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The Biochemical Journal has published reviews on broad topics of general interest to biochemists and scientists in related disciplines since 1982. These reviews have proved extremely successful and popular (one classic review was one of the most-cited papers of the last decade) and with the aim of making them readily available even to those who do not subscribe to the journal it was decided to produce an annual compilation of all the reviews published in the previous year. This is the first such volume. The 23 reviews published in 1989 covered a wide range of molecular and cellular biochemistry, from fundamental chemical enzymology via the intricacies of signal transduction mechanisms through to cell biology and whole-animal metabolism. Biochemical Journal reviews are intended for research scientists, but are written in such a way as to be intelligible to the non-specialist who wishes to learn about progress in other areas. They are thus ideally suited as material both for teaching staff and for senior students.

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The Growth of a Sapling

Professor George R. Newkome at the University of South Florida has developed a most interesting new synthon, bis(homotris) [tris(3-hydroxypropyl)aminomethane,4] for the preparation of "cascade molecules" or "arborols," polymers with precisely known molecular weights which possess hydrophilic surfaces and lipophilic interiors. These unimolecular micelles are likely to be useful in a host of applications, including chelating and solubilizing agents, controlled delivery of drugs, cross-linking agents and polymeric standards. Precursoirs to bis(homotris) also allow the synthesis of tetraalkyl-substituted quaternary carbon molecules such as tris(homobis(homotris)) [tris(3-hydroxypropyl)-3-aminopropylmethane, 7].

Salts and esters of the intermediate nitro acid 2 may find a host of industrial applications, such as anticorrosive agents. The acid 2 and the azapropellane 6 were first made by Prof. F. Sorm, one of Czechoslovakia’s ablest chemists. Naturally, happenings in Czechoslovakia have been much on our minds recently, and we are happy to be able to offer 1-azoniapropellane chloride (6), one of the most easily prepared propellanes utilizing bis(homotris) (4) as a starting material.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Winter</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1) Newkome, G.R.; Moorefield, C.N.; Theriot, K.J.J. Org. Chem. 1988, 53, 5552.</td>
<td>Tris(2-cyanoethyl)nitromethane (1)</td>
<td>35,794-4</td>
<td>10g $10.00; 50g $40.00</td>
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<td>(2) Newkome, G.R., U.S. Patent applied for. (3) Newkome, G.R.; Moorefield, C.N.; Johnson, A.L.; Baker, G.R., unpublished results.</td>
<td>Nitromethanetrispropionic acid, 97% (2)</td>
<td>36,123-2</td>
<td>25g $19.00; 100g $70.00</td>
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<td>1-Azoniapropellane chloride hydrate (6)</td>
<td>36,566-1</td>
<td>100mg $18.00</td>
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