

Cover Picture

E. J. Corey, K. C. Nicolaou, Scott A. Snyder, Tamsyn Montagnon, and Georgios Vassilikogiannakis

The cover picture shows portraits of Otto Diels (top left) and Kurt Alder together with the original Diels–Alder reaction between cyclopentadiene and *p*-quinone. Also illustrated are the key Diels–Alder reactions that enabled the total synthesis of prostaglandins and taxol as they were carried out by the research groups of Corey and Nicolaou, respectively. This year marks the centennial anniversary of Alder's birth—and this date will be celebrated at Alder's University, the Universität Köln, by a symposium on the 27th May—while last year was the 125th anniversary of the birth of Diels and next year will signify the 75th anniversary of the first publication of Diels and Alder on the reaction of 1,3-dienes with olefins. The Diels–Alder reaction, as it has become known, is without doubt one of the most important reaction of organic syntheses, and thus it is a bonanza that Corey and Nicolaou et al. have written appropriate reviews, which can be found on pp. 1650–1667 and 1668–1698, respectively.

