

Experimental Data Are Not Supporting Information

In a previous editorial I expounded on the importance of reproducibility of results and suggested that papers in *Organic Process Research & Development* (OPRD), particularly those whose authorship is from an industrial process R&D lab, will be amongst the best for reproducibility. However, as all process chemists know, “the devil is in the detail” or, more accurately for some experimentals, the lack of detail. Process chemists know that it is often what is left out of an experimental writeup that causes problems.

For this reason, the editorial policy in OPRD—in contrast to many other journals including several American Chemical Society journals—is that experimental information is an important part of any published paper and should not be relegated to Supporting Information. When I am reading a paper I want to see how the experiment was carried out: the order of addition of reagents, controls on temperature and pressure etc., and how the reaction was worked up and the product isolated, without having to look at a separate file. I also like to see whether the process has been run in a safe manner! (see footnote^a)

For a process chemist, an important factor which the experimental information provides is the scale on which the chemistry was run, as well as the quality of the obtained product. This is why the editors try to ensure that the authors of papers supply the experimental data for the largest scale on which they have conducted the trials, preferably at a kilogram or higher scale rather than on a smaller scale. A kilogram-scale process gives the reader a better indication of the value of the data from a process chemistry viewpoint.

So, for the foreseeable future, the policy of OPRD remains the following: experimental details should not be placed in Supporting Information but kept in the body of the paper, and further, these experimental details should describe the largest scale discussed.

I hope you agree, but if not, do write to me explaining your point of view.

Trevor Laird
Editor OPRD

■ ADDITIONAL NOTE

^a NB: It is not too late to submit papers for the *Safety of Chemical Processes* special section to be published in OPRD's Nov/Dec issue of 2011.