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BOOK REVIEW

CONSOLIDATED INDEX FOR THE UPDATED NANOGEN INDEX, PESTICIDES AND CHEMICAL POLLUTANTS. Published by Nanogens International, P.O. Box 487, Freedom, CA 95019, 160 pp.

This index of chemicals must be used in conjunction with a formerly published index called the Nanogen Index published in 1975 and updated in 1980. Data are made available on about 4900 chemical substances. It is difficult to understand why substances like steer manure, rabbit manure and rice hulls are included in an index of this nature. Granted they may be considered as pollutants under extraordinary circumstances, but this hardly justifies inclusion in an index such as this. Even more difficult to understand is why sucrose (sugar), and Sucrets[®] (4-hexylresorcinol) are considered as a pesticide or chemical pollutant.

The beginning section is devoted to recently introduced control chemicals. This is presented in tabular form with a code designation, common name (when available) chemical name (empirical formula), structural formula, other names and uses. This section could be improved by indicating the basic manufacturer's name and address for anyone wishing to obtain samples for testing or research. A short section on experimental control chemicals is included which also does not indicate the basic manufacturer.

Entomologists may find the section on insect attractants and disruptants of interest (semiochemicals) primarily for calling attention to these substances. The data are presented in tabular form and an insect code as well as a common name, and sometimes the

scientific name are presented. In this table the reader is confronted with two code systems, the insect code, and the nanogen code for the chemical substance.

One page of the index is devoted to nanogen code changes which lists the original code, page number, new code and the chemical involved.

Two pages are devoted to corrections and duplications to be expunged from the nanogen index.

The remainder of the index is divided into an alphanumeric index and an alphabetical index, both of which are confusing if a reader wants to follow through on a given compound. In the alphanumeric index code names assigned by several entities form the basis for indexing. For example a compound may be listed by a company code designation, the U.S.D.A. code designation, the World Health Organization (OMS) code designation, and perhaps others. ENT-15949 and OMS-194 turns out to be the insecticide aldrin.

The alphabetical index is a conglomeration of common names, chemical names, trade names and miscellaneous items, with very little meaning or help in trying to locate information on a specific substance. The most useful feature of this index, and the alphanumeric index is the reference to nanogen index page number which serves as a basis of orientation for the myriad of names applied to some chemical substances.—Lawrence L. Lewallen, California Dept. of Health Services, Vector Biology & Control Branch, 5545 East Shields Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727.