

Preface

Water as a solvent, and the reactions in it, are supremely important in many fields. The excitement of newer fields of chemistry, however, has pushed these reactions down the list of priorities for providing convenient reference works. This excitement has often made “test-tube chemistry” seem to be passé.

The Japanese word *kagaku* for chemistry can be interpreted as change-science. Space does not permit a comprehensive, but only a representative, description of the reactions, changes, of nearly all the elements and their simpler compounds, primarily inorganic ones and primarily in water. Carbonyl complexes, for example, are very far from comprehensively mentioned here.

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