

Book review

ORGANIC SYNTHESSES, Vol. 58, W.A. Sheppard, editor-in-chief,
Wiley, New York, 1978, xxviii + 216 pages, \$14

"Organic Syntheses" is a valuable help-mate to the organic and organometallic chemist, bringing detailed, checked (hence reliable) synthetic procedures for diverse organic and organometallic compounds. Much labor goes into the preparation of an "Organic Syntheses" volume on the part of the editors, submitters and checkers, but for the chemical community it is labor well spent. The latest volume of "Organic Syntheses" was edited by the late William A. Sheppard, whose untimely death last year is greatly regretted by his many friends and colleagues. This volume brings 29 new checked syntheses. Most involve straight organic chemistry, but there are some examples of the utilization of organometallic reagents: two organosilicon compounds, 3-trimethylsilyl-3-buten-2-one and 2-trimethylsiloxy-1,3-butadiene, are prepared and used in synthesis; 9-borabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane is used in the preparation of bicyclo[3.3.1]nonan-9-one; di-3-pinanylborane is used to prepare 3-pinamine; lithium 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidide is used in carbene generation; α -lithio-N-nitrosopyrrolidine is used in the synthesis of 2-(diphenylhydroxymethyl)pyrrolidine; *n*-butylmagnesium chloride alkylates 1,2-dichlorobenzene in the presence of a nickel(II) catalyst; dilithiated 1-hexyne is alkylated by ethyl bromide to give 3-ethyl-1-hexyne.

The synthetic chemist will seek this book for the synthetic recipes it brings, but there are other features in the present volume which are worth noting. It starts out with three brief biographies, or better, appreciations, of people who have been important in the development of "Organic Syntheses": two Harvard chemists, James Bryant Conant and Louis F. Fieser, and the former president of John Wiley and Sons, E.P. Hamilton. At the end of the book there are a chemical hazards warning (latest additions to the OSHA list), cumulative author (Vol. 50-58) and subject

(Vol. 55-58) indexes, and a list of procedures received by "Organic Syntheses" which have not yet been checked. Each experiment has an appendix which gives names of all chemical compounds used or prepared (Chemical Abstracts nomenclature) as well as their Collective Index and CA Registry numbers. Much space (1/3 to 1 page per experiment) is used for this purpose which might have been put to better use by providing another experiment or two.

This book is a fine addition to this series of proven utility and we look forward to further volumes.

Department of Chemistry
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (USA)

Dietmar Seyferth