

Book Review

Combinatorial Chemistry: Synthesis and Application, edited by Stephen R. Wilson and Anthony W. Czarnik. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 605 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10158. Cloth price \$69.95.

This book describes the topic of combinatorial chemistry and its role in drug discovery. It provides the reader with a wealth of information regarding the strategies and methodologies in use to create a library, the types of resins (supports) available, and the different ways to identify active components within a library. The material in the 12 chapters is well written and clearly presented. In each chapter, the author(s) point(s) out the advantages of combinatorial chemistry as well as some of the present pitfalls. Even though the shelf life of this text may seem limited due to the continuous, rapid advances in this field, e.g., the website listing current reviews which is provided in Chapter 1 (on page 4) has already changed, the book does provide the basic, fundamental knowledge required for those who are seeking a good introduction to this subject.

This reviewer was fascinated by the possibility of obtaining enantioselective libraries (Chapter 3), by the strategies involved in selecting a polymeric support (Chapters 4 and 6), and structure elucidation by radio

frequency and microchip encoding (Chapters 7 and 8). Like any book, this text has its share of typographical errors, e.g., Tables 2.1 and 2.2 are reversed (Chapter 2) and the general structure depicted on Table 2.2 is incorrect, Figures 3.15 and 3.16 (Chapter 3) should be reversed in order to define R' and R'' shown in Figure 3.15, on pages 107 and 109 (Chapter 5) core molecule 4 is referred to as core molecule 2, and in Scheme 8.15 (Chapter 8) structure 5.3.2 is handwritten, but these minor errors certainly do not detract from the book's general quality. Each chapter is well referenced and an index is provided.

Overall, this text is an excellent resource and I recommend it for inclusion in your personal library. This reviewer is puzzled, however, about why the publishers chose to introduce this book as a cloth-bound issue rather than a paper-bound version. As a paper-bound text the cost should be considerably less and it would be very attractive for students, perhaps even as a course text.

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