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Book review

Organic Reactive Intermediates, ed. by S.P. McManus. Academic Press, New York, 1973, x + 539 pages, $39.50

The reactive intermediates of organic chemistry, which also play an important role in organometallic chemistry, are surveyed in the seven chapters of this book: (1) Free radicals (E.S. Huyser; 59 pages); (2) Carbenes and related species (D. Bethell, 66 pages); (3) Nitrenes (R.A. Abramovitch, 66 pages); (4) Carbonium ions (S.P. McManus and C.U. Pittman, Jr., 143 pages); (5) Carbanions (E.M. Kaiser and D. W. Slocum, 86 pages); (6) Radical ions (G.A. Russell and R.K. Norris, 26 pages); (7) Arynes (E.K. Fields, 60 pages).

These chapters provide a very nice survey of the chemistry of these intermediates: structure and bonding, methods of formation, methods of investigation, reactions, mechanistic aspects. An in-depth treatment is not possible in these short chapters and the reader will have to consult the original literature or specialized treatises on these topics for full details. However, this book is a useful means of becoming at least superficially acquainted with the intermediates which are discussed. One would like to recommend this book as one that graduate students might find useful to own, but the price tag no doubt will limit such sales.

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