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NOTICE TO AUTHORS—No. 10/1976

Authentication of New Compounds

(1) It is the responsibility of authors to provide fully convincing evidence for the homogeneity and identity of all compounds they claim as new. Evidence of both purity and identity is required to establish that the properties and constants reported are those of the compound with the new structure claimed.

(2) In the context of this Notice a compound is considered as new (*a*) if it has not been prepared before, (*b*) if it has been prepared before but not adequately purified, (*c*) if it has been purified but not adequately characterised, (*d*) if, earlier, it has been assigned an erroneous constitution, or (*e*) if it is a natural product synthesised for the first time. In preliminary communications compounds are often recorded with limited characterising data; in spite of (*c*) above later preparations of such compounds are not considered as new if the properties previously reported are confirmed; the same applies to patents.*

(3) Referees are asked to assess, as a whole, the evidence in support of the homogeneity and structure of all new compounds. No hard and fast rules can be laid down to cover all types of compounds, but the Society's policy remains unchanged in that evidence for the unequivocal identification of new compounds should normally include good elemental analytical data; an accurate mass measurement of a molecular

ion does not provide evidence of purity of a compound and must be accompanied by independent evidence of homogeneity. Low-resolution mass spectroscopy must be treated with even more reserve in the absence of firm evidence to distinguish between alternative molecular formulae. Where elemental analytical data are not available, appropriate evidence which is convincing to an expert in the field will be acceptable, but authors should include, for the referees, a brief explanation of the special nature of their problem.

(4) Spectroscopic information necessary to the assignment of structure should normally be given. Just how complete this information should be must depend upon the circumstances; the structure of a compound obtained from an unusual reaction or isolated from a natural source needs much stronger supporting evidence than one derived by a standard reaction from a precursor of undisputed structure. Authors are reminded that full spectroscopic assignments may always be treated as a Supplementary Publication where their importance does not justify their inclusion in the published paper.

(5) Finally, referees are reminded of the need to be exacting in their standards but at the same time flexible in their admission of evidence. It remains the Society's policy to accept work only of high quality and to permit no lowering of present standards.

* New compounds should be indicated by underlining the name (for italics) at its first mention (excluding headings) in the Experimental section only, and by giving analytical results in the form: (Found: C, 63.1; H, 5.4. $C_{13}H_{13}NO_4$ requires C, 63.2; H, 5.3%). If analytical results for compounds which have been adequately described in the literature are to be included, they should be given in the form: (Found: 62.95; H, 5.4. Calc. for $C_{13}H_{13}NO_4$: C, 63.2; H, 5.3%). Analyses are normally quoted to the nearest 0.05%.