

Monographs in Contact Allergy: Non-Fragrance Allergens in Cosmetics (Parts 1 and 2) by Anton de Groot, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 2018

To the Editor:

I have had the opportunity to review the textbook entitled *Monographs in Contact Allergy: Non-Fragrance Allergens in Cosmetics (Parts 1 and 2)* published by CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 2018, and written by Anton C. de Groot. The author is well known for his textbook *Patch Testing. Test Concentrations and Vehicles for 4350 Chemicals*, 3rd Edition, Wapserveen, the Netherlands, 2008.

His latest monograph is an encyclopedic publication that is composed of 2 textbook-sized volumes as a set that describe a total of 497 chemical ingredients that have caused contact allergy or allergic contact dermatitis. Of these 497 chemical ingredients, some are rare allergens (eg, acetarsone, an aromatic arsenic acid in which there are a handful of case reports of contact dermatitis, and as of 2018, it is not present in any cosmetic products); some chemicals are common allergens that are clinically significant (eg, *p*-phenylenediamine, among others).

This is a highly technical reference book, with a thorough description of each allergen, which includes INCI name, chemical/IUPAC names, synonyms, CAS registry number, and European Community number. A general description of the compounds is provided, along with a drawing of the chemical structure and chemical classes to which the allergens belong, as well as with references for further reading such as the Cosmetic Ingredient Review, the Merck index along with European Union (EU) Opinions and EU cosmetic restrictions. There is also information on the use of these chemicals in the United States from the US Food and Drug Administration's voluntary Cosmetic Registration Program. Functions of the chemicals in cosmetics are also described, as well as advice on patch testing. The descriptions of the chemical ingredient vary between 1 and 6 pages, depending on the wealth of chemical and clinical information available.

The author has excluded fragrance allergens in this monograph because he is in the process of writing a monograph focused solely on fragrance allergens.

In part 1 (the first volume of the 2-volume set), there are 2 chapters. The first chapter is an introduction that explains the rationale for the book, criteria for selection of the 497 ingredients listed, search results, a summary of information for each allergen (as described previously), and references. Chapter 2 is composed of the remainder of the first volume and describes a total of 287 allergens in alphabetical order.

In part 2 (the second volume of the 2-volume set), chapter 2 continues the alphabetical listing of allergens (from ingredients 288–497). Chapter 3 includes monographs on chemicals and substances that have caused immediate-type reactions, including synthetic chemicals (as above), as well as plant extracts and proteins. Chapter 4 includes chemicals and substances that can cause photosensitivity. Chapter 5 describes functional classes of chemicals and substances, including chemicals banned from use in the EU or United States. The sixth (and final) chapter includes a list of synonyms. An index is logically the last component of this textbook. In total, the 2 volumes of this monograph are composed of 1430 pages.

This monograph is highly recommended and is a comprehensive reference that best serves the needs of dermatologists or allergists involved in the advanced practice of patch testing. It contains concise summaries of each of the 497 chemical ingredients described, is well referenced, and also contains practical information about patch testing concentrations of these chemicals, especially for those ingredients that are less commonly encountered allergens.

Anthony A. Gaspari, MD
Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Biology
Sidney Kimmel College of Medicine
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, PA anthony
gaspari@jefferson.edu

The author has no funding or conflicts of interest to declare.

DOI: 10.1097/DER.0000000000000347

© 2018 American Contact Dermatitis Society. All Rights Reserved.