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Book review

Sulfur Ylides: Emerging Synthetic Intermediates; by Barry M. Trost and Lawrence S. Melvin, Jr., Academic Press, Inc., New York/San Francisco/London, 1975, xii + 344 pages, \$39.50.

This book presents a convincing case for the use of sulfur ylides in synthetic organic chemistry. The book explores in 140 easily read pages the synthesis of sulfonium salts, the generation of ylides, the stability of ylides, the use of ylides in epoxidation and cyclopropanation reactions, and the rearrangement reactions of sulfur ylides. Some general experimental procedures are examined followed by a comprehensive tabular survey (comprising about 50% of the book) of literature examples of various important classes of sulfur ylide reactions. The book is relatively free of factual errors. The authors have wisely kept mechanistic speculation to a minimum including the age-old arguments concerning the importance of *d* orbitals. Occasionally a point is mired in extravagant language . . . "the construction of molecular architecture" . . . which, I think, means synthesis. The book is a welcome addition to my library. I recommend it to all organic chemists with special interest in synthesis and/or sulfur chemistry.

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Erratum

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Page C28, line 8 of the text should read:

une structure dynamique [8].