

## Book Reviews\*

**Compendium of Organic Synthetic Methods** Edited by Michael B. Smith. Wiley: Hoboken, NJ. Vol. 12. 2008. 576 + xviii pp. £100. ISBN 9780471445302.

I have always been a great fan of this series, ever since volume 1 appeared many years ago. In fact I still refer to the series as Harrison and Harrison, after the editors of the early volumes, though they only completed the first two volumes, and the series continued with Hegedus, Wade and finally from volume 6 onwards, Professor Smith from the University of Connecticut, well-known also for his updates of Jerry March's popular book. The latest volume is excellent as were previous volumes.

This is an easy-to-use compilation for organic synthetic chemists wishing to look for reagents, conditions and

references for a particular transformation. The current volume covers the literature from 2002, 2003 and 2004, so is considerably behind the times. However, the encyclopaedic nature of the work, and time-consuming compilation of the data means that the work is inevitably covering work of a few years ago. Perhaps Professor Smith needs some assistance to help bring the series more up-to-date.

Another minor criticism is the structure drawings, where the rather large size of the aromatic rings, and structures in general, detracts from the text. Even geriatric readers such as myself could cope with smaller structures. As it is now, the pages look rather cramped.

In conclusion, volume 12 continues the high standard of previous volumes; no library should be without them.

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\* Unsigned book reviews are by the Editor.