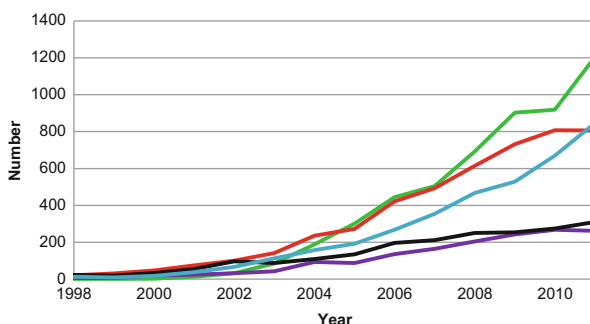


Preface

It is always an honour to be asked to write a Preface to a volume, and doubly so when the editor is so distinguished. Prof. Suojiang Zhang (Institute of Process Engineering, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing) is one of the most respected chemists/chemical engineers in China, and has a long term interest in ionic liquids, having already published a book (Zhang S, Lu X, Zhou Q, Li X, Zhang X, Li S. *Ionic Liquids: Physicochemical Properties* .Elsevier, Amsterdam, 2009) on their physical properties.

Top four regions for producing ionic liquid primary publications (1998–2011). China (*green*), Europe (*red*), Japan (*purple*), USA (*black*), the rest of the world (*light blue*) (M. Deetlefs, M. Faselow and K.R. Seddon, to be published)



In a burgeoning market, with the frequent arrival of new books on ionic liquids (of variable quality), one has to examine the unique features of each volume. Here the answer is clear; the numbers of papers from different regions of the world are illustrated in the figure. In 2000, no papers had ever been published from China on ionic liquids; by 2011, more papers were being published from China than from any other geographical region. This book, with five of the six chapters being authored from within China, gives the rest of the world a chance to see, appreciate, and evaluate the Chinese contribution to this remarkable field, with special emphasis on the structure of ionic liquids and the influence of hydrogen bonding and aggregation

upon their physicochemical properties, thermodynamics, and spectroscopy. This is a book that no practitioner of the science, engineering, and art of ionic liquids should fail to have on their shelves.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Seddon', written over a horizontal line.

Belfast, UK

Kenneth R. Seddon

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