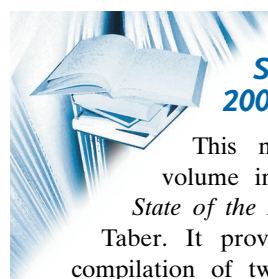


tains a wealth of material, but a student will have to work through all the material to catch all of the basic concepts. Studied in this way, the book will aid the development of a new generation of experts in homogeneous catalysis.

A criticism also concerns the appearance of the book; as usual for Wiley books, the font is very small, but in the footnotes I could not distinguish between “C_{sp²}” and “C_{sp³}”! Moreover, the pages are rather shiny, which makes the book difficult to read. As a further disadvantage, the book is only in black and white; for a textbook, the occasional use of color would be advantageous and I understand that cost-wise this is hardly an issue. The price of the paperback issue, however, makes this textbook worth considering.

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**Organic Synthesis:
State of the Art 2007–
2009**

This new book is the third volume in the *Organic Synthesis: State of the Art* series by Douglass F. Taber. It provides the reader with a compilation of two years of the popular online column, *Organic Chemistry Highlights*. The author's weekly column is now a well-established reference offering a brief overview and perspective of a selected research highlights.

Following the successful concept used in the previous books of the series, this new volume features 104 entries posted online on the “organic-chemistry.org” website between 2007 and 2009. The book includes a cumulative reaction and author

indices of all three volumes. The layout of the table of contents has improved since the previous versions as the various columns have been organized by topics and it provides the reader with a better overview of the areas covered.

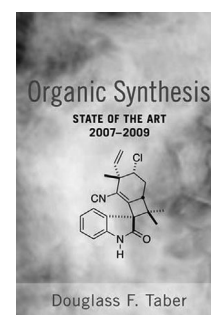
From a content point of view, this book is divided in to two main themes. The first part covers a wide range of topics, from the C–H functionalization to the organocatalytic construction of C–C rings. Each column describes a specific aspect of a topic on two pages using a selection of papers that have had significant impact in their respective areas. The highlighted articles are described by a concise scheme and a brief summary. References are conveniently inserted in the main text allowing easy access to more detailed information on a particular transformation. Many columns include direct applications of the various methodologies to the synthesis of biologically relevant targets.

The second part of the book is devoted entirely to new classics in total synthesis. Over 20 total syntheses are presented using the same two pages format. In each case, Professor Taber gives a brief description about the target and a succinct overview of the successful strategies that were envisioned by the authors. Following this introduction, the synthesis is presented by focusing on the key transformations and bond constructs.

Overall, this book was an enjoyable read and will prove useful to both students in organic chemistry and to scholars who want to keep up-to-date with the vast volume of articles published monthly. The volume of this series, and those that will follow, provide a useful insight into the evolution of the field of organic synthesis and, as such, they are a valuable resource that can be used as a reference and as a source of new inspiration.

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