Nucleus and Cytosol | 356 |
| E. The <i>In Vivo</i> Accumulation of Mn Porphyrins as Affected by Cellular Reductants | 356 |
| F. Pharmacokinetics | 356 |
| VIII. Medical Effects — Mammalian Systems | 358 |
| A. Central Nervous System Injuries | 358 |
| 1. Stroke | 358 |
| 2. Spinal Cord Injury | 359 |
| 3. Subarachnoid Hemorrhage | 360 |
| 4. Cerebral Palsy | 361 |
| 5. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) | 361 |
| 6. Parkinson's Disease | 363 |
| 7. Alzheimer's Disease | 363 |
| 8. Oxygen and Glucose Deprivation | 363 |
| 9. Staurosporine-Induced Neurotoxicity | 363 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| B. Diabetes | 364 |
| C. Cancer | 365 |
| 1. Antioxidative Mechanism of Action | 365 |
| a. Mn Porphyrin in Its Own Right | 365 |
| b. Mn Porphyrin + Radiation | 366 |
| c. Mn Porphyrin + Hyperthermia | 366 |
| d. Mn Porphyrin + Chemotherapy | 366 |
| 2. MnP in Various Cancer Models | 368 |
| a. Skin Cancer | 368 |
| b. Prostate Cancer | 369 |
| c. Brain Cancer | 369 |
| d. Breast Cancer | 369 |
| 3. Pro-Oxidative Mechanism of Action Mn Porphyrin + Chemotherapy | 370 |
| D. Other Ischemia/Reperfusion Conditions | 371 |
| E. Lung Injuries | 372 |
| F. Sickle-Cell Disease | 374 |
| G. Pain Management | 374 |
| H. Radiation Injury | 375 |
| 1. Whole Body Radioprotection | 375 |
| 2. Lung Radioprotection | 376 |
| 3. Eye Radioprotection | 377 |
| I. Sepsis | 379 |
| J. Imaging Studies | 379 |
| K. Toxicity of Mn Porphyrins | 380 |
| L. Zn Porphyrins as Photosensitizers | 380 |
| IX. Acknowledgments | 383 |
| X. References | 384 |
| Index | 395 |

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Preface

It is now one year and ten volumes since we wrote our first Preface for the “Handbook of Porphyrin Science”. We are delighted with the initial ten volumes, with the diligence, timeliness, breadth of expertise, writing talent, and resolute dedication of our authors, and with the exceptional quality of the production provided by World Scientific. Given these successes, it was with some trepidation that we took on the recruitment of new authors for the present set of volumes; nevertheless, we were extremely gratified with the responses we received to our invitations, with only two of sixty-five invitees from all over the world declining our requests for authoritative contributions.

We are beginning with a five-volume set (Volumes 11–15) of the Handbook, with at least another five, probably ten, volumes to follow. Once again our authors have far exceeded our expectations with regard to both quality of writing and comprehensive achievement of their individual tasks. We asked our contributors to write “a review for the ages”, and we anticipate that, as with past volumes, what you now see will remain relevant for at least fifteen years. After that, maybe we will have to start all over again with a continuing compendium of the very latest and most enduring “Porphyrin Science”.

The editors wish to thank many individuals — our authors, our copy editors, our production team — and also World Scientific Publishing Company, for continuing to believe, with us, in the importance of porphyrins, related tetrapyrroles, and their applications. We hope our readers will enjoy browsing these pages as much as we, the editors, enjoyed organizing the process that produced them.

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December 1, 2010

Preface for Volumes 1–10

Although the porphyrin and tetrapyrrole research area was regarded as “fully matured” during the 20th century, as evidenced for example by the awarding of numerous Nobel Prizes to its principal researchers, new advances and accomplishments in the field still amaze us as editors. The area continues to blossom and to expand into new areas of science and applications that would probably never have occurred to our 20th century heroes. An earlier *Porphyrim Handbook* assembled the large amount of factual data that had been accumulated during the 20th century. Our new venture, the *Handbook of Porphyrim Science* takes a completely new look at our research area and comprehensively details the contemporary science now appearing in the scientific literature that would indeed have been hard to predict even 10 years ago. In particular, fundamentally new methodologies and potential commercial applications of the beautiful compounds that we all love are exemplified, fully recognizing the subtitle of the series — “with applications to chemistry, physics, materials science, engineering, biology and medicine”.

