The Seventieth Birthday of Professor

ANDRIS STRAKOVS

In June, 2004, Prof. Andris Strakov, prominent Latvian chemist working in the field of the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds, celebrates his seventieth birthday.

Andris Strakovs was born on June 27, 1934 at Valmiera in Latvia. In 1957 he finished at the Chemical Faculty of Latvian State University, and in 1957-1959 he worked on assignment as tutor at the Daugavpils Pedagogical Institute. Researches on the sulfonic acids of 1,3-indanediones, already started in his student years under the guidance of Prof. E. Gudriniece and continued in Daugavpils and in post-graduate studies at Riga Polytechnical Institute (1959-1961), were added together to form his Candidate's Thesis (1962). Strakov worked as assistant and senior teacher in the Department of Organic Chemistry at the Chemical Faculty of Riga Polytechnical Institute led by Prof. G. Vanags, and in 1964 he was transferred to the newly formed Department of Fine Organic Synthesis, where he has worked up to the present time; in 1989-2000 he was the leader of this department. From 1974 to 1985 Strakov was prorector for research at Riga Polytechnical Institute (since 1990 Riga Technical University), and in 1977 he was given the title of professor.

In 1972 Strakovs and Gudriniece were awarded the G. Vanags prize of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR for a cycle of papers on "Derivatives of the heterocyclic series based on dicarbonyl compounds," and in 1975 he defended a doctor's thesis on "Heterocycles based on 1,3-cyclohexanediones." In 1992 Strakov was elected Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of Latvia, and in 1995 he was elected Full Member.

In 1965-1985 Strakovs interests were concentrated on the synthesis of α-oxocyclohexene heterocycles in the reactions of 2-acyl-1,3-cyclohexanediones mainly with bifunctional N- and N,O-nucleophiles and investigation of their properties. The modification of 4-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindazoles and 5-oxo-5,6,7,8-

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tetrahydroquinazolines both in the heterocyclic and in the carbocyclic parts of the molecules was investigated. The derivatives obtained during oxidation, formylation, bromination, and other reactions proved extremely promising for the synthesis of complex polycondensed systems and, in particular, derivatives of imidazolo-[4,5-*c*]pyrazoles, imidazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidines, indazolo[4,5-*d*]imidazoles, imidazolo[4,5-*d*]thiazoles, imidazolo-[4,5-*b*]diazepines, pyrazolo[4,3-*a*]phenazines, pyrazolo[4,3-*a*]acridines, pyrazolo[4,5-*d*]quinazolines, isoxazolo-[5,4-*c*]imidazoles, etc.. During these researches close links were formed with the N. D. Zelinsky Institute of Organic Chemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences (A. A. Akhrem, A. M. Moiseenkov) and, later, with the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

In the last decade prof. Strakovs has conducted researches into the synthesis of histaminergic substances in various classes of compounds. Much effort was directed at researches into the synthesis of 2-, 3-, and 2,3-substituted 4(3H)-quinazolinones. Of the researches in this direction it is necessary to mention in particular the introduction of cyclobutane-containing groups and various heterocyclic substituting groups.

Investigations are being carried out into the synthesis of pyridodiazepines in the reactions of 2,3-diaminopyridine with 1,3-cyclohexanediones and aromatic aldehydes, 4-hydroxycoumarin, and 4-hydroxy-4-pyrones. The synthesis of a series of polycondensed heterocyclic systems based on 4-hydroxycoumarin has been realized.

In conjunction with coworkers Andris Strakovs has published more than 200 papers in scientific journals and 100 reports in conferences, and 10 dissertations have been defended under his guidance.

The colleagues of Andris Strakov warmly congratulate him and wish him health, long years of fruitful work, and new successes in his scientific activity.