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The Merck Index: An Encyclopedia of Chemicals, Drugs, and Biologicals Edited by Maryadele J. O'Neil, Patricia E. Heckelman, Cherie B. Koch, and Kristin J. Roman. Merck, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Hoboken, NJ, USA. 2006. xiv + 2564 pp. 18 x 26 cm. ISBN 978-0-911910-001. \$125.00.

The 14th edition of The Merck Index is both a single-volume text and a CD-ROM encyclopedia of chemicals, human and veterinary drugs, biotech drugs, monoclonal antibodies and other biologicals. Among the features unique to this edition are more than 700 new or completely revised monographs, thousands of new references, trademarks, uses and physical properties that have been added to existing monographs, which now total 10,200. There is an increased emphasis on chemicals that impact the environment. Coverage of traditional medicines, nutraceuticals and cosmeticceuticals has been expanded. Updated information has been provided on carcinogens and on controlled substances. Among the new supplemental tables are listings of international nonproprietary names for radicals and groups proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO), a table of fundamental physical and mathematical constants, a table containing structures of selected hexoses and pentoses, and a table of minerals. More than 60,000 synonyms, CAS names, alternate names, trademarks and derivative names are contained in the Name Index. Molecular weights have been recalculated using the 2005 IUPAC Table of Standard Atomic Weights. All structures have been drawn according to current conventions using CambridgeSoft's ChemDraw® software package.

The companion CD contains the complete contents of the 14th edition. Also included with the text is a free one-year subscription to The Merck Index Internet Edition. Many monographs have been deleted from previous editions in order to keep the printed book a single volume of manageable size, but 989 of those archived monographs can be accessed on the CD-ROM version. It is searchable by compound name, keyword, reference, CAS registry number, structure and numerical properties. The CD version has a compound search feature that permits one to access the individual monographs, print them out, or transfer chemical structures to a clipboard for use in other applications. If you know the name of a scientist who synthesized a particular compound, the software permits you to locate it easily. Name reactions and tables also can be searched. If you want to see an example of the Chichibabin reaction with references you can search the Organic Name Index, which includes 450 entries and an index.

The Merck Index was first published in 1899, and it will continue to serve as the standard reference for chemists, biochemists, pharmacologists, pharmacists and other health professionals.

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