

## Book review

### **Chemistry of Biomolecules: An Introduction**

**R.J. Simmonds**

*Chemistry of biomolecules: an introduction* describes the functions and syntheses of a wide range of biomolecules (monosaccharides, polysaccharides, peptides and proteins, nucleic acids, steroids, prostaglandins and  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics) in an understandable and interesting fashion. The book presents a logical introduction to the multi-disciplinary subject matter and separate chapters are dedicated to the different categories of biomolecules. Each chapter describes essential features of the chemical synthesis of the molecules, their biological roles, and important chemical properties. The subject coverage is excellent, relevant, and more extensive than found in key organic chemistry texts. In particular, excellent coverage of protecting group methodology is included and widespread examples of up-to-date synthetic methodology are described. The clarity of the book is enhanced by extensive chemical reaction schemes as well as a detailed index.

A stated intention of the book is to bridge the gap between general organic chemistry books and more

specialised biological texts and this is definitely achieved. The quality and quantity of the chemical discussion is excellent, and would certainly support final year undergraduates and first year postgraduates in their studies. Moreover, the natural roles of the highlighted biomolecules are described in a clear and interesting fashion without assuming specialist biological knowledge — this is highly commendable. I recommend this book to chemists wishing to study the roles of biomolecules within nature, as well as to biochemists wishing to further their knowledge of the chemical properties of biomolecules. Without doubt, this book contains material of interest to a wide range of disciplines (synthetic chemists, medicinal chemists, biochemists, pharmacists) and would neatly supplement course material for a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

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