

important reactions in organic chemistry; the included reactions having been selected based upon their importance with respect to modern synthetic organic chemistry, as well as their relevance to a modern organic chemistry course. The reactions included in this volume are arranged in alphabetical order, and each entry is incorporated in a consistent form. The name of the reaction serves as a heading and is followed by a very short description of the reaction and a reaction scheme depicting the overall reaction. This information is then followed by a paragraph that provides an introductory description of the reaction. The major part of each entry deals with the mechanistic aspects of the reaction. Side-reactions, variations and modified procedures with respect to product distribution and yields are described. Recent as well as older examples of the application of a particular reaction or method are given.

A list of references is provided at the end of each entry. In addition to the original literature, this list also includes review articles and selected references to recent publications. These serve to show the origins of the name of the reaction and how the reaction has been subsequently explored or developed. The examples detailed or cited for each reaction are by no means intended as a complete treatment, but serve to indicate the scope of reaction application. In conclusion, this volume contains a wealth of useful information and is a valuable reference source for advanced undergraduate studies and all individuals with research interests in synthetic organic chemistry.

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### **New Aspects in Bioorganic Chemistry**

U. Diederichsen, T.K. Lindhorst, B. Westermann, L.A. Wessjohann (Eds.); Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH, 1999, xvii + 439 pages, ISBN 3-527-29665-4 (£45.00)

The understanding of (patho) physiological processes, such as the biosynthesis of enzymes, nucleic acids, and secondary metabolites, the pathways of signal-transduction or the function of pharmaceutical agents, is of increasing importance not only in drug research, but also for the development of new synthetic methods in organic chemistry and biochemistry. Bioorganic chemistry is a typical new branch of modern science, overlapping the traditional fields of chemistry and biology, and giving a better understanding of complex interactions on a molecular level.

“New Aspects in Bioorganic Chemistry” has been contributed to by over 60 scientists, providing a topical overview of the recent advances in drug development based on natural products; the biosynthesis, activity and application of enzymes; carbohydrates; peptides; nucleic acids, and analytical methods in bioorganic chemistry.

This book unites some of the central questions of biochemistry, medicinal chemistry and organic chemistry. It contains over 50 articles, written by academic and industrial researchers. The topics covered are chosen from typical bioorganic fields, including analytical methods, biochemistry, biosynthesis, biotransformation, carbohydrates, drug research, enzymes, enzyme synthesis, glycobiology, immunology, medicinal chemistry and QSAR, molecular biology, natural products, nucleic acid chemistry, organic and combinatorial synthesis of model drugs, peptide chemistry and spectroscopic methods. Each chapter end also contains extensive referencing.

“New Aspects in Bioorganic Chemistry” gives a very thorough, yet fully comprehensible introduction into this new field of chemistry. It is a very informative guidance book, suitable for both advanced students and researchers. The text contains numerous, very well shown illustrations, figures and tables, and also a detailed subject index.

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