

PREFACE

Thirty years ago *Heterocycles* became the first international organic chemistry journal published in Japan, an event that owed much to the vision, energy and enthusiastic support of Professor Tetsuji Kametani of Tohoku University. It was not long before the new journal, with its elegantly distinctive black cover suggesting Japanese lacquer, established itself in what is one of the largest areas of organic chemistry. It includes most of those natural products which combine fascinating structures and medically relevant biological properties. Under the editorship of Dr. Keiichiro Fukumoto, *Heterocycles* introduced a number of novel and highly successful features to the journal, in addition to its well-known Reviews and Communications. I refer to the inclusion, in alternate issues, of sections on "New Heterocyclic Natural Products", and on "Total Synthesis of Heterocyclic Natural Products". These extremely valuable and unique surveys, started in 1975, have been an important contribution to the field. The recent publication of a compendium, published as the last issue of the year, which gathers the structure and stereochemistry of practically all the new heterocyclic natural products isolated or synthesized during that year is a beautifully produced, much appreciated, and eagerly awaited contribution by this outstanding journal. May it long continue in its successful path.



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