



J. Mascareñas

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** in *Angewandte Chemie* in the last 10 years:

“Rhodium-Catalyzed (5 + 1) Annulations Between 2-Alkenylphenols and Allenes: A Practical Entry to 2,2-Disubstituted 2H-Chromenes”: N. Casanova, A. Seoane, J. L. Mascareñas, M. Gulías, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, 54, 2374; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, 127, 2404.

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Education:	1979–1984 BS, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela 1984–1988 PhD with Antonio Mouriño and Luis Castedo, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela 1989–1990 Postdoctoral fellow with Paul A. Wender, Stanford University 1992 Postdoctoral research with Gregory L. Verdine, Harvard University 1995 Visiting scholar with Gregory L. Verdine, Harvard University
Awards:	2009 Organic Chemistry Prize, Real Sociedad Española de Química (RSEQ); 2015 Gold Medal of the RSEQ
Current research interests:	Metal-catalyzed cycloaddition reactions; synthetic tools for biosupramolecular chemistry and chemical biology
Hobbies:	Jogging, fishing, basketball

When I was eighteen I wanted to be an inventor.

I advise my students to be open-minded and never stop questioning.

My favorite band is Led Zeppelin.

The biggest challenge facing scientists is understanding the molecular base of life.

Looking back over my career, I should have risked more in the earlier stages.

My favorite quote is “Imagination is more important than knowledge, because knowledge is limited” (Albert Einstein).

If I could be any age I would be between 10 and 13, a nice age to live in a fantasy world within the real world.

My favorite time of day is early morning, before the city (and the family) wake up.

I get advice from my wife and my daughters.

The secret of being a successful scientist is don't follow the trends.

My science “heroes” are Robert Woodward, Linus Pauling, and Santiago Ramón y Cajal.

My 5 top papers:

1. “Reversible Supramolecular Assembly at Specific DNA Sites: Nickel-Promoted Bivalent DNA Binding with Designed Peptide and Bipyridyl–Bis(benzamidine) Components”: M. I. Sánchez, J. Mosquera, M. E. Vázquez, J. L. Mascareñas, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, 53, 9917; *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, 126, 10075. (Reproduces some key characteristics of naturally occurring DNA-binding proteins.)
2. “Straightforward Assembly of Benzoxepines by Means of a Rhodium(III)-Catalyzed C–H Functionalization of *o*-Vinylphenols”: A. Seoane, N. Casanova, N. Quiñones, J. L. Mascareñas, M. Gulías, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, 136, 834. (An atom-economical, unconventional annulation from very simple, unfunctionalized substrates.)
3. “Stimuli-responsive selection of target DNA sequences by synthetic bZIP peptides”: J. Mosquera, A. Jiménez, V. I. Dodero, M. E. Vázquez, J. L. Mascareñas, *Nature Commun.* **2013**, 4, 1874. (This concept might have
4. “Gold-Catalyzed [4C + 2C] Cycloadditions of Allene-dienes, including an Enantioselective Version with New Phosphoramidite-Based Catalysts: Mechanistic Aspects of the Divergence between [4C + 3C] and [4C + 2C] Pathways”: I. Alonso, B. Trillo, F. López, S. Montserrat, G. Ujaque, L. Castedo, A. Lledós, J. L. Mascareñas, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, 131, 13020. (Despite the linear geometry of gold(I), it is possible to achieve asymmetric cycloadditions using monodentate chiral ligands.)
5. “Platinum-Catalyzed Intramolecular [4C + 3C] Cycloaddition between Dienes and Allenes”: B. Trillo, F. López, M. Gulías, L. Castedo, J. L. Mascareñas, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 951; *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, 120, 965. (A very practical synthetic method that relies on the ability of platinum salts to activate allenes and generate allyl cation intermediates.)

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