

## Foreword

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This fourth volume in the series of *Specialist Periodical Reports* on Alkaloids follows the pattern established by its predecessor, and comprises summaries of progress in the whole field of alkaloid chemistry for the period July 1972—June 1973. In addition there is also included a more extended review of the aporphine alkaloids, in which are discussed developments in this sub-group of benzyloquinoline alkaloids since the last comprehensive survey was compiled. The length of this chapter reflects the continuing enormous activity in this area, and amply illustrates the versatility of biosynthetic processes in the construction of substituted aporphines. It is hoped that Dr. Shamma's account, which includes a reference list of the 107 aporphines known up to the summer of 1973, will prove invaluable to all chemists interested in the structural and biosynthetic relationships in the aporphine group.

My request last year for reprints of papers in the less accessible journals has met with some response, for which I hasten to acknowledge my appreciation. The Senior Reporter and all contributors hope that alkaloid chemists will continue to send us such reprints, which help substantially in the prompt compilation of these Reports.

Once again it is a pleasure to acknowledge the enthusiastic co-operation of my colleagues, in circumstances that in some respects become more difficult with each succeeding year. As always, we shall welcome suggestions concerning the presentation of future Reports.

J. E. SAXTON

