

Book Reviews

Amino Acid and Peptide Synthesis. Second Edition. By John Jones. Oxford University Press, New York. 2002. 92 pp. 19 × 25 cm. ISBN 0-19-925738-8. \$15.95.

This book is a part of the Oxford Chemistry Primers series, which sets out to describe topics that are “commonly presented in lectures but not adequately covered in texts”. With all of amino acid and peptide synthesis to cover, and only 92 pages to do it, the coverage is quite concise but is amazingly complete. The author does an excellent job in choosing what to cover and what to gloss over. There are chapters on amino acid synthesis, standard protecting groups, peptide bond formation, strategy, solution synthesis, and solid-phase synthesis. The page layout is excellent, with large margins containing much useful parenthetical information (and room to jot down your own notes). Diagrams are

numerous and clearly presented. There are student exercises scattered throughout. Appendix A is especially useful. It contains a comprehensive listing of the abbreviations specific to this field. In addition to the standard amino acid abbreviations, there are 52 substituent and protecting group abbreviations and 27 solvent and reagent abbreviations. This book will be priceless for students learning about peptide synthesis, and it will be a useful handbook for more experienced chemists.

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