CONTENTS

PR	REFACE DAMONION VITEN	ix
PR	EFACE TO ENGLISH VERSION	xi
1	MOLECULAR RINGS STUDDED WITH JEWELS 1.1 From Homocycle to Heterocycle 1.2 The Detailed Structures of Benzene and Pyridine 1.3 Problems 1.4 Suggested Reading	1 1 3 7 8
2	WHY NATURE PREFERS HETEROCYCLES 2.1 Reactions for All Tastes 2.2 Heterocycles as Acids and Bases 2.3 Heterocycles and Metals 2.4 'There are Subtle Ties of Power' 2.4.1 Hydrogen Bonding 2.4.2 Electrostatic Interactions 2.4.3 Molecular Complexes 2.4.4 Hydrophobic Forces 2.5 Tautomerism: Heterocycles and Their 'Masks' 2.6 Problems 2.7 Suggested Reading	11 14 16 18 19 20 22 26 29 32 35
3	HETEROCYCLES AND HEREDITARY INFORMATION 3.1 Nucleic Acids 3.2 The Double Helix 3.3 How DNA Functions 3.4 Protein Synthesis and the Genetic Code 3.5 What are Mutations? 3.6 Problems 3.7 Suggested Reading	37 37 42 45 47 52 56 58
4	ENZYMES, COENZYMES AND VITAMINS	59
	4.1 Molecular Robots	59
	4.2 Coenzymes and Enzymes as 'Joint Molecular Ventures'	63

vi

Major	radice.	4.2.1 Oxidative–Reductive Coenzymes	63
	12	4.2.2 Coenzymes as Carriers of Molecular Species	73
	4.3	Vitamins, the 'Molecules of Health'	93
	4.4	Problems	96
	4.5	Suggested Reading	97
5	HE	TEROCYCLES AND BIOENERGETICS	99
	5.1	ATP as the Universal Currency of Energy	100
	5.2	Breathing	104
		5.2.1 Glycolysis	105
		5.2.2 The Krebs Cycle, or the 'Molecular	
		Merry-Go-Round'	109
		5.2.3 The Respiratory Chain	112
	5.3	Problems	116
	5.4	Suggested Reading	117
6	HE	TEROCYCLES AND PHOTOSYNTHESIS	119
	6.1	Chlorophyll: Sunlight-receiving Antenna and Energy Carrier	120
	6.2	What Daylight can Achieve	125
	6.3	Photosynthesis without Light	131
	6.4	Problems	133
	6.5	Suggested Reading	134
7	HE	TEROCYCLES AND HEALTH	135
	7.1	Medicines from a Natural Storehouse	135
	7.2	Heterocycles versus Infectious Microbes	140
		7.2.1 In Search of 'Magic Bullets'	140
		7.2.2 Sulfanilamides and Heterocycles	142
		7.2.3 Antibiotics	144
		7.2.4 Competitors are Wanted	147
	7.3	Heterocycles and Viral Infections	148
	7.4	Heterocycles and the Diseases of Our Century	151
		7.4.1 Heterocycles to Cure Stress	152
		7.4.2 Heterocycles and Cardiovascular Diseases	157
		7.4.3 Heterocycles and Malignant Tumors	159
	7.5	Problems	162
	7.6	Suggested Reading	164
8	HE	TEROCYCLES IN AGRICULTURE	165
	8.1	A Century of Chemical Warfare against Weeds	166
	8.2	Regulators of Plant Growth	170
	8.3	The Struggle against Voracious Insects	173
	8.4	Resisting the Kingdoms of Mustiness and Rot	179
	8.5	Heterocycles in Animal Husbandry	180

CONTENTS		vii

CO.	NIEN	15	V11
No.	8.6	Problems	181
	8.7	Suggested Reading	182
9	HET	TEROCYCLES IN INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY	183
	9.1	Heterocycles and Natural Colors	183
	9.2	Dyes	185
		9.2.1 From Imperial Cloaks to Jeans	185
		9.2.2 'Cyanine' Means Azure	187
		9.2.3 Dyes of the Twentieth Century	189
		9.2.4 The Anchoring of Dyes	191
	9.3	Fluorescent Agents	193
		9.3.1 Why They Shine	193
		9.3.2 Safety and Aesthetics	194
		9.3.3 How to Convert White into Snow-White	195
		9.3.4 Markers, Indicators and Diagnostic Agents	198
		9.3.5 Lasers Containing Heterocyclic Luminophores	199
	9.4	Fire Retardancy	204
	9.5	Photographic Materials and Recorders of Information	207
	9.6	Other Applications	209
	9.7	Problems	213
	9.8	Suggested Reading	214
10	MO	DERN TRENDS AND PROSPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT	215
	10.1	Macrocycles as Molecular Containers	215
		Self-assembling Molecular Systems	227
	10.3	Enzyme Models	230
	10.4	The Conversion of Solar Energy and Artificial Photosynthesis	232
		Organic Conductors	237
		Design of New Heterocycles	242
		Problems	247
	10.8	Suggested Reading	249
11	THI	E ORIGIN OF HETEROCYCLES	251
	11.1	Interstellar Molecules	252
	11.2	Organic Compounds in Comets and Meteorites	255
	11.3	Do Heterocycles Exist on the Moon and Mars?	257
	11.4	The Atmosphere of Earth and Other Planets	257
	11.5	Heterocycles and the Origin of the Biosphere	259
		11.5.1 Simple Precursors of Heterocycles	259
		11.5.2 Heterocyclic Amino Acids	262
		11.5.3 Pyrroles and Porphyrins	264
		11.5.4 Furanose Sugars	266
		11.5.5 Nicotinamide	
		11.5.6 Purines and Pyrimidines	268

viii	CONTENTS
11.5.7 Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Polynucleotides	271
11.6 Problems	279
11.7 Suggested Reading	280
CONCLUSION	283
ANSWERS AND REFERENCES TO SELECTED PROBLEM	AS 285

MODERN TRENDS AND PROSPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT

293

INDEX