

elucidation of new natural products and an informative text for researchers and students working in the field. It could also provide updated information to pharmacological institutions.

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Organic synthesis of complex natural products is becoming increasingly important because of their significant biological activity. During the last decade a greater emphasis has been placed on the development of stereoselective production procedures for the synthesis of these complex natural products.

In the past, basically natural products of plant origin were studied. However, for the last decade at least there has been an increase in the number of researchers of natural products of marine origin, and the synthesis of a large number and variety of compounds. The marine molecules can be grouped in medium and large size heterocycles and isolated carbocyclic systems in which the cyclization reaction is often the key step in the synthesis. Also, of great importance are polycarbocyclic systems because they represent the phase during which the carbocyclic framework is assembled. Therefore, this phase is considered in general the most prominent aspect of the synthetic sequence. Among the natural products of marine origin synthesized are: carotenoids, sterols, terpenoids, indols, etc.

In this book the synthetic studies of amphotericin B can be found for example, which is an important antibiotic belonging to the polyene macrolide class. This substance suppresses yeasts and fungi and has been widely and successfully used for the treatment of candidoses as well as in tumor therapy. The discovery of this compound has therefore been of great importance and necessity.

The content of this book also includes: synthesis of polycarbocyclic marine terpenoids, allenic and acetilenic carotenoids, synthesis of gibberellins and antheridiogens, fungal metabolites, sugar analogues, synthesis of peptidoglycan from bacteria, chemical defence in ants,

structure and chemistry of alkaloids, synthesis of natural products as semiochemicals and bioregulators.

The approach of '*Studies in Natural Products Chemistry*' is likely to interest not only the specialist, but also a wide range of scientists in the fields of organic chemistry and biology because of its valuable contributions.

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