

# Polymer Spectroscopy

7-11 July 2013, Prague, Czech Republic

The **19th European Symposium on Polymer Spectroscopy** (ESOPS19), organized simultaneously as the 77th Prague Meeting on Macromolecules (PMM), will take place at the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague on 7-11 July 2013.

Polymer spectroscopy represents an important part of polymer science. The ESOPS meetings are held every two to three years to review the latest research and development in the spectroscopic characterization and analysis of polymer systems. Contributions from all fields of spectroscopy are welcome. The scope

of the meeting ranges from theoretical and fundamental aspects to recent advances and novel developments in characterization and analysis of polymers. The symposium brings together scientists specialized in different spectroscopic techniques, giving them the opportunity to broaden their minds beyond their individual fields of work. The symposium is intended not only for those who are actively engaged in the field, from both academia and industry, but also for those wishing to become acquainted with the latest developments.

See **Mark Your Calendar** for contact information.

 [www.imc.cas.cz/sympo/pmm2013](http://www.imc.cas.cz/sympo/pmm2013)

## Stamps International

See also [www.iupac.org/publications/ci/indexes/stamps.html](http://www.iupac.org/publications/ci/indexes/stamps.html)

### Grignard's Gift to Chemistry

More than a century after their inception, Grignard reagents are still among the most common and versatile reagents used in organic synthesis, and are a staple of every modern organic chemistry textbook. It was in 1900 that Victor Grignard (1871-1935), a young French chemist conducting his Ph.D. thesis research under the supervision of Philippe Barbier at the University of Lyon, discovered that alkyl- or aryl-magnesium halides could be readily used to prepare a variety of alcohols starting from simple aldehydes or ketones. This was a revolutionary yet straightforward method for the formation of carbon-carbon bonds and, within a decade, more than 700 papers on the application of the novel reagents were published worldwide. Almost exactly 100 years ago, Grignard shared the 1912 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with a fellow Frenchman, Paul Sabatier (1854-1941), who pioneered the application of finely divided metals as catalysts for the hydrogenation of organic compounds.

Although Grignard reagents are conventionally represented by the formula  $\text{RMgX}$  (R = alkyl or aryl, X = halide), they exist in solution as a complex mixture

of species whose ratio depends on concentration, temperature, the steric and electronic properties of R and X, and the Lewis basicity of the solvent (i.e., the degree of solvation). The so called Schlenk equilibrium was extensively studied by the German chemist Wilhelm Schlenk (1879-1943), who also conducted groundbreaking studies with organolithium reagents and developed an array of elegant techniques and specialized glassware to handle air-sensitive compounds.

The French stamp illustrated in this note was issued in 1971 on the occasion of Grignard's birth centennial. It features a portrait of the famous chemist (not to mention his conspicuous mustache), some laboratory equipment, and the reverse side of his Nobel medal. Grignard has

been deservedly honored over time in multiple ways but perhaps the most unusual tribute is also one of the most recent: In 2009, the International Astronomical Union (one of IUPAC's sister organizations) approved the name Grignard for a 12.2-kilometer impact crater located near the northern pole on the Moon!

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