Thiophenes, by S. Gronowitz and A.-B. Hörnfeldt, Academic Press: London, **2004**, hardcover, 964 pp, € 285, ISBN 0-12-303953-3

Thiophenes are an important class of heterocyclic compounds whose chemistry is in an advanced state. The two authors of this book have compiled an impressive tome that is basically a seemingly endless string of experimental protocols. The total number of protocols in *Thiophenes* can only be estimated, but is certainly in the four-digit range (many protocols claim less than one page of printing space). For the purpose of building this unique collection, thousands of journal articles have been extracted for experimental details.

Due to the gargantuan effort of the authors, anyone wishing to carry out reactions with thiophenes can rely completely on this exhaustive collection of experimental protocols, rendering time-consuming literature searches practically obsolete. For every chemical transformation described, the source literature is given as a numbered citation.

Navigation in the book is rendered easy thanks to the use of a straightforward system of organizing the dazzling number of entries: the protocols have been grouped according to the reaction product, following the one route map that every chemist knows by heart – the periodic table of the elements. By this logical, easy-to-grasp principle, the user is able to find the desired protocol even without referring to the detailed table of contents or the exhaustive substance index that is also included.

Overall, the book is a treasure trove of synthetic wizardry with respect to its special compound class. The authors have done the community of synthetic organic chemists a huge service, for which they are to be applauded. Even if the price tag seems to be steep at first sight, *Thiophenes* is good value for the money and will fully pay back by the time saved – time that would otherwise be spent searching in libraries for information that is neatly gathered and distilled herein. It is highly recommendable to all laboratories concerned with the chemistry of heterocycles. For those working on sulfur-containing organic compounds, it is indispensable.

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