

Organic Syntheses Based on Name Reactions, 3rd edition, by A. Hassner and I. Namboothiri, Elsevier: Oxford, 2012, hardcover, 612 pp., € 57.95, ISBN 978-0-08-096630-4

Named reactions and reagents are a substantial part of the organic chemist's language. The third edition of Hassner's book dealing with this particular topic made me curious since I had reviewed the previous edition (2002). For our students' sake the second edition could not be recommended because it was stuffed with more than 700 chemical mistakes and typos. Consequently, I had a close look at this new edition. Beside the removal of the flaws, the tremendous achievements and vivid development in synthetic methodology in the recent decade definitely justify an update.

The book appears well structured and covers about 750 named reactions on 580 pages. The number of named transformations and reagents was increased by approx. 38%. The selection of named entries is well done and covers many modern developments. The authors used a minimalistic approach for the individual entries: First, a short introduction describes the essentials of this transformation within one sentence. Here the cross-references to other named reactions are given. Second, a scheme with two to three examples follows equipped with a short experimental part. This will give the reader a fast idea which efforts will be associated with the respective named reaction. Finally, the individual entry is completed with several references. For covering such a large amount of named transformations in a single and affordable book, this strategy is absolutely suitable. Unfortunately, there are no more positive characteristics to be mentioned about this book.

The book I received for reviewing is of bad production quality, several pages are either not well cut or appear dirty due to problems during the printing process. Most disappointingly, most of the chemical mistakes were transferred from the previous book into the new edition. The visual improvement is mainly focussed on the addition of new entries, layout and references. I missed named reactions as the Shi epoxidation as single entry and not as

Curci–Murray reaction. The Bamberger rearrangement to aminophenols is not mentioned at all. To report the plethora of all chemical mistakes, several pages of this issue would be required. Thus, only some selected examples and general statements are given:

Mistakes are found almost on every page and are based on wrong charges, missing/additional bonds, inconsistent stereochemistry, missing/additional groups, wrong reagents, and many more. Consequently, a less-experienced chemist will not benefit from this particular information. Unfortunately, many key steps contain mistakes and we can anticipate it will be difficult for a student to get the point, for example on page 228 in the Hoppe chemistry, BuLi will deprotonate the carbamate but in the book it just serves as a Li⁺ source and no deprotonation occurs! The scientific value has to be questioned if BuLi does not deprotonate PPh₂H upon its addition (page 301, structure 3). As in the previous book, there is non-precise naming of the reactions: Freudenberg became Freuderberg, Wurtz mutated to Würtz, and from Ullmann, F; Torre, L. A. they created the Ullmann–La Torre reaction.

Since many important points for the understanding of an individual transformation are wrongly depicted, the scientific qualification of the authors is questionable. Moreover, very outstanding scientists like Seebach and Danishefsky wrote forewords which are included in this book. Have they ever had a look into this monograph? Hopefully not! The vast number of mistakes within this book makes this monograph dangerous for students who are not that critical or experienced in organic chemistry. This book will unfortunately cause more confusion and misunderstanding than any other book in this respective field. Consequently, I strongly advise potential readers or scientific libraries not to use this book.

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