

## Book Reviews\*

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**Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis, Fourth Edition.** By P. G. M. Wuts and T. W. Greene (Pfizer and The Rowland Institute for Science, respectively). Wiley-Interscience, Hoboken. 2007. xviii + 1082 pp. 16 × 24 cm. \$94.95. ISBN 0-471-68754-0.

This new edition of a classic, vital reference book provides information from 3100 new references since the third edition (1998). In contrast, the first edition of the book summarized the literature through 1979, reporting about 1500 references for about 500 protecting groups, while the new edition has over 8000 references for more than 1200 protective groups. This comparison illustrates how critically important protective group chemistry is today, as chemists tackle increasingly challenging problems in the synthesis of ever more complex natural products.

The format of the book remains the same as in earlier editions. After a brief introductory chapter on the role of protecting groups in synthesis, there are eight chapters on protection of functional groups: hydroxyl, phenols/catechols, carbonyl, carboxyl, thiol,

amino, alkyne, and phosphate. The final chapter contains lists of reactivities and reagents, along with reactivity charts. References are clustered with the appropriate sections of each chapter, making retrieval facile compared to a single comprehensive index of over 3100 references.

This book is a must for any organic synthesis laboratory or group, academic or industrial. Natural products chemists are likely to find useful information in this reference as well, especially if they modify isolated natural products to produce analogues and derivatives for bioassays or if the structure elucidation work requires chemical transformation. The authors are to be commended for the Herculean effort required to bring this valuable reference up to date.

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\*Unsigned book reviews are by the Book Review Editor.