

# **Comprehensive Organic Functional Group Transformations**

**Volume 4**

4

# Comprehensive Organic Functional Group Transformations

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SYNTHESIS: CARBON WITH TWO HETEROATOMS,  
EACH ATTACHED BY A SINGLE BOND

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# Preface

Some years ago the three of us met in a London club reviewing an ongoing publishing venture in Organic Synthesis. The conversation drifted to a consideration of volumes on the synthesis of key functional groups. No doubt the good wine helped since we actually broached the idea of a work on the synthesis of *all* functional groups. Would it be useful? Definitely. Would it be feasible? How would it be organized? Where do you start? We recognized that functionality was based on the coordination and heteroatom attachment of a carbon atom. But putting together a complete framework seemed particularly daunting. Two of us became very interested in the fascinating bouquet of the Muscat de Beaumes de Venise.

At our next dinner together Alan announced that he had solved the problems posed last time—problems that Charles and I hoped he had forgotten! He brought out a remarkable matrix analysis of *all* functional groups, analysed rigorously and logically. Even unknown functions were covered. Although we were all very impressed, the practicalities of the idea still seemed daunting. Those who know Alan's terrier instincts will appreciate that he would not give up such a challenge so easily. Our twice yearly club get-togethers, occasionally with friends from Pergamon, refined our thinking. Alan's cosmic vision was tempered by Charles's intuitive realism and fully supported by the publishers.

Another major problem remained: how to reduce our thinking into a practical handbook for authors—a dismaying task for three busy chemists. We settled on a seven-volume work and the indomitable ARK produced a rough breakdown to fit such a format. Putting flesh on these bones became feasible during a fortuitous three-month break between jobs by myself, and the largest handbook ever assembled by Pergamon (120 pages) was written and page allocations agreed—even for little or unknown functional groups. Sample chapters were commissioned and finally proved very encouraging, despite our first chosen topic uncovering virtually no known examples!

Contracts were defined and agreed, volume editors approached, and potential authors considered during a pleasant preconference stay in Grasmere. Following the sale of Pergamon to Elsevier Science Ltd there was a lull in the project but soon *Comprehensive Organic Functional Group Transformations* was back on track, and everyone adhered to a very businesslike timetable.

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# Introduction

## OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND COVERAGE

*Comprehensive Organic Functional Group Transformations* (COFGT) aims to present the vast subject of organic synthesis in terms of the introduction and interconversion of functional groups. All organic structures can be considered as skeletal frameworks of carbon atoms to which functional groups are attached<sup>a</sup>; it is the latter which are mainly responsible for chemical reactivity and which are highlighted in COFGT. All known functional groups fit a logical and comprehensive pattern and this forms the basis for the detailed list of contents. The format of the present work was designed with the intention to cover systematically all the possible arrangements of atoms around a carbon, including those which are quite unfamiliar. The work also considers the possibility of as yet unknown functional groups which may be constructed in the future and prove to be important; thus COFGT also indicates what is not known and so points the way to new research areas.

The philosophy of the present work has been to rationalize this enormous subject within as logical and formal a framework as possible, in a scholarly and critical fashion. COFGT is designed to provide the first point of entry to the literature for synthetic organic chemists, together with an unrivalled source for anyone interested in less common, obscure, or unknown functional groups.

All functional groups are viewed as being carbon based (even if the group contains no carbon). Thus, a nitro compound is considered from the standpoint of the immediately attached carbon atom, whether di- ( $sp$ ), tri- ( $sp^2$ ), or tetracoordinated ( $sp^3$ ). The work is organized on the basis of formation or rupture of bonds to a carbon atom and it is the nature of the carbon atom left after the transformation that determines the classification of the overall sequence. Several key criteria have been used to organize the work and to minimize overlap. These are, in order of priority:

1. the number of attached heteroatoms;
2. the coordination of the carbon atom involved in the functional group;
3. the nature of the immediately attached heteroatom(s); and
4. the Latest Placement Principle.

These four key principles have been used to determine the content of each volume, and to develop the detailed chapter breakdown within each volume.

Thus, according to the number of attached heteroatoms:

**Volume 1** deals with synthetic reactions which result in the alteration of bonding at carbon atoms which are left with *no* attached heteroatoms.

