



N. Iwasawa

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2000 in *Angewandte Chemie*: “[4+2] Cycloaddition Reaction of Cyclic Alkyne–{Co₂(CO)₆} Complexes with Dienes”: N. Iwasawa, I. Ooi, K. Inaba, J. Takaya, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, 122, 7696–7699; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, 49, 7534–7537.

Nobuharu Iwasawa

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| Date of birth: | April 1, 1957 |
| Position: | Professor at the Department of Chemistry, Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan) |
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| Education: | 1979 Undergraduate studies, University of Tokyo (Japan) 1984 PhD with Prof. Teruaki Mukaiyama, University of Tokyo (Japan) 1989–1990 Postdoctoral fellow with Prof. Samuel J. Danishefsky, Yale University (USA) |
| Awards: | 1988 The Chemical Society of Japan Award for Young Chemists; 2001 Tejima Research Award; 2006 The Chemical Society of Japan Award for Creative Work |
| Current research interests: | Development of synthetic organic reactions, in particular transition-metal-catalyzed reactions; carbon dioxide fixation; electrophilic activation of alkynes for carbon–carbon bond formation; utilization of alkyne carbonylcobalt complexes for carbocycle formation; utilization of photo-energy for synthetic reactions; dynamic covalent chemistry based on the formation of boronic esters. |
| Hobbies: | Reading novels |

When I was eighteen I wanted to be ... an organic chemist, although I didn't know what it really meant.

The biggest challenge facing scientists is ... how to deal with the depletion of energy sources and other resources.

My favorite subjects at school were ... English and mathematics, but nowadays, I cannot even solve simple mathematics problems my daughter asks me to help her with.

The best advice I have ever been given is ... “do not imitate the work of others, do your own original work” (from my PhD supervisor).

My first experiment was ... an intramolecular Diels–Alder reaction with furan as the diene.

The part of my job which I enjoy the most is ... to see the progress students make in research and many other aspects of their lives.

My favorite book is ... “Pride and Prejudice” by Jane Austen.

My favorite composers are ... Beethoven and Brahms.

My top three films of all time are ... “Roman Holidays” (1953, directed by William Wyler), “The Apartment” (1960, directed by Billy Wilder), and “Back to the Future” (1985, directed by Robert Zemeckis).

My favorite piece of music is ... Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor.

My hobby is ... collecting (not listening to) CDs of classic music. Probably I have more than ten thousands of CDs, most of which I have not listened to yet.

Young people should study chemistry because ... only chemistry allows you to prepare molecules that offer infinite possibilities based on your own design.

My 5 top papers:

1. “Generation and Reaction of Metal-Containing Carbonyl Ylides: Tandem [3 + 2]-Cycloaddition-Carbene Insertion Leading to Novel Polycyclic Compounds”: N. Iwasawa, M. Shido, H. Kusama, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, 123, 5814–5815.
2. “Rhenium(I)-Catalyzed Intramolecular Geminal Carbonylization of Alkynes: Tandem Cyclization of ω -Acetylenic Dienol Silyl Ethers”: H. Kusama, H. Yamabe, Y. Onizawa, T. Hoshino, N. Iwasawa, *Angew. Chem.* **2005**, 117, 472–474; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2005**, 44, 468–470.
3. “Boronic Esters as a System for Crystallization-Induced Dynamic Self-Assembly Equipped with an “On-Off” Switch for Equilibration”: N. Iwasawa, H. Takahagi, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, 129, 7754–7755.
4. “Synthesis, Structure, and Reactivity of Naphthalene-Co₂(CO)₆ Complexes”: N. Iwasawa, M. Otsuka, S. Yamashita, M. Aoki, J. Takaya, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, 130, 6328–6329.
5. “Hydrocarboxylation of Allenes with CO₂ Catalyzed by Silyl Pincer-Type Palladium Complex”: J. Takaya, N. Iwasawa, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, 130, 15254–15255.

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