

than pure metals: comparisons of pure and alloy catalysts shed some light on the mode(s) of operation of each.

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Reagents for Organic Synthesis, Vol. 5; by M. Fieser and L.F. Fieser, Wiley-Interscience, New York/London/Sydney/Toronto, 1975, 864 pages, \$32.15, £16.15.

Volume five of this now well established series should prove valuable to both the synthetic organic and organometallic chemist. Following the same format as previous volumes, this volume covers 350 new reagents and adds new information on 400 reagents previously described in this series. The references generally cover the period 1972 to August 1974 although some older references have been included for the first time. The authors have alphabetically listed each reagent, usually according to its chemical name but occasionally by more familiar names, such as crown ethers or Simmons-Smith reagent. References to previous entries in earlier volumes are followed by a list of commercial suppliers and/or an indication of the procedure by which the reagent may be prepared. A brief description of the reagent's synthetic utility and appropriate literature references follow. Although the general utility of many of these reagents remains to be established, their presence provides food for thought.

This volume once again contains extensive indices including (1) the type of reaction involved or the type of products formed, (2) an author index, and (3) a general subject index. The somewhat unfortunate organization of reagents according to alphabet, instead of reaction type, demands these detailed indices. Even so, with five volumes at hand and undoubtedly more on the way, this series forces the chemist to look through every volume to find all reagents which will, for example, reduce a ketone to an alcohol. In the future one might hope for larger and fewer volumes, more like the first in this series (1457 pages), perhaps somewhat more judiciously edited so as to cover a larger time period. Perhaps collective volumes on the order of "Organic Syntheses" would be desirable, coordinating and editing the massive amount of material presented in previous volumes. This would certainly prove of immense value to the synthetic organic chemist. In spite of these drawbacks this volume and the series as a whole are invaluable to the synthetic organic chemist.

The organometallic chemist will once again find browsing in this volume most rewarding. Organo-boron, -copper, -lithium and -selenium reagents receive considerable attention, as do a variety of transition metal complexes. The ease with which the literature preparations are found makes this series especially useful. However, considering the cost and utility of this volume, many organometallic chemists may find this volume too expensive for

personal purchase. It will undoubtedly appeal more to the synthetic organic chemist. Nevertheless, this volume is a must around the laboratory for both the organic and organometallic chemist.

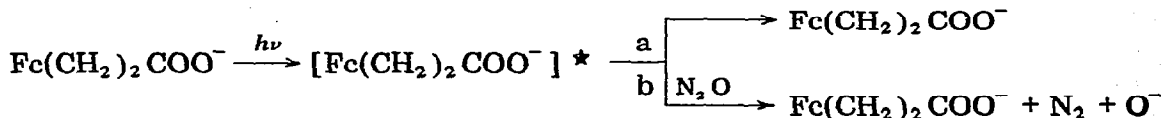
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Errata

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Page C32, the second mechanism should be numbered (2) and read:



lines 10–12 following the second mechanism should read:

reciprocal plot, k_a/k_b was found to be $1.9 \times 10^{-4} M$ and since $k_b \leq 7.4 \times 10^9 M^{-1} s^{-1}$, we may deduce that the lifetime of the photoexcited state in the absence of N_2O , $k_a^{-1} \geq 0.7 \mu\text{s}$. However, with our present apparatus we do