

Preface

The Eleventh Symposium on Macrocyclic Chemistry belongs to a series which was started in Provo (Utah) in 1977 owing to the efforts of Christensen, Izatt and their coworkers. Initially these symposia were exclusively held in Provo, but in 1980 it was held at a European location, viz. Basel, where it was organized by T. Kaden. An international advisory committee subsequently appointed decided in 1985 to hold these symposia annually in different geographic areas. The twelfth one will take place in Hiroshima in 1987 followed by one in Hamburg in 1988.

Originally the topic was centered on synthetic macrocycles whereas the interest has later been extended to natural macrocycles. In order to stress this broadening of interests, the title of the symposium took its present form of "Macrocyclic Chemistry".

The interdisciplinary character of macrocyclic chemistry is evident. There is practically no field of chemistry where possible exploitations of these compounds cannot be foreseen. Moreover, in the area of macrocycles, compounds of very different origins are grouped such as crown ethers, porphyrins, phthalocyanins, Schiff's bases and so on.

Coordination chemistry has received new incentives by the macrocyclic ligands (bicycles, criptands, coronands) although the host-guest idea is not limited any more to the metal cations, being rather extended to other types of cations, to anions, or to neutral molecules.

The Florentine Symposium is characterised by a large participation of researchers from different multinational industries. This demonstrates the interest of applied chemistry towards the macrocycles. The principal topics discussed in the contributions (invited lectures and posters) presented at the Symposium are as follows:

1. Synthesis and reactivity of new macrocyclic compounds
2. Catalysis
3. Thermodynamic and spectroscopic properties
4. Host-guest reactions
5. Model systems
6. Applications (chemotherapy, pollution, photochemistry).



The symbol of the XI Symposium reflects the overlapping of the florentine story, represented by the famous lily, and a large octaaza-macrocycle synthesized in our Laboratory.

Finally I wish to thank the entire organizing committee and particularly Mauro Micheloni and Antonio Bianchi for their constant and major contributions and efforts.

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