
Volume Editor's Preface

This volume of *Science of Synthesis* concerns the synthesis of aldehydes. It covers the preparation of aliphatic and alicyclic aldehydes in the largest section, which consists of 16 subsections, and the preparation of aromatic aldehydes in the second-largest section, which is subdivided into nine subsections. Three sections summarize synthetic approaches to unsaturated aldehydes, namely enals, polyenals, and ynals. The remainder of the volume is devoted to aldehydes containing heteroatoms and is organized into four sections: aldehydes with a singly bonded heteroatom at C2, aldehydes with a singly bonded heteroatom at C3, aldehydes with two singly bonded heteroatoms at C2, and aldehydes with a double bond to a heteroatom located at C2. These sections and the weight allotted to each of them are reflective of two concerns: to provide broad coverage of those types of aldehydes that are of general interest, and to compile methodology for the preparation of aldehyde classes of more specialized interest with attention to detail. The virtues of the individual methods are described and compared, many recent strategies are provided, and typical experimental procedures are included, as is usual in *Science of Synthesis*.

It is with pleasure and gratitude that I thank my authors, 23 of whom took on the challenge to screen, select, and compose the material for a total of 32 chapters. This number is proof of the enthusiasm of all of those who accepted this work on top of their regular duties. In this context I am particularly grateful to, and proud of, the contributions of the six chemists from industry, who thereby proved themselves to be reliable “academic characters by mind”. No matter what the ensemble of us contributed, it would not have been sufficient to complete what is finally going into print, had it not been for the continuous input of Dr. Mark Smith and Dr. Marcus White during their many revisions of the manuscripts at their various stages of accomplishment. The dedication that these people exhibited in the hectic final phase of the project in polishing the texts until hopefully all reasons for criticism were removed, has been more than noteworthy and deeply appreciated. Finally, the coordination of the whole project by Dr. M. Fiona Shortt de Hernandez shall be acknowledged; it was indispensable for keeping the timeline. Last but not least, my thanks are due to Professor Schaumann who introduced me to the responsibilities of an editor's work and provided gentle guidance wherever appropriate.

Volume Editor
Reinhard Brückner

Freiburg, November 2006