Indian Journal of Fibre & Textile Research
Vol. 41, March 2016, pp. 107

Book Review

Handbook of Fluorescent Dyes and Probes, by R W Sabnis (John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New Jersey), 2015, pp. 536, Price: $174.95 Hard cover [ISBN: 978-1-118-02869-8]

Use of fluorescent dyes has grown manifold in the last one decade, yet information about these dyes is not easily available and is still largely restricted to patent literature. In this context, the "Handbook of Florescent Dyes and Probes" compiled by RW Sabnis and published by Wiley Publishers is an important addition to the field of dyes and colorants. This is the first book to give nearly all relevant data of almost all available dyes and probes in a single source.

The handbook provides detail information on 150+ fluorescent dyes and probes used in various fields such as medicine, life sciences, imaging science, cell biology, labeling and clinical sciences, besides polymers, plastics, security and textiles. Information about each dye is provided in the following order: CAS registry number, chemical structure, CA index name and other names, Merck Index No. (Merck Index 15th Edition, 2013), chem/dye class as well as detail data on safety and toxicity. The most useful however, is the exhaustive list of recent references on synthetic methods and applications in various fields provided for each dye. The handbook provides a comprehensive overview of the state of art while at the same time pin- pointing the gaps that exist in the knowledge about these dyes, thus identifying the areas of future research. Various appendixes appended at the end of the book are convenient to locate the dyes in book.

The book would have had a greater interest for students, teachers and scientists alike if one or two chapters on fluorescent dyes and their applications could have been included at the beginning followed by the handbook section.

Unlike the cluttered and cramped style followed by most handbooks, this book has a clean and open format which is attractive and at the same time extremely user friendly. Numerous appendices at the end make it convenient to search a dye on the basis of its CAS registry number or the chemical structure.

The author of the book is an expert in the field of dyes, having invented the world's first colored bubble (non staining) and colour changing dye system. He has contributed significantly to the field of color science and technology for the past 25 years. All in all the book is a reference for anyone interested in the field of dyes and colorants.

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