

**Organic Chemist's Desk Reference. Second Edition.** By Caroline Cooper. CRC Press Taylor & Francis Group, Boca Raton, FL. 2010. xv + 268 pp. 18 × 25 cm. ISBN 978-1-4398-1164-1. \$79.95

This book is a collection of very valuable information that is routinely used in organic chemistry laboratories. The early chapters focus on the chemistry literature, with particular attention being given to abstracting services. This section includes the commonly used online services but also includes guides to navigating patents and older print editions of the databases. Several chapters are devoted to nomenclature. While most chemists have access to compound naming programs, the rules in these chapters will be valuable for verifying computer-generated names. The list of acronyms and informal names will be highly valuable to younger researchers. The chapter on stereochemistry is largely an overview of the material from undergraduate courses, though it is augmented with discussions on axial chirality. A separate short chapter on unambiguous graphical representations of chiral molecules is

a welcome inclusion. Chemical hazards are covered in a thorough manner, with many tables of compound classes that require caution because of reactivity or toxicity. Multiple references are provided for further reading. The last portion of the book covers the fundamentals of organic molecule characterization. This section includes an overview of 2D NMR techniques, modern mass spectrometry methods, X-ray crystallography, and chiral separations. Overall this is an excellent collection of material that would be a worthy addition to any organic chemistry lab.

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