



K. I. Booker-Milburn

Kevin I. Booker-Milburn

Date of birth:	May 19, 1963
Position:	Professor of Organic Chemistry, University of Bristol
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Education:	1985 BSc, Paisley College of Technology 1988 PhD supervised by Dr. G. R. Proctor, University of Strathclyde 1988–1990 Postdoctoral work with Prof. P. J. Parsons, University of Southampton
Awards:	1996 Glaxo Wellcome Award for Organic Chemistry; 2005 AstraZeneca Award for Organic Synthesis; 2010 Royal Society of Chemistry Bader Award; 2013 UK Process Chemistry Academic Award
Research:	Photochemical synthesis, flow chemistry, metal-catalyzed C–H activation, alkaloid synthesis
Hobbies:	Cycling, music and hifi, wine, cooking

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

“A Palladium(II)-Catalyzed C–H Activation Cascade Sequence for Polyheterocycle Formation”: S. P. Cooper, K. I. Booker-Milburn, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 6496; *Angew. Chem.* **2015**, *127*, 6596.

My science “heroes” are Gilbert Stork and Paul Wender.

My favorite musicians are Frank Zappa, Jeff Beck, Donald Fagen, and Howlin’ Wolf.

The most important thing I learned from my students is sometimes they are a lot smarter than you.

The principal aspects of my personality are impatience and disorganization.

The natural talents I would like to be gifted with are patience and organization.

My motto is “synthesis ain’t dead yet, it just smells a bit funny”.

When I was eighteen I wanted to be a veterinarian or a rock guitarist (neither really worked out).

I am waiting for the day when someone will discover a single, small, bench-top machine for one-stop structural elucidation.

The biggest challenge facing scientists is the consequences of universities and funding agencies adopting corporate-style centralization, administration, management, and regulation practices.

My favorite drinks are red Burgundy and British real ale (not necessarily at the same time).

My first experiment was heating a sealed test-tube on my mother’s gas cooker when I was nine.

In a spare hour, I like to cycle in the beautiful Mendip hills or spend way too much money on hifi and Burgundy.

My 5 top papers

1. “Tandem Ring Expansion–Cyclisation Reactions: A Novel Method for the Rapid Construction of the Bicyclo[5.3.0]decane Ring System”: K. I. Booker-Milburn, *Synlett* **1992**, 809. (Oxidative Fe^{III}-mediated radical ring expansion of cyclopropanes—my first independent, and sole-author paper, which secured my first academic post and first grant.)
2. “Pd(II)-Catalyzed Intermolecular 1,2-Diamination of Conjugated Dienes”: G. L. J. Bar, G. C. Lloyd-Jones, K. I. Booker-Milburn, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, *127*, 7308. (One of the first examples of metal-catalyzed 1,2-alkene diamination using urea derivatives as the dinitrogen source.)
3. “A Protecting Group Free Total Synthesis of (±)-Neostenine via the [5+2] Photocycloaddition of Maleimides”: M. D. Lainchbury, M. I. Medley, P. M. Taylor, P. Hirst, W. Dohle, K. I. Booker-Milburn, *J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, *73*, 6497. (A 13-step synthesis of a tetracyclic alkaloid from furan without the use of protecting groups.)
4. “Room-Temperature Palladium-Catalyzed C–H Activation: *ortho*-Carbonylation of Aniline Derivatives”: C. E. Houlden, M. Hutchby, C. D. Bailey, J. G. Ford, S. N. G. Tyler, M. R. Gagné, G. C. Lloyd-Jones, K. I. Booker-Milburn, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 1830; *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 1862. (Discovery of the powerful, room-temperature directing effect of the urea group in Pd^{II}-catalyzed C–H aryl activation reactions.)
5. “Batch versus Flow Photochemistry: A Revealing Comparison of Yield and Productivity”: L. D. Elliott et al., *Chem. Eur. J.* **2014**, *20*, 15226. (An important and perhaps surprising lesson that, in photochemistry at least, flow is not necessarily better than batch.)

International Edition: DOI: 10.1002/anie.201505483

German Edition: DOI: 10.1002/ange.201505483



The work of K. I. Booker-Milburn has been featured on the cover of *Angewandte Chemie*:

“Complexity from Simplicity: Tricyclic Aziridines from the Rearrangement of Pyrroles by Batch and Flow Photochemistry”: K. G. Maskill, J. P. Knowles, L. D. Elliott, R. W. Alder, K. I. Booker-Milburn, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 1499; *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, *125*, 1539.