**Volume 2** deals with syntheses which result in carbon atoms attached to *one* heteroatom by a single bond.

**Volume 3** deals with syntheses which result in carbon atoms attached to *one* heteroatom by a double or by a triple bond.

**Volume 4** deals with syntheses which result in carbon atoms attached to *two* heteroatoms, each by a single bond.

**Volume 5** deals with syntheses which result in carbon atoms attached to *two* heteroatoms by one single and one double bond, or by two double bonds, or by one single and one triple bond.

**Volume 6** deals with syntheses which result in carbon atoms attached to *three* or *four* heteroatoms.

**Volume 7** comprises the author and subject indexes.

Certain key principles apply to all the volumes because all functional groups are viewed as carbon based (e.g. a nitro group is either alkyl-, vinyl-, aryl-, or alkynyl-); these are:

(a) Volumes are subdivided according to the *coordination* of the carbon atom which is the product of the reaction, i.e., tetra- coming before tri- before di- before monocoordinated carbon functions.

<sup>a</sup> The major exception to this lies in heterocyclic compounds, where the cyclic heteroatoms are more logically considered as part of the framework. The subject of heterocycles has been treated elsewhere in the companion work *Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry* published in 1984 with a second edition to be published in 1996.

In Volumes 1 and 6, reactions producing four-coordinated carbon are considered first, followed by three- and then two-coordinated carbon. The other volumes contain a more limited range of coordination types (Volumes 2 and 4 only four-coordinated, Volumes 3 and 5 only two- or three-coordinated). Each type of coordination is allocated a separate section in each volume.

(b) Attached *heteroatoms* are discussed in the following order of priority:

Halogens—F, Cl, Br, I

Chalcogens—O, S, Se, Te

Nitrogen—N

Other group 15 elements—P, As, Sb, Bi

Metalloids—B, Si, Ge

Main group metals—Sn, Pb, Al, Ga, In, Tl, Be, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs

Transition metals—Cu, Ag, Au, Zn, Cd, Hg, Ti, Zr, Hf, Cr, Mo, W, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Pd, Pt, and others.

Higher coordination of heteroatoms is treated after lower. Thus, in sections dealing with iodo compounds, monocoordinate (e.g. iodides) are discussed before dicoordinate (e.g. iodoxylys) and tricoordinate functions.

(c) The *Latest Placement Principle* (or Last Position Principle) is used to avoid undue overlap in the work. Thus, the carbon attached to the heteroatom is discussed at the last possible position in the above prioritizing of heteroatoms. Examples of its application are noted later. On this basis, for example, when both C—C and C—H bonds are formed the reaction will appear in the latest chapter (i.e. Chapters 1.04–1.10 rather than in the earlier Chapters 1.01–1.03), and when both C—C and C=C bonds are formed, this will be found in the later Chapter 1.17. The Latest Placement Principle is particularly important in determining where to find electrocyclic reactions in Volume 1. If C—H, C=C, and C≡C bonds are all formed in a reaction, then the latest appropriate chapter will deal with the reaction. Only if a change in heterofunction occurs is the reaction left to a later volume.

Exceptions to the above principles are rare. However the reactions of heteroarenes are mentioned along with those of arenes. If on reduction no change in the heterofunction occurs (e.g. in going from thiophene to tetrahydrothiophene or from pyridine to 2,3,4,5-tetrahydropyridine) the reaction is found in Volume 1. However, when the function changes (e.g. pyridine to piperidine), the conversion is considered in Volume 2. Conversion of methyl phenyl sulfone into methyl cyclohexyl sulfone appears in Volume 2, whereas the formation of cyclohexyl methyl ketone is treated in Volume 1, since the coordination of the carbon atom to the heteroatoms is changed in the first but not in the second hydrogenation.

Some further exceptions to the rigorous ordering of the work have been made for the purpose of easy reference. Thus, in Volume 1, a special chapter on ions, radicals, and carbenes is added: this chapter is limited to the treatment of species capable of more than a transitory existence. Throughout the work aspects of the Latest Placement Principle are occasionally ignored for reasons of clarity. Thus metal ligands that are incidental to the chemistry under discussion are not considered when prioritizing. Also, references to aromatic substituents, some of which involve a heteroatom (e.g. pyridyl, thienyl, etc.) but are incidental to the chemistry being described, are not viewed as changing the priority.

