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BOOK REVIEW

IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans: Diesel and Gasoline Engine Exhausts and Some Nitroarenes. Volume 46. – International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon 1989. Pp. 458. Sw. Fr. 65.–.

In 1980, there were approximately 320 million passenger cars, 75 million trucks and 20 million buses. Since, their numbers had rapidly increased and the adverse effects on our environment are apparent. Engine exhausts are complex mixtures containing chemical compounds in the particulate and gaseous phases. The first part of the IARC Volume 41 covers diesel and gasoline exhausts, their composition, environmental exposure and biological data relevant to the evaluation of their genotoxicity. The second part of the Monographs covers chemical and physical data and biological effects of 15 nitroarenes, found mainly in engine exhausts, *e. g.* 1,3-dinitropyrene, 6-nitrobenzo (a) pyrene, 6-nitrochrysene, 2-nitrofluorene, 1-nitronaphthalene and 1-nitropyrene. Of the tested complexes and compounds, only diesel engine exhaust is considered as probably carcinogenic to humans, while most of the other compounds as possibly carcinogenic. Very useful are the appendixed activity profiles for genetic and related tests. The x-axis of the activity profile represents the bioassays in phylogenetic sequence by endpoints and the values on the y-axis represent the lowest effective doses and the highest ineffective doses tested.

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