

The Chemistry is Right

As with every new journal, there has been a phase of consolidation for EurJOC since it was founded seven years ago. I dare say that this phase has finished – without any sign of a seven year itch – and the time for some changes has come. Let me quote from an earlier editorial (January 1999): “To have optimal width in the spectrum of expertise ... we have a relatively rapidly rotating group of Advisory Editorial Board members.” So far, this rapid rotation has not occurred precisely because of the consolidation phase, but this year about one third of the International Advisory Board of EurJOC will give way to new members. There

Changes in the International Advisory Board...

is not enough space to mention the contributions of all whose term of office has now ended, but I thank all of them for their part in the development of the journal. When we pondered the new composition of the International Advisory Board we made allowance for the fact that Austria, the Czech Republic, and Sweden – the Associate Member countries – should also be represented. The names of all current members are given on the second masthead page. With this line-up of advisers, surely the (organic) chemistry is right!

There will be changes in the Editorial Board, too: Jan Engberts and Klaus Hafner have retired from the Editorial Board, and Henning Hopf, currently president of the German Chemical Society, has resigned as chairman. His successor is Max Malacria, who has been an active member of the Editorial Board since 2002. I would like to introduce Henk Hiemstra as a new member. Accordingly, from now on the Editorial Board will comprise six rather than seven members altogether. It should be noted that, conversely, our sister journal EurJIC will increase the number of Editorial Board members from five to six. Although the Editorial Board members primarily advise on matters in their field of com-

petence, the idea is that for both journals one Editorial Board member representing the chemical societies of France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain is responsible to the Editorial Union of Chemical Societies (EUCheM Soc) who owns the journals. These are the countries in EUCheM Soc from which we receive the largest number of manuscripts. The other chemical societies involved – those of Belgium, Greece, Hungary, and Portugal – shall supply one member in turn. By the way, more than 50 % of all manuscripts that we received in 2004 were from countries other than the aforementioned. The number of submissions from Asia, especially, and from China, in particular, has increased: The proportion of manuscripts from this country has risen from approximately 2% in 2002 to 9%.

...and in the Editorial Board

Before I move on, however, I would like to revert to the Editorial Board again. Not only have both Jan Engberts and Klaus Hafner been on the Editorial Board of EurJOC from the very beginning, they were already members of the Editorial Board of *Liebigs Annalen/Recueil* in 1997. This journal resulted from the merger of two European chemistry journals with a long-standing tradition – the German *Liebigs Annalen* and the Dutch *Recueil des Travaux Chimiques des Pays-Bas* – and became EurJOC one year later when the journals of the Chemical Societies of Belgium, France, and Italy were amalgamated. Jan Engberts and Klaus Hafner have acted admirably as ambassadors of these journals inside and outside their own countries. The former served for two periods as editor-in-chief of *Recueil des Travaux Chimiques des Pays-Bas* in the mid-1980s and in the mid-1990s, whilst the latter had constantly been on the Editorial Board of *Liebigs Annalen* and *Chemische Berichte* from the early 1980s. I warmly thank both of them for their precious help and advice over the last two years.

The changes in the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Boards are an obvious topic for this editorial. Other points to consider are the contents and scope of the journal. I thought I might again take a look at our website (www.eurjoc.org) and imagine myself as a potential author. After clicking on “Product Information” I – the author – was informed that EurJOC publishes articles “from the entire spectrum of synthetic organic, bio-organic and physical-organic chemistry” and it “continues to keep you up-to-date with progress made in all the fields of organic chemistry”. “Excellent”, I said to myself, “regardless of my precise research field, as long as my paper in essence deals with organic chemistry in its broadest sense, EurJOC is the right place to publish my results”. But is this factual information, or just a catchphrase? I – the editor – ask you to convince yourself that EurJOC does indeed cover the “entire spectrum” and is open to “all fields” of organic chemistry: Simply skim through the articles in this issue, or click on “Issues” and browse through the Table of Contents when you are online.

The entire spectrum of organic chemistry

Then again, when looking at the articles in EurJOC that were downloaded most frequently from *Wiley InterScience* in 2004, it can be seen that there is a definite emphasis on synthetic chemistry (see below, Tables 1 and 2). Undeniably, synthesis is the foundation of organic chemistry. Sometimes synthesis is a means to an end; sometimes it is an end in itself. That being said, there is more to organic chemistry than synthesis alone. Although the vast majority of articles published in EurJOC are based on synthesis (even when the focus is on host–guest phenomena or interesting properties of molecules such as antitumor activity, nonlinear optical behavior, photochromism, etc.), there are notable exceptions such as papers in the fields of theoretical organic chemistry and natural products isolation. These subdisciplines of organic chemistry are equally important, and all these research areas are complementary to each other: There ought to be chemists who take upon themselves the isolation of minute amounts of novel compounds from natural sources, characterize these compounds thoroughly, and determine their biological activity. Once all these data have been published in an organic chemistry journal, synthetic chemists can tackle the issue of total synthesis. And should the key step of their strategy fail, it is the theoretical organic chemists who can possibly provide a solution to the problem. Based on sophisticated cal-

culations they might be able to explain the stereoselectivity of this key reaction and predict its stereochemical outcome under different conditions.

But what about physical-organic, supramolecular, or biological chemists and others who are not primarily concerned with synthesis? Alas, only in a brave new world^[*] could they rely on off-the-shelf chemicals alone and would not have to care about preparing them. In the end it comes as no surprise that synthesis is the predominant topic of our top downloaded papers; all their titles refer directly to synthesis, reactions, or catalysis. However, whereas some journals praise the questionable advantage of being 100% focused on synthesis, it has always been our goal to publish papers from *all* fields of organic chemistry. Thus once again, I invite you to convince yourself that this is indeed the case. I have often received phone calls or e-mails from authors who had just completed a manuscript but wondered whether it fell within the aims and scope of the journal. It pleases me that I was able to encourage these authors to submit their paper to EurJOC, and that they do not regret doing so.

Coming back to the most frequently downloaded articles in 2004 (Tables 1 and 2), it should be noted once more that the ranking of these articles does not necessarily reflect the true significance of the paper since older articles are more likely to have been downloaded than newer ones. Furthermore, the December issues could not be taken into account at all. Microreviews are, in general, downloaded far more often than

Table 1. Most frequently downloaded EurJOC Microreviews in 2004

Title	Corresponding author(s)	Issue
Recent Advances in the Mitsunobu Reaction: Modified Reagents and the Quest for Chromatography-Free Separation	Roman Dembinski	13
Transition Metal-Catalyzed Carbon–Carbon Bond Formation with Grignard Reagents – Novel Reactions with a Classic Reagent	Hiroshi Shinokubo, Koichiro Oshima	10
Synthesis of 2,2'-Bipyridines: Versatile Building Blocks for Sexy Architectures and Functional Nanomaterials	George R. Newkome, Ulrich S. Schubert	2
Hetero-Diels–Alder Reactions of Ketones – A Challenge for Chemists	Karl Anker Jørgensen	10
Allylsilanes in Organic Synthesis – Recent Developments	Yannick Landais	15

[*] “But how do you make chemicals, Linda? Where do they come from?” “Well, I don’t know. You get them out of bottles. And when the bottles are empty, you send up to the Chemical Store for more. It’s the Chemical Store people who make them, I suppose. Or else they send to the factory for them.”

From *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

Table 2. Most frequently downloaded Full Papers and Short Communications in 2004

Title	Corresponding author(s)	Issue
Mild Conditions for Copper-Catalysed <i>N</i> -Arylation of Pyrazoles	Henri-Jean Cristau, Marc Taillefer	4
Asymmetric Synthesis of β -Amino Acid and Amide Derivatives by Catalytic Conjugate Addition of Aromatic Amines to <i>N</i> -Alkenoylcarbamates	King Kuok (Mimi) Hii	5
Suzuki Cross-Coupling Reactions between Alkenylboronic Acids and Aryl Bromides Catalysed by a Tetraphosphane-Palladium Catalyst	Henri Doucet, Maurice Santelli	5
A Simple and Useful Synthetic Protocol for Selective Deprotection of <i>tert</i> -Butyldimethylsilyl (TBS) Ethers	Abu T. Khan	10
Total Synthesis of Premithramycinone H and Related Anthrapyran Antibiotics	Karsten Krohn	1

other articles. So as to avoid comparing apples with oranges there is one Table for Microreviews and a second for Full Papers and Short Communications. While we are on the subject, I would like to mention briefly that from January 2004, *Wiley InterScience* usage statistics are COUNTER-compliant. What does that mean? COUNTER stands for Counting Online Usage of NeTworked Electronic Resources and “has been developed to provide a single, international,

extendible Code of Practice that allows the usage of online information products and services to be measured in a credible, consistent and compatible way using vendor-generated data.” You can find out more about COUNTER under <http://www.projectcounter.org/>.

I wish you a pleasant New Year, a prosperous 2005, and, if you are an active researcher, much success in your current and future projects. Maybe we will be in contact soon in connection with your next paper?

Counterproductive?



Dr. Haymo Ross