The three of us have complementary expertise in physical chemistry, synthetic and bioorganic chemistry, and in synthetic and mechanistic organometallic chemistry; this has enabled us to cover the whole field of porphyrin science and applications, and to devise comprehensive volume and author content. As of the date of writing, between the three of us, we have published more than 1600 tetrapyrrole research articles, and hold 31 patents related to commercial applications of porphyrin science. So we do know our field, and this has enabled us to assemble a first-rate group of experts who have written comprehensive up-to-date chapters with accuracy and authority; we thank our authors for their cooperation and willingness to go along with our highly ambitious schedule for production of these volumes.

We look forward to comments from our readers, and to suggestions that might enable us to expand our basic interests and scientific coverage even further. Meanwhile, we hope that porphyrin researchers, old, new and of the future, will enjoy reading these volumes just as much as we enjoyed planning and, with the help of World Scientific Publishing Company, producing them from manuscript to published article, in a timely manner.

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Contents of Volumes 1–15

Volume 1 Supramolecular Chemistry

1. Synthetic Strategies Toward Multiporphyrinic Architectures
Naoki Aratani and Atsuhiko Osuka
2. Charge Transfer Between Porphyrins/Phthalocyanines and Carbon Nanostructures
Bruno Grimm, Anita Hausmann, Axel Kahnt, Wolfgang Seitz, Fabian Spänig and Dirk M. Guldi
3. Self-Assembling Porphyrins and Chlorins as Synthetic Mimics of the Chlorosomal Bacteriochlorophylls
Teodor Silviu Balaban
4. Tetrapyrrole–Nanocarbon Hybrids: Self-Assembly and Photoinduced Electron Transfer
Francis D'Souza and Osamu Ito
5. Photophysical Properties of Various Directly Linked Porphyrin Arrays
Zin Seok Yoon, Jaesung Yang, Hyejin Yoo, Sung Cho and Dongho Kim
6. Photophysics and Photochemistry of Various Expanded Porphyrins
Jong Min Lim, Min-Chul Yoon, Kil Suk Kim, Jae-Yoon Shin and Dongho Kim

Volume 2 Synthesis and Coordination Chemistry

7. Synthesis of Porphyrins Fused with Aromatic Rings
Noboru Ono, Hiroko Yamada and Tetsuo Okujima
8. Carbaporphyrinoids — Synthesis and Coordination Properties
Miłosz Pawlicki and Lechośław Latos-Grażyński
9. *meso*-Tetraarylporphyrin Derivatives: New Synthetic Methodologies
José A.S. Cavaleiro, Augusto C. Tomé and Maria G.P.M.S. Neves
10. Synthesis and Metal Coordination of N-Confused and N-Fused Porphyrinoids
Motoki Toganoh and Hiroyuki Furuta

Volume 3 Synthetic Methodology

11. The Key Role of Peripheral Substituents in the Chemistry of Phthalocyanines
Victor N. Nemykin and Evgeny A. Lukyanets
12. Organometallic C–C Coupling Reactions for Porphyrins
Natalia N. Sergeeva, Mathias O. Senge and Aoife Ryan
13. Porphyrin Functionalization via Palladium-Catalyzed Carbon–Heteroatom Cross-Coupling Reactions
Kimberly B. Fields, Joshua V. Ruppel, Nicole L. Snyder and X. Peter Zhang
14. Peripherally Metalated Porphyrin Derivatives: Synthetic Approaches and Properties
Sébastien Richeter, Christophe Jeandon, Jean-Paul Gisselbrecht and Romain Ruppert
15. Combinatorial Libraries of Porphyrins: Chemistry and Applications
Charles Michael Drain and Sunaina Singh

Volume 4 Phototherapy, Radioimmunotherapy and Imaging

16. Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines as Photosensitizers and Radiosensitizers
Hasrat Ali and Johan E. van Lier
17. Bioconjugates of Porphyrins and Related Molecules for Photodynamic Therapy
Cristina Alonso and Ross W. Boyle
18. Syntheses of Boronated Porphyrins and Their Application in BNCT
Maria da Graça H. Vicente and Martha Sibrian-Vazquez
19. Porphyrin-Based Multifunctional Agents for Tumor-Imaging and Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)
Manivannan Ethirajan, Nayan J. Patel and Ravindra K. Pandey
20. Targeting Strategies for Tetrapyrrole-Based Photodynamic Therapy of Tumors
Norbert Jux and Beate Röder
21. Mechanisms of Cell Death in Photodynamic Therapy
David Kessel
22. Photodynamic Therapy and the Tumor Microenvironment
Charles J. Gomer, Angela Ferrario, Marian Luna, Natalie Rucker, Sam Wong, Ozguncem Bozkulak and Frank Xu

