

*Organomagnesium Methods in Organic Synthesis*

B.J. Wakefield. Academic Press, London, 1995, xvii + 249 pages, £50.00  
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This welcome volume appears in the series on Best Synthetic Methods. It is a worthy complement to the volume on Organolithium Methods that I praised highly on its appearance in 1988. Like the latter, this volume is a model of what the monographs in the series should be (but not always are). That is, it provides clear and precise information on how to make and use Grignard reagents that will be of much help even to those accustomed to working with them and invaluable to newcomers to them.

Following a brief introductory chapter, Chapter 2 provides 19 pages summarizing the types of organo-

magnesium compounds and giving excellent guidance on the choice of solvent and other aspects of their preparation, handling, storage, detection and estimation. Chapter 3 then outlines methods of making the reagents, with each method illustrated by exact experimental details for a well chosen range of examples. The 13 subsequent chapters deal with uses of specific reagents in synthesis, the last one with the preparation of organometallic compounds.

This admirable book should be available in all laboratories engaged in organic or organometallic synthesis.

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