This article was downloaded by:

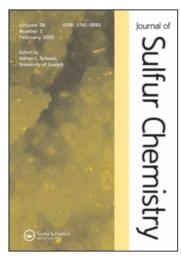
On: 25 January 2011

Access details: Access Details: Free Access

Publisher Taylor & Francis

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-

41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



## Journal of Sulfur Chemistry

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713926081

## A review of: "Azolides in Organic Synthesis and Biochemistry"

Alexander Senning<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark

To cite this Article Senning, Alexander (1998) 'A review of: "Azolides in Organic Synthesis and Biochemistry", Journal of Sulfur Chemistry, 21: 2, 209 - 210

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/01961779808047936 URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01961779808047936

## PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Full terms and conditions of use: http://www.informaworld.com/terms-and-conditions-of-access.pdf

This article may be used for research, teaching and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, re-distribution, re-selling, loan or sub-licensing, systematic supply or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

The publisher does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents will be complete or accurate or up to date. The accuracy of any instructions, formulae and drug doses should be independently verified with primary sources. The publisher shall not be liable for any loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of this material.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

H.A. Staab, H. Bauer, K.M. Schneider, *Azolides in Organic Synthesis and Biochemistry*, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim etc., 1998, xiii + 502 pp., £95.00, ISBN 3527-29314-0.

This book is of obvious interest to practicing synthetic chemists and also treats the preparation (via azolides) of many sulfur and selenium compounds, i.e. thionocarboxylic esters, thioloesters, selenoloesters, thionocarbonates, thiolactones, thioamides, thiocarbamates, thiohydrazides, thioureas, thiosemicarbazides, thiocarbazides, sulfur-containing heterocycles, isothiocyanates, N-sulfinylamines, sulfonates, sulfinates, sulfonamides, sulfoxylates, sulfones, sulfoxides, sulfites, sulfates, sulfanes, and oligosulfanes. Moreover, several key azolides such as N,N'-thiocarbonyldimidazole and N,N'-sulfinyldimidazole are  $per\ se$  of special interest to sulfur chemists. The senior author is the inventor of the methodology in question and thus in a unique position to assess its status and potential even though, as mentioned in the preface, Professor Staab's laboratory has not directly participated in the last 25 year's development.

To take the bad news first this book's English has a distinct German flavor, containing an inordinate amount of spelling errors related to chemical nomenclature. Nomenclatural monstrosities like "toluene-benzylsulfoxide" (p. 295), however, cannot be explained even by unenlightened transmogrification of German chemical names. The artwork, while always structurally correct, is remarkably uneven with regard to font size and more often than not sloppily reproduced. Contrary to common practice compounds are not numbered as they appear in the text and in the artwork which makes the book somewhat cumbersome to read. In some places (such as the discussion of acetylaranotin on p. 82) lack of relevant artwork makes the text unnecessarily obscure. Alas the

book's price does not reflect the substantial savings due to the minuscule editorial effort on the publisher's side.

Chapter 1, Reactivity of Azolides, is with its 12 pages and 38 references remarkably short and unsophisticated. Short of reading the cited literature the reader is left to his own devices with regard to the rational experimental design of azolide assisted syntheses. It would have been exactly here where the book could return its money's worth by a well presented overview of the principles involved.

Chapter 2, Preparation and Properties of Azolides, again requires the reader's evaluation of the cited literature and fails to present explicit optimized prescriptions for the synthesis of key intermediates in the fashion of, say, Houben-Weyl.

The remaining chapters 3–24 plus a somewhat frugal subject index give an excellent impression of the synthetic potential of the azolide methodology including its recent more sophisticated ramifications. This is not a how-to book, but rather a broad source of inspiration due to the fact that it cannot replace a specific literature check of alternative synthetic approaches to any target compound in the reader's mind.

Alexander Senning
Technical University of Denmark
DK-2800 Lyngby
Denmark