Book review

Reactions of Organosulfur Compounds, by Eric Block, Academic Press, New York/San Francisco/London, 1978, 336 pages, $28.00.

The author has wisely chosen to organize this book from a mechanistic point of view. Following a brief overview of diverse topics from nomenclature to d-orbitals chapters proceed on carbanions, ylides carbonium ions, radicals, carbenes, and pericyclic reactions. The book nicely complements the recent volume edited by S. Oae (Organic Chemistry of Sulfur, Plenum Press, 1977) and the more recent sulfur chemistry chapters in Comprehensive Organic Chemistry (Pergammon, 1978) both of which have the more traditional functional group organization. The Block monograph is clearly more up-to-date and error-free than the Oae volume.

The current generation of organic chemists are obviously very aware of the synthetic utility of organosulfur compounds and this book clearly reflects the interest and progress in this important area. The book is well suited for use as a text in a graduate special topics course or as a supplement to a more standard reaction survey course.

To the advantage of both the novice and expert the secondary literature of organosulfur chemistry is in remarkably good condition. The present book makes a large contribution to this situation and provides the most appropriate starting point for those interested in acquiring a background in this increasingly important area of chemistry. The contributions of the previously mentioned volumes, the Trost and Melvin monograph-- Sulfur Ylides (Academic Press, 1975), the Chemical Society Specialists reports on Organic Compounds of Sulphur, Selenium, and Tellurium , and numerous timely reviews in Synthesis, Chemical Reviews, and other review journals should also be mentioned.

This volume, number 37 in the Academic Press monographs on Organic Chemistry, stands with its predecessors in high quality production. The price is reasonable for a speciality book. References are included up to 1977. It is a pleasure to record my endorsement.

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