Volume 5 Heme Proteins

23. Hemoproteins Reconstituted with Artificially Created Hemes
Takashi Hayashi
24. Tryptophan Catabolism by Heme Dioxygenases
Hiroshi Sugimoto, Osamu Takikawa and Yoshitsugu Shiro
25. NO Chemistry by Heme-Enzymes
Yoshitsugu Shiro and Shingo Nagano
26. Cytochrome P450 Enzymes
Ilia G. Denisov and Stephen G. Sligar
27. Heme Protein-Based Electrochemical Biosensors
Genxi Li
28. The Generation and Characterization of the Compounds I and ES States of Cytochrome P450 Using Rapid Mixing Methods
Daniel P. Collins, Tatyana Spolitat, David P. Ballou and John H. Dawson

Volume 6 NMR and EPR Techniques

29. NMR and EPR Spectroscopy of Paramagnetic Metalloporphyrins and Heme Proteins
F. Ann Walker
30. Heme Acquisition by Hemophores: A Lesson from NMR
Paola Turano
31. Structure–Function Relationships Among Heme Peroxidases: New Insights from Electronic Absorption, Resonance Raman and Multifrequency Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Spectroscopies
Giulietta Smulevich, Alessandro Feis, Barry D. Howes and Anabella Ivancich

Volume 7 Physicochemical Characterization

32. Electronic and Magnetic Structures of Iron Porphyrin Complexes
Mikio Nakamura, Yoshiki Ohgo and Akira Ikezaki
33. Optically Active Porphyrin Systems Analyzed by Circular Dichroism
Nagao Kobayashi
34. Photochemical and Photophysical Properties of Metallophthalocyanines
Tebello Nyokong and Edith Antunes
35. Structure, Spectroscopy, Photophysics, and Tautomerism of Free-Base Porphycenes and Other Porphyrin Isomers
Jacek Waluk

36. Recent Applications of Infrared Spectroscopy and Microscopy in Chemistry, Biology and Medicine
Petra Hellwig and Frédéric Melin

Volume 8 Open-Chain Oligopyrrole Systems

37. BODIPY® Dyes and Their Derivatives: Syntheses and Spectroscopic Properties
Aurore Loudet and Kevin Burgess
38. Supramolecular Chemistry of Pyrrole-Based π -Conjugated Acyclic Anion Receptors
Hiromitsu Maeda
39. The Synthesis and Properties of Dipyrriins
Tabitha E. Wood, Md. Imam Uddin and Alison Thompson
40. Coordination Chemistry of Verdohemes and Open-Chain Oligopyrrole Systems Involved in Heme Oxidation and Porphyrin Destruction
Alan L. Balch and Faye L. Bowles
41. Beyond Dipyrriins: Coordination Interactions and Templated Macrocyclizations of Open-Chain Oligopyrroles
Martin Bröring

Volume 9 Electronic Absorption Spectra — Phthalocyanines

42. UV-Visible Absorption Spectroscopic Properties of Phthalocyanines and Related Macrocycles
Takamitsu Fukuda and Nagao Kobayashi

Volume 10 Catalysis and Bio-Inspired Systems — Part I

43. Metalloporphyrin-Catalyzed Asymmetric Atom/Group Transfer Reactions
Joshua V. Ruppel, Kimberly B. Fields, Nicole L. Snyder and X. Peter Zhang
44. High-Valent Iron-Oxo Porphyrins in Oxygenation Reactions
Sam P. de Visser and Wonwoo Nam
45. On the Significance of Phthalocyanines in Solar Cells
M. Victoria Martínez-Díaz and Tomás Torres
46. Artificial Photosynthetic Systems Composed of Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines
Shunichi Fukuzumi

47. Anchoring of Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines on Conductors and Semiconductors for Use in Hybrid Electronics
Florence Duclairoir and Jean-Claude Marchon
48. Bioinspired Catalysts with B₁₂ Enzyme Functions
Yoshio Hisaeda and Hisashi Shimakoshi

