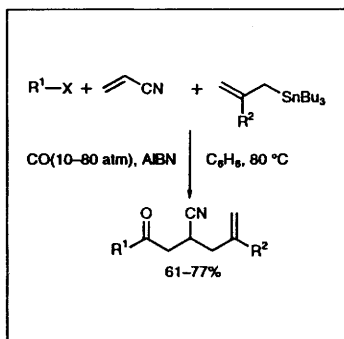


Contemporary Organic Synthesis

A journal of current developments in Organic Synthesis

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

CONTENTS

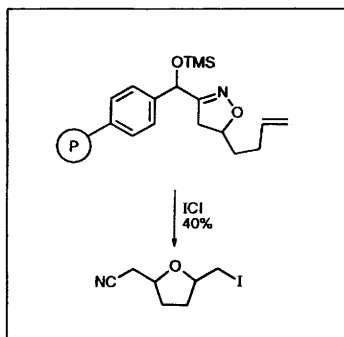


Aldehydes and ketones

1

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Reviewing the literature published between July 1992 and June 1993

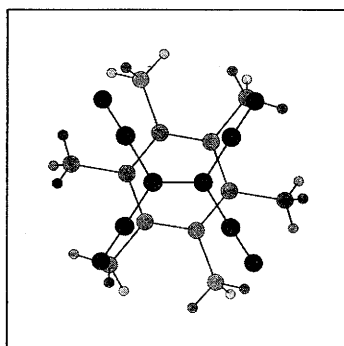


Saturated oxygen heterocycles

23

By Christopher J. Burns

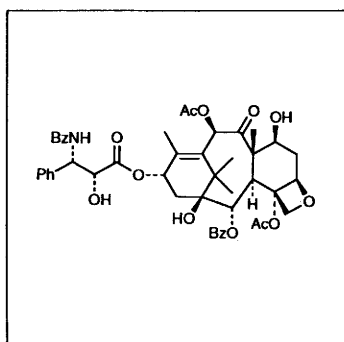
Reviewing the literature published between January 1992 and March 1993



Noncovalent design principles and the new synthesis

31

By Mark Mascal



Recent progress in the synthesis of taxanes

47

By A. N. Boa, P. R. Jenkins, and N. J. Lawrence

Reviewing the literature published between January 1991 and July 1993

Cumulative Contents of Volume 1

Number 1

- 1 Aldehydes and ketones (*July 1992 to June 1993*) **Patrick G. Steel**
- 23 Saturated oxygen heterocycles (*January 1992 to March 1993*) **Christopher J. Burns**
- 31 Noncovalent design principles and the new synthesis **Mark Mascal**
- 47 Recent progress in the synthesis of taxanes (*January 1991 to July 1993*) **A. N. Boa, P. R. Jenkins, and N. J. Lawrence**

Articles that will appear in forthcoming articles include

- Synthesis of five-membered aromatic heterocycles (*July 1991 to June 1993*) **Thomas L. Gilchrist**
- Saturated nitrogen heterocycles (*January 1992 to May 1993*) **John Steele**
- Stoichiometric applications of organotransition metal complexes in organic synthesis (*1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993*) **Julian Blagg**
- Organic halides (*1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993*) **P. L. Spargo**
- Catalytic applications of transition metals in organic synthesis (*1 July 1992 to 31 August 1993*) **Graham J. Dawson and Jonathan M. J. Williams**
- Thiols, sulfides, sulfoxides, and sulfones (*July 1992 and September 1993*) **Christopher M. Rayner**
- Recent developments in indole ring synthesis — methodology and applications (*1990–1993*) **Gordon W. Gribble**

Introduction

The synthesis of molecules and molecular assemblies lies at the heart of organic chemistry, and the discipline impinges on all fields of science. Organic synthesis forms the cornerstone of the chemicals industry, including pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, polymers, dyestuffs, and new materials with novel electrical and optical properties. Far from being a 'mature' science, organic synthesis has a very long way to go if it is to meet the needs of the 21st century and beyond. Much has been achieved over the past century and the subject has developed at a remarkable pace, particularly over the past two decades.

Today's organic synthesis chemists are busy designing catalytic asymmetric processes; addressing aspects of selectivity, efficiency, and control in reactions; developing biological methods, *e.g.* abzymes; discovering new reagents and materials; pushing back the frontiers of bioinorganic chemistry and molecular recognition phenomena. They also address fundamental problems in biology and medicine, *e.g.* cancer, AIDS; and they contribute significantly to global resource issues, *e.g.* conversion of biomass into fuel, and to the burgeoning issues of 'clean synthesis' and 'the environment'.

The rapid developments that are taking place in organic synthesis have led to a need for an all-embracing review journal that will: (i) provide easy access to specific information within contemporary organic synthesis, and (ii) alert synthetic chemists to new opportunities and new directions. *Contemporary Organic Synthesis (COS)* aims to meet all these needs! *COS* is a natural successor to the Royal Society of Chemistry's Specialist Periodical Report '*General and Synthetic Methods*' (*GSM*) which ceases with the publication of Volume 16 in February 1994, having provided an annual coverage and appraisal of developments in organic synthesis and methodology

since 1976. The task of condensing a particular year's coverage of organic synthesis into one volume of *GSM*, and publishing it within a reasonable time, has, however, become increasingly difficult and almost untenable. *Contemporary Organic Synthesis* will allow more rapid publication of organic synthesis articles and provide far greater flexibility of content.

This new journal will review and provide perspective on all aspects of methodology, selectivity, and efficiency in contemporary synthesis. As well as covering all the principles and methods in functional group chemistry and interconversions, organometallic chemistry and asymmetric synthesis will feature prominently, as will modern aspects of strategy and computer-aided design, biotransformations and protecting group protocols. Special methods and techniques, such as sonochemistry, FVP, electroorganic synthesis, and supported catalysis will be included as occasional articles, and the manner in which synthesis addresses problems and provides solutions in biology, medicine, agriculture, and new materials will also be encompassed.

Contemporary Organic Synthesis will be published bimonthly in the attractive format — designed for ease of retrieval of information — presented in this first issue. *COS* will aim to be proactive, drawing attention to new opportunities and new directions, providing timely information to the synthetic chemist who needs to keep abreast of developments in the field. Contributions will be commissioned by members of the Editorial Board, but we would welcome any suggestions for future coverage, contents, and aspects of presentation.

G. Pattenden
January 1994

