

can be calculated. However, the average biologist – or even organic chemist – does not know how to do this, and therefore tends to disregard work which carries concealed information of vital importance to his own studies, or else misinterprets it. The *Atlas* overcomes all these difficulties by presenting the available data on the shapes of about 100 steroids in half-a-dozen different fashions.

A general introduction of about 50 pages explains the ways in which the data are presented, and an outline of the conformational patterns found. The data for 103 steroids (30 oestrans, 39 androstanes and 34 pregnanes) are then presented in great detail, four pages being allotted to each compound. The items given for each compound include the following: two large perspective drawings; full tables of atomic coordinates (except for hydrogen), interatomic distances, interatomic angles and torsional angles; a projection formula in the general plane of the nucleus; detailed discussion of the conformation in words and figures, and often with additional diagrams of special features; molecular packing with several projections.

Appendices give summaries of formulae, projections, systematic names and references.

All non-crystallographers are, we hope, aware that the conformation of a given molecule in solution is not necessarily the same as that in the crystal. However, the 'conformation-in-the-crystal' is often a guide to what happens in solution, and may generally be used as a starting-point for discussion, unless evidence from other physical methods indicates a different conformation.

This book is a model for those who seek to put the results of one specialized technique at the disposal of other scientists. The reviewer hopes that it will be copied in other fields of organic chemistry, and that Dr Duax and his colleagues will produce further volumes on other sub-classes of steroids (*e.g.* sterols, bile acids, cardiac glycosides). This first volume must serve as a living memorial to Dr Dorita Norton who worked on it for some years before her untimely death in 1972.

W. KLYNE

*Department of Chemistry*  
*Westfield College*  
*London, NW3 7ST*  
*England*

### Book Received

*The following book has been received by the Editor. Brief and generally uncritical notices are given of works of marginal crystallographic interest; occasionally a book of fundamental interest is included under this heading because of difficulty in finding a suitable reviewer without great delay.*

**New applications of organometallic reagents in organic synthesis.** Edited by D. SEYFERTH. Pp. v + 488. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1976. Price \$44.75, Dfl. 116.00. **Organosilicon reviews.** Edited by D. SEYFERTH, A. G. DAVIES, E. O. FISCHER, J. F. NORMANT and O. A. REUTOV. Pp. viii + 404. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1976. Price \$39.75, Dfl. 103.00. **Organometallic chemistry reviews.** Edited by D. SEYFERTH, A. G. DAVIES, E. O.

FISCHER, J. F. NORMANT and O. A. REUTOV. Pp. viii + 342. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1977. Price \$39.75, Dfl. 103.00.

These three are respectively Vols 1, 2 and 3 of the *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry Library*. Vol. 1 consists of the proceedings of a symposium held in New York, USA, in April 1975.