

Book review

"Organic Synthesis by Means of Transition Metal Complexes, A Systematic Approach", by J. Tsuji, Springer-Verlag, Berlin/Heidelberg/New York, 1975, ix + 199 pages, DM 68.

Readers of this journal will be aware of the magnitude of the task facing an author in this field and they will also be aware that several kinds of approach are possible. Though the approach here is not comprehensive, material is drawn from over 600 references and the bulk of the material is organized into five central chapters, "Formation of σ -Bond (sic) Involving Transition Metals", "Reactivities of σ -Bonds Involving Transition Metals", "Insertion Reactions", "Liberation of Organic Compounds from the σ -Bonded Complexes", and "Cyclization and Related Reactions". Some of the chapters have further subdivisions, and in general the approach has been to illustrate each theme with a few simple examples before moving on to more complex reaction schemes in which the theme forms perhaps only one component. It is clear that there is therefore some arbitrariness about the placing of the more complicated processes in the text, but in general both reaction types and particular products can be located quickly using the excellent indexes.

Although the reaction schemes and principles are well described and superbly presented, the overall organization of the book appears to hamper the logical presentation of some of the material. As an illustration, the typical aromatic substitution reactions of cyclobutadiene complexes are treated in the chapter "Formation of σ -Bonds Involving Transition Metals" under a subsection referring to "Metal-Carbon Bond Formation". However, the book certainly avoids a myopic concentration on the elementary processes and the

extended sequences of transformations that are the principal feature of these processes are given very ample illustration and analysis.

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