Within each section, we have endeavored to explain the influence of important secondary effects such as inclusion in a ring, degree of strain, degree of substitution, various types of activation, influence of stereochemistry, and so on, on the transformation under consideration. General synthetic methods are treated before specific methods.

*Transient intermediates*, as such, do not fall within the scope of this work. Although there is clearly no sharp division, we have attempted to restrict coverage of radicals, etc., to more stable, longer lived species. It is the aim of this work to consider all organic functional groups provided that the molecules which incorporate them, though they may be unstable, can have a finite lifetime and chemistry. The whole work deals with the generation and transformation of functional groups, *not* of molecules such as CO<sub>2</sub>, COS, CS<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>, etc. Such simple carbon derivatives are not treated unless a further carbon is attached (e.g. R<sub>N</sub>C=O).

## VOLUME 1 SYNTHESIS: CARBON WITH NO ATTACHED HETEROATOMS

Volume 1 deals solely with the formation of nonheteroatom functional groups and as such is different in style to the remaining volumes.

In addition to the general principles, Volume 1 is further organized as follows:

1. By the type of bond formed (i.e. C—H before C—C).
2. By the type of reaction involved (i.e. substitution, then addition, then rearrangement). With C=C bond formation the order is addition, elimination, condensation, then electrocyclic and other methods. One rearrangement chapter only is devoted to each of the Parts I and II.
3. In Parts II and III the treatment of formation of ions, radicals, and carbenes is added at the end of the section dealing solely with those species with a significant rather than a transient lifetime.

In Volume 1, the heteroatom sequence is a secondary feature since only remote heteroatom functions are involved in the products: but the standard order pertains in reactants that contain heteroatoms (see, e.g. Chapters 1.01 and 1.02).

All the major structural influences that are treated throughout this work apply equally (or perhaps more importantly) in Volume 1. Thus the effects of conjugation, remote substituents, rings, stereochemistry, strain, kinetic or thermodynamic factors, solvation, primary, secondary and tertiary nature, etc., are mentioned whenever relevant.

## **VOLUME 2 SYNTHESIS: CARBON WITH ONE HETEROATOM ATTACHED BY A SINGLE BOND**

Volume 2 is arranged in three parts: I, II and III, dealing respectively with  $sp^3$ ,  $sp^2$ , and  $sp$  carbon linked to the heteroatom. In each chapter we have endeavored to explain important effects due to such features as the primary, secondary, tertiary nature, ring effects, strain activation, effect of beta, gamma, and more remote functionality, stereochemical effects, and so on. Methods that are common to a larger group are dealt with at their first appearance and suitably cross-referenced.

Volumes 2–6 all deal with the synthesis of functions involving at least one heteroatom. To avoid major overlap we have applied the Latest Placement Principle; that is, the chemistry is discussed at the last possible position based on the prioritization of the carbon attached to the heteroatom. Thus the compound  $\text{CH}_3\text{ONH}_2$  is treated under "Alkyl Chalcogenides" in the subsection "Functions Based on the RON-Unit" (i.e. 2.02.6). However,  $\text{CH}_3\text{ONHCH}_3$  appears under "Alkyl Nitrogen Compounds" (2.06.2.3) since the Latest Placement Principle prevails. Also, dialkyl ethers appear in Part I of Volume 2 (Functions Linked by a Single Bond to an  $sp^3$  Carbon Atom), while alkyl aryl ethers appear in Part II of Volume 2 (Functions Linked by a Single Bond to an  $sp^2$  Carbon Atom). Exceptions to the rule are:

(a) When a fully unsaturated heterocyclic substituent (e.g. thienyl, pyridyl, etc.) is used as an example of an aryl group, the ring heteroatom(s) is (are) not taken into account (e.g. 2-methoxypyridine should strictly appear in Volume 6, but is covered in Volume 2 along with 3- and 4-methoxypyridine).

(b) Carbon-based metal ligands that are incidental to the synthesis under discussion (e.g. carbonyls, cyclopentadienyls, etc.) are not taken into consideration.

## **VOLUME 3 SYNTHESIS: CARBON WITH ONE HETEROATOM ATTACHED BY A MULTIPLE BOND**

Volume 3 follows the logical development indicated in Volume 2. Thus, according to the Last Placement Principle, the imines,  $\text{RCH}=\text{N}-\text{R}$ , appear in Volume 3 rather than in Volume 2 (where functions singly bonded to carbon are treated). Furthermore, acetophenone,  $\text{PhCOCH}_3$ , is treated under  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketones (3.05) rather than saturated ketones (3.04). Chloronitroacrylonitriles would appear under the section " $\alpha,\beta$ -Vinyl Nitriles with Nitrogen-based Substituents" (3.19.2.7), not under the related earlier section dealing with halo-substituents (3.19.2.3).