Volume 11 Catalysis and Bio-Inspired Systems — Part II

49. Bio-inspired Molecular Devices Based on Systems Found in Photosynthetic Bacteria
Pierre D. Harvey, Christine Stern and Roger Guillard
50. Self-Assembled Porphyrin Nanostructures
Craig J. Medforth and John A. Shelnutt
51. Photochemistry of Chlorophylls and Their Synthetic Analogs
Hitoshi Tamiaki and Michio Kunieda
52. Chemistry, Biology and Medical Effects of Water-Soluble Metalloporphyrins
Ines Batinić-Haberle, Júlio S. Rebouças, Ludmil Benov and Ivan Spasojević

Volume 12 Applications

53. Liquid Crystals of Phthalocyanines, Porphyrins and Related Compounds
Kazuchika Ohta, Huy-Danh Nguyen-Tran, Lisa Tauchi, Yoriko Kanai, Takashi Megumi and Yasufumi Takagi
54. Porphyrin-Based Chemical Sensors
Roberto Paolesse, Donato Monti, Sara Nardis and Corrado Di Natale
55. Electropolymerized Thin Films of Metalloporphyrins for Electrocatalysis and Electroanalysis
Sophie Griveau and Fethi Bedioui
56. Application of Porphyrins and Related Compounds as Optical Oxygen Sensors
Ichiro Okura and Toshiaki Kamachi
57. Applications of Nanoparticles Containing Porphyrins and Related Systems
Sara Bonacchi, Damiano Genovese, Riccardo Juris, Fabrizio Mancin, Marco Montalti, Luca Prodi, Enrico Rampazzo and Nelsi Zaccheroni

Volume 13 Synthesis and Structural Studies

58. The Synthesis of π -Extended Porphyrins
Andrei V. Cheprakov
59. Noncovalent Syntheses of Multiporphyrin Species in Aqueous Solution
Rosaria Lauceri, Alessandro D'urso and Roberto Purrello
60. Porphyrins and Porphyrin Analogs Bearing Double Bonds at One or More *Meso* Positions
Chang-Hee Lee, Vladimir Roznyatovskiy, Seong-Jin Hong and Jonathan L. Sessler
61. The Structural Chemistry of Isolated Chlorophylls
Mathias O. Senge and Stuart A. MacGowan
62. Porphyrin-Based Tectons in Molecular Tectonics
Véronique Bulach and Mir Wais Hosseini

Volume 14 Theoretical, Electron Transfer and Physical Studies

63. The Role of Heme-Nitrosyls in the Biosynthesis, Transport, Sensing, and Detoxification of Nitric Oxide (NO) in Biological Systems: Enzymes and Model Complexes
Nicolai Lehnert, Timothy C. Berto, Mary Grace I. Galinato and Lauren E. Goodrich
64. Chemistry of Sandwich Tetrapyrrole Rare Earth Complexes
Yongzhong Bian, Yuexing Zhang, Zhongping Ou and Jianzhuang Jiang
65. Theoretical Aspects of the Optical Spectroscopy of Porphyrinoids
Martin J. Stillman
66. Synthesis and Reactivity of High-Valent Transition Metal Corroles and Corrolazines
Amanda J. McGown, Yosra M. Badiei, Pannee Leeladee, Katharine A. Prokop, Serena DeBeer and David P. Goldberg

Volume 15 Biochemistry of Tetrapyrroles

67. Eukaryotic Heme Trafficking
Scott Severance, Caiyong Chen and Iqbal Hamza
68. Ferrochelatase Structure and Reaction Mechanism
Gloria C. Ferreira and Gregory A. Hunter
69. Heme Proteins as Gas Sensors
Emily E. Weinert and Michael A. Marletta

70. Heme Biosynthesis
Gunhild Layer, Dieter Jahn and Martina Jahn
71. Mechanisms of Cytoprotection by Hemopexin
Ann Smith
72. Mechanisms of Heme Uptake and Utilization in Bacterial Pathogens
Angela Wilks and Kylie D. Barker
73. Emerging Roles of Heme as a Signal and a Gas-Sensing Site:
Heme-Sensing and Gas-Sensing Proteins
Jotaro Igarashi, Kenichi Kitanishi and Toru Shimizu