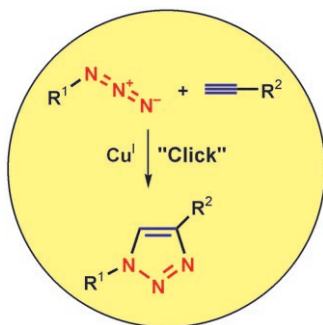


Cover Picture

Klaus Banert,* Young-Hyuk Joo, Tobias Rüffer, Bernhard Walfort, and Heinrich Lang

Not only as an explosive but also in its sometimes surprising reactions, tetraazidomethane proves to be an exciting substance. As shown in the cover picture, the compound can be synthesized from commercially available trichloroacetonitrile in one step, isolated by preparative gas chromatography as a limpid liquid, and characterized by its ^{15}N NMR spectrum measured with natural isotopic abundance. Although a simple trapping product is formed in the presence of cyclooctyne, tetraazidomethane undergoes a more complex transformation with norbornene. Further reactions are described by K. Banert et al. in their Communication on page 1168 ff.

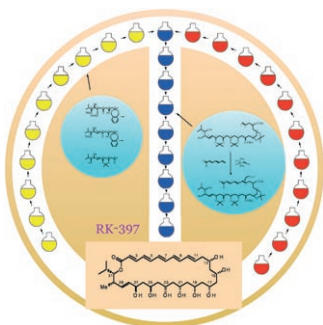
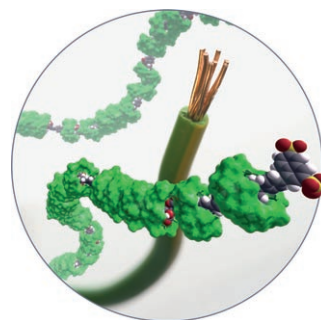


Click Chemistry

In his Minireview on page 1018 ff., J.-F. Lutz describes the increasing importance of so-called “click” copper-catalyzed 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions between azides and alkynes in polymer chemistry, biotechnology, and nanoscience.

Isolated Nanowires

In their Review on page 1028 ff. H. L. Anderson and M. J. Frampton compare the properties of semiconductor polymers in two states—free and protected by an insulating molecular sheath—and clearly show the advantages offered by the inclusion compounds.



Total Synthesis

T. Sammakia and co-workers describe in their Communication on page 1066 ff. the convergent total synthesis of the oxopolyene macrolide RK-397 by using a two-directional approach and a remote asymmetric induction approach.