## **VOLUME 4 SYNTHESIS: CARBON WITH TWO HETEROATOMS, EACH ATTACHED BY A SINGLE BOND**

Volume 4 is in three parts. Part I deals with tetracoordinated carbon bearing two heteroatoms, Part II with tricoordinated carbon bearing two heteroatoms, and Part III (a brief chapter) with stabilized radicals, ions, and the like bearing two heteroatoms. The material is arranged according

to the Latest Placement Principle: thus, the synthesis of  $\text{CHBr}_2\text{CHI}_2$  would appear in the section dealing with diiodo, not dibromo functions (i.e. in 4.01.5, not 4.01.4), and the synthesis of  $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{BrCl}$  is discussed in Volume 6 (carbons bearing three heteroatoms), rather than in Volume 4.

## VOLUME 5 SYNTHESIS: CARBON WITH TWO ATTACHED HETEROATOMS WITH AT LEAST ONE CARBON-TO-HETEROATOM MULTIPLE BOND

Volume 5 is in three parts. Part I deals with functions with one doubly bonded and one singly bonded heteroatom. Part II with functions containing two doubly bonded heteroatoms and Part III with one triply bonded and one singly bonded heteroatom. Part I constitutes the bulk of Volume 5.

The arrangement of the chemistry in each part follows the same logical sequence. The multiply bonded heteroatom is focused on first and then the other heteroatom in a secondary classification, both following the priority rules already described. Each section excludes the coverage of the previous sections. Thus, all carbonyl derivatives will appear in Chapters 5.01–5.10 but not in Chapters 5.11, *et seq.*

According to the Latest Placement Principle structure  $\text{RC(O)OC(S)R}$  is discussed in the chapter dealing with carbons bearing a doubly bonded sulfur and singly bonded oxygen (5.12.3), *not* in that dealing with doubly and singly bonded oxygen (5.04.1). Another effect of the Latest Placement Principle is that the amides  $\text{RCONMePh}$  are discussed under *N*-arylalkanoamides (5.06.2.4), rather than *N*-alkylalkanoamides (5.06.2.2). Again, exceptions are made to the latest placement rules for: (a) hetaryl rings used as examples of aryl substituents which are not viewed as functional groups. Thus, 2-methylimidazole is not considered as an example of an amidine function and 2-methoxypyridine is not an example of a doubly bonded nitrogen, singly bonded oxygen function; (b) metal ligands that are incidental to the organic chemistry under discussion are not viewed as functions in priority considerations.

## VOLUME 6 SYNTHESIS: CARBON WITH THREE OR FOUR ATTACHED HETEROATOMS

Volume 6 is in four parts. Part I deals with tetracoordinate carbons bearing three heteroatoms. Part II covers tetracoordinate compounds bearing four heteroatoms, i.e. substituted methanes, and Part III deals with tricoordinate systems bearing three heteroatoms, i.e. where one heteroatom is attached by a double bond. Part IV is brief and deals with stabilized radicals and ions. Not surprisingly, the coverage of Volume 6 is very large—and also shows that many gaps in the development of organic chemistry still exist.

The organization within the three sections not only follows the same broad logic developed in the previous volumes, but also has a structure unique to the multiheteroatom volume. According to the Latest Placement Principle  $\text{CF}_3\text{C}(\text{NR}_2)_3$  appears in the section dealing with carbons bearing three nitrogens (6.05.1.1), not that dealing with carbons bearing three halogens (6.01.2), while  $(\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O})_2\text{CO}$  appears in Part III, not in Part I.

In the chapter dealing with iminocarbonyl functions in Part III, the substituents on nitrogen are discussed in each appropriate subsection in the order outlined above. Thus, the  $\text{RN}=\text{C}$  group would be first considered with  $\text{R} = \text{H}$ , then alkyl, alkenyl, aryl and hetaryl, alkynyl and then heteroatom substituents in the usual order.

In each relevant section, we have endeavored to explain the influence of important secondary effects on the