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Book review

The Proton: Applications to Organic Chemistry; by R. Stewart, Academic Press, Orlando etc., 1985, vii + 313 pages. U.S. \$65.00; £56.50. ISBN 0.12-670370-1.

This book presents a concise and well written general account of the aspects of the proton in organic chemistry. An introductory chapter is followed by a discussion of the strengths of neutral and organic acids and bases, and subsequent chapters deal with the transfer of hydrogen as H^+ , H^\cdot , and H^- , with the acid-base chemistry of unstable intermediates, and with activation of organic molecules by proton addition or removal. The breadth of the coverage means that there is no great depth of information on any particular topic, and it is not likely to be very useful as a direct reference work, but it does provide access to more detailed information through its carefully chosen references. Its primary function will be to provide advanced students of organic chemistry or research workers in that area with a clear outline of the main aspects of the field it covers, though some topics which one might have expected to be included (e.g., hydrogen isotope exchange in aromatic systems) are not mentioned. There is a good subject index, but I was disappointed after seeing the entry "arenes, deprotonation" to find that the pages specified do not deal with removal of protons from aromatic carbon atoms but rather from, e.g., aralkyl positions.

The book should be in all libraries catering for undergraduate and graduate students of chemistry.

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