**Progress in Heterocyclic Chemistry, Volume 15**; edited by G. W. Gribble and J. A. Joule; Elsevier: Amsterdam, **2003**; hardback, €232, 474 pp, ISBN 0080442870

The book covers the literature published during 2002 on the majority of heterocyclic ring systems. It systematically approaches this vast topic in order of increasing ring size and heteroatoms present.

This volume opens with three specialized reviews. The first one deals with recent advances in the synthesis of heterocycles via ring closing metathesis. This is an area of intense activity with an increasing number of papers in the last two years; emphasis being focused on significant advances in the synthesis of heterocycles by using this methodology.

The second chapter discusses photochemical isomerizations of some five-membered heteroaromatic azoles (pyrazoles, imidazoles, thiazoles, and isothiazoles). Finally, the third chapter is a short notice dedicated to the naturally occurring halogenated pyrroles and indoles.

The remaining chapters examine the recent literature on the common heterocycles in order of increasing ring size and heteroatoms present. Starting with three-membered rings and proceeding through to eight-membered and larger ring systems, each chapter presents a descriptive account of the major advances in the topic.

Each of the chapters is concise with a fair balance between synthesis (including solid-phase synthesis), their reactivity and their presence in biologically relevant products and materials. References help the reader to easily obtain more information from the literature and are incorporated in the text using codes adopted by Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry. They are listed in full at the end of each chapter. I think, it would be much better to include the schemes in the text. There are numerous descriptions of the reactions that would be more informative if supported by a diagram.

Overall the book is very well written, well documented, and is a valuable source and reference material for both researchers active in the field of Heterocyclic Chemistry and those who might be interested in the prospects.

**E. Raviña**, Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

**SYNTHESIS** 2004, No. 6, pp 970–970
Advanced online publication: 07.04.2004
Art ID: B10604SS.pdf