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Book review

Carbanions in Organic Synthesis; by John C. Stowell, John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1979, xi + 247 pages, \$22.50.

The reactions of carbanions with carbon electrophiles remains the most important method for carbon-carbon bond formation. This book presents a brief but very readable and clearly illustrated overview of recent and classical synthetic applications of carbanion chemistry. The first chapter describes methods for the preparation of carbanions, with emphasis on the reaction of carbon acids with bases. The second chapter describes general reaction types and the final four chapters discuss carbanion reactions organized by increasing delocalization of negative charge in the carbanion. Numerous examples of each reaction type (primarily alkylation, acylation and addition) are illustrated by equations giving conditions and yields.

The book has 21 pages of references, organized alphabetically by author, with the majority later than 1970. There is also a useful carbanion equivalent index which lists carbanions containing protecting groups which, after removal of the groups, give products formally arising from simpler but perhaps hypothetical carbanions.

Graduate students in organic chemistry should find this book a useful introduction to carbanion synthetic methods. Researchers in most areas of organic synthesis should welcome the book as a convenient source of leading references.

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