

Meet Prof. Hideto Ito, Thieme Chemistry Journals Awardee 2024!



Prof. Hideto Ito is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Nagoya University (Japan). He obtained both his Master's degree (2009) and his PhD (2012) at Hokkaido University (Japan). During his PhD studies, he spent some time at Albert-Ludwig Universität Freiburg (Germany) as a visiting researcher. His career at Nagoya University began in 2012 when he worked there as a JSPS Research Fellow. He became a Lecturer in 2013, and assumed his current position in 2018.

Thieme: Which field of organic chemistry are you interested in the most and why?

Prof. Ito: Creating new catalysts, reactions, methodologies and concepts in organic synthesis.

Thieme: Following that, what is the focus of your current research activity?

Prof. Ito: Unique synthesis using alkyne, and synthesis of novel ladder molecules/polymers, polycyclic aromatics and nanographenes.

Thieme: What do you think about the modern role and prospects of organic chemistry?

Prof. Ito: Organic chemistry will persist in enriching not just our daily lives through material innovation, but also our human spirit through avenues of artistry and playfulness.

Thieme: Which difficulties are there for young upcoming chemists in your field? Do you have any tips?

Prof. Ito: Establishing a distinct research identity within the Japanese laboratory system, separate from that of a supervising professor, is crucial. Embrace the value of minor papers achieved through challenges and hard work, as they offer a more rewarding experience than relying solely on the legacy of past research for high-level journal publications. Stay committed to challenging yourself and your scientific pursuits, irrespective of the allure of prestigious journals.

Thieme: What is your most important scientific achievement to date and why?

Prof. Ito: My most significant scientific accomplishment thus far has been the development of innovative methodologies and concepts, notably the annulative π -extension (APEX) approach for synthesizing polycyclic aromatic compounds. I selected this achievement due to its transformative nature; APEX reactions offer access to compounds unreachable through conventional methods like the Scholl reaction, thereby opening new avenues in chemical synthesis of polycyclic aromatics and nanographenes.

Thieme: Could you tell us something about yourself outside the lab, such as your hobbies or extra-work interests?

Prof. Ito: Taking nature photos, hiking and outing with my wife, driving by my favorite car CELICA GT-FOUR, going to eat delicious Ramen with my students, playing PS5 and watching “anime” and “manga” with my wife.
