Additions and Corrections

Excited State Energy Distribution and Redistribution and Chemical Reactivity; Mechanistic and Exploratory Organic Photochemistry *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2000**, *122*, 952−953. HOWARD E. ZIMMERMAN* AND I. V. ALABUGIN

The following Supporting Information paragraph was omitted from this paper:

Supporting Information Available: Computational detail and numerical results and figures illustrating Δ*D* values (PDF). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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Book Reviews

Chemical Creativity: Ideas from the Work of Woodward, Hückel, Meerwein, and Others. By Jerome A. Berson (Yale University). Wiley-VCH: Weinheim and New York. 1999. xii + 195 pp. $62.95. ISBN 3-527-29754-5

Can creativity be taught? Most likely not, but it can be learned. The objective of this book is to bring to life the situations surrounding the discovery of some of the most prolific scientific discoveries in organic chemistry, not in an effort to teach creativity, but to serve as an example of creativity and the additional insight that maybe there really is no such thing as serendipity. By critically analyzing past discoveries, it is the hope of the author to put those discoveries into perspective. By covering the contributions of many noted chemists, this book also fills a gap that is left by those scientists no longer able to contribute to the autobiographical ACS monograph series: Profiles, Pathways and Dreams.

The book begins with a chapter that introduces the basis for the need of a book of this sort and the concept for which the book represents. Simply put, the better our understanding of previous creative endeavors, the greater the chance that we too will embark on a creative venture. Chapters 1−5 contain detailed analyses of scientific investigations, touching on such broad topics as personality, as it influences the science or our perception of it. Chapter topics include the Diels−Alder reaction, orbital symmetry, the theory of aromaticity, steroid chemistry, and an investigation of the use of symmetrization experiments in the mechanistic investigation of a wide array of reactions. The book finishes with a tribute to the two attributes that this book addresses: connoisseurship and inheritance, each a rationale for the need of a book of this sort.

Synthetic chemists will surely enjoy the discovery of the Diels−Alder reaction and the extensive treatment of the history of steroid chemistry. Physical organic chemists get equal billing with the extensive treatment of orbital symmetry and aromaticity. A favorite of educators will likely be Chapter 5, where the author shows myriad examples where symmetry has played a crucial role in experimental design, to enhance our understanding of reaction mechanisms. The list is vast and quite enlightening, starting with applications to simple transformations through complex reaction mechanisms and biological implications. Indeed, this chapter comprises nearly one-third the entire text.

I will be the first to admit that I am a history buff, but you do not need to be a student of history to enjoy this book or to realize its benefit to our understanding of the science we encounter on a daily basis. For the many individuals fortunate enough to have interacted with the author, the prose of this text will be quite refreshing and memorable, since the book reads as if you were actually having a conversation with him. I encourage both chemists and scientists from other disciplines to read this book in order to gain creative insight into the minds of those who preceded us and to gain a better understanding of “...how we know what we know”.

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