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## Book Review

***Topics in Organometallic Chemistry, Vol. 1, Alkene Metathesis in Organic Synthesis*, Edited by A. Fürstner, Springer Verlag, Berlin, 1999, pp. x + 231, ISBN 3-540-64254-4, DM 169, GB£ 65, US\$ 109.**

This book is the first volume of a new series entitled *Topics in Organometallic Chemistry*. Its aim is to provide critical overviews of new developments in this field, which has evolved enormously in the past few years. As progress is made on the compatibility between organometallic species and functional groups, organometallic chemistry is being used more and more in interdisciplinary studies. Therefore, this series should constitute a useful reference for scientists.

The first volume is edited by A. Fürstner and deals with alkene metathesis in organic synthesis. The initial part is devoted to a description of all available catalysts containing Mo, W or Ru, their characteristics, and their uses in some organic syntheses. Two chapters deal with the use of ring-closing metathesis reactions in organic

synthesis, which are very good examples of the tremendous improvement in the stability of these catalysts. The other subjects covered are enyne and cross metathesis. Polymers are described in two chapters on ADMET chemistry and bioactive polymers. For all reviews, references from as recently as 1998 are included and the use of catalysts is very well illustrated.

I can strongly recommend this book for those involved in organic synthesis, since it opens up wide possibilities and new routes to complex organic products. My only criticism is the lack of a final index, which would be of great value if included in the forthcoming volumes of this series.

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