

PREFACE

This book is intended to survey, in a very succinct style, several valuable and distinctive techniques for organic synthesis which have not found daily use in the laboratory. The relatively low degree of technical demands of these processes should not have discouraged their routine employment by preparative chemists, yet, unfortunately, the frequency of applications is incommensurate with their synthetic potentials. It is hoped that this volume will somewhat remedy the neglect. In order to facilitate the readers to adopt the methods in their work, experimental procedures are included where appropriate. Because my prime objective is to gather all the essential information within a single cover, only representative examples are used to illustrate the methodologies. The enormous amounts of data cannot be included, even in a tabular form. For the same reason I basically refrain from describing detailed theories underlying the reactions of which source materials are available elsewhere.

The idea of grouping all these techniques in a single volume was many years old, and a somewhat abbreviated Chinese version of this text was published in 1993. Immediately afterwards I presented a proposal for an English edition under the title of "Organic Synthesis Under Extreme Conditions" to an American publisher and was rejected. Curiously, a multiauthor volume with virtually the same title and coverage appeared in the market in 1997. In light of this situation the readers are urged to compare and judge the merits of this and the other book. Of course the proposed readership of this work is the synthetic community.

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