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Preface

Cycloaddition and benzannulation approaches to functionalised aromatic compounds

The study of aromatic compounds is one of the most fundamental areas of organic chemistry, and takes a prominent role in both undergraduate teaching and research. Classically, methods employed to make benzene derivatives have focused on electrophilic/nucleophilic substitution processes, whereas ring synthesis via condensation chemistry has been more prominent in the preparation of heteroaromatic compounds. This latter strategy holds significant advantages in the synthesis of complex and functionalised compounds because it is not restricted to generating the substitution patterns dictated by directing groups on the aromatic ring. The topic of this Symposium-in-Print aims to highlight recent achievements in this general area as it applies to benzenoid systems as well as heteroaromatics. A broad range of approaches are covered that include pericyclic, metal-mediated and metal catalysed processes. The latter theme is evident throughout this issue and highlights also the power and versatility of modern synthetic strategies such as ring closing metathesis and Au-catalysed carbon–carbon bond forming reactions. Taken together, this snapshot of benzannulation protocols provides novel routes to highly functionalised aromatic and heteroaromatic skeleta that include benzenoid compounds and pyridine derivatives, as well as indoles, pyrroles and furans.

I hope that this special issue serves to highlight the fact that efficient ring constructions are available for a whole host of aromatic compounds and that many new and complementary strategies are now available that rival traditional substitution approaches.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the authors and referees who contributed to this Symposium-in-Print.

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