

Comprehensive Organic Name Reactions and Reagents. By Zerong Wang. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, NJ. 2009. xlix + 3661 pp. 18.5 × 26 cm. ISBN 978-0-471-70450-8. \$595.00.

This three-volume compendium of organic name reactions and reagents is one of the most comprehensive and complete works to concisely, yet fully, cover the topic. Over 700 name reactions with over 36 000 citations are presented in a very clear, organized, and easy to navigate manner. Volumes are separated alphabetically by name (A–G, H–Q, and R–Z). The presentation and discussion of each name reaction consist of eight subsections; a general description and discussion of the reaction are followed by a representative reaction scheme that uses substructures to show the chemical transformation. A section is also devoted to showing a relatively detailed proposed mechanism for each reaction, as appropriate. Reported modifications to the reaction, application(s) of the reaction, and related types of reactions are then discussed. One or more additional cited experimental examples are also presented, followed by a comprehensive list of references.

This set of books is complemented by a number of useful appendices. Appendix 1 is a schematic reaction index, providing a straightforward visual summary of each reaction. Appendix 2 summarizes the reactions by transformation type (e.g., synthesis of alcohols, synthesis of indoles, etc.) or

reaction type (e.g., oxidation). Appendix 3 is an interesting summary of citations for the initial publication of each name reaction and reagent. Appendices 4 and 5 cover journal abbreviations and additional citation statistics and summaries. The subject index is extensive, and the list of chemical abbreviations for reagents is complemented with the structure of each. One surprise with this series is that a few reactions are classified as name reactions based on the lab that originally used or published the specific reaction, even though the reaction is or has not otherwise been generally considered a name reaction. However, this expansion is perhaps less of a negative and more of a manifestation of just how comprehensive these volumes are in coverage of name reactions and reagents. This book set will be valuable to any laboratory pursuing synthetic organic chemistry and as a comprehensive resource to chemists involved in the synthesis of organic compounds.

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