

Preface

Look what happened to "Natural Products" !

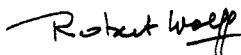
The programme of the 18th IUPAC Symposium has broken the traditional boundaries, and the participants liked it: even the last lectures, often deserted in similar meetings despite the use of the well known trick of placing particularly appealing (and compliant) lecturers as "rear engines", have in this case been very well attended. The contents of this book will reflect only partly the variety of the themes presented - only partly, because a few of the lecturers have not been able to prepare a manuscript based on their lectures. Fortunately this has been exceptional.

We have attempted to provide in this Symposium a panorama of the realm of the chemistry of organic natural substances, from meteorites to sediments, from their biosynthesis to their uses as drugs, from the smallest ones to the largest proteins nucleic acids or polysaccharides, from their origin (and the origin of life) to their synthesis by unexpected chemistry, from those natural substances most popular as tests of manhood for ambitious American Assistant Professors to domains hardly known from most of the participants except close specialists, or even entirely novel... Remember that, at the time of the first IUPAC Symposia of this series, "Natural Products Chemistry" meant essentially "Structure Elucidation of Components of Higher Plants"...

The decision to organize the meeting around Plenary Lectures and posters, without any Section Lecture, has meant that all the participants have been able to take part in all the programme. Willy-nilly at first, all have therefore learnt a lot: most of the time, they were submitted to chemistry unfamiliar to them. We can only repeat: they apparently liked it...

The present volume is not a collection of lecture notes: the authors had been instructed to provide a review article related to their oral presentation, but as different in content and form as they wished; most have used this freedom, and the result is, we think, a book of more lasting value.

We take pride in presenting this volume, and are grateful to the authors who have accepted not too grudgingly the demands put to them sternly by the Editor and the President of the Symposium.



Robert Wolff
Editor



Guy Ourisson
President