As a boy, Dieter Sicker, born in 1954 in Chemnitz, was intrigued by the phenomena of material transformations in the kitchen. However, later, he decided to become a chemist rather than a cook. He is convinced that the manifold knowledge gained in the isolation of natural products is helpful for any organic chemist. Working as a lecturer and practical supervisor at the Institute of Organic Chemistry at the University of Leipzig, he was awarded the title apl. Professor in 1997. He is fond of presenting experimental shows in which the beauty of chemistry is both shown and explained to the public.

About this book:

- Six chapters describe 30 natural products with their isolation and full spectroscopic details: Alkaloids/Aromatic/Compounds/Dye-stuffs/Carbohydrates/Terpenoids/Miscellaneous
- A background tells stories of the history and culture of each compound and its natural source.
- All chemical isolations are explained as principles of action and given as methods with full descriptions.
- The full set of UV, CD, IR, 1H-NMR, 13C-NMR, COSY, NOESY, HSQC, HMBC and mass spectra are depicted and discussed in detail.

Taken from the Endorsement by Dieter Seebach:

... Thus, this unusual book is a combination of many: a laboratory-course book, a spectroscopy text, a contribution of the history of natural products, of chemistry, and of plant biology, and even a lab book all in one. The book is a scholarly masterpiece, didactically perfect, with beautiful colour pictures and graphic arts. Besides its practical importance for students and young chemical scientists, the book is a pleasure to read and can be used as a reference for the organic and biological chemist, indeed for any person interested in chemistry, life sciences, medicine, sociology, history and belles lettres.

Stefan Berger was intrigued by NMR after having won a bottle of beer during an introductory course in organic NMR led by Prof. H. Suhr at the University Tübingen in 1968. After completing a PhD thesis with Prof. Anton Rieker, in 1973 he joined Prof. J. D. Roberts at Caltech for postdoctoral work, where he also met Prof. D. M. Grant and Prof. D. Seebach, who were then guest professors in Pasadena. This period was decisive to try a Habilitation in NMR spectroscopy, which was achieved at the University Marburg. At the University Leipzig his aim is to combine methodological development of NMR and its application to biogenic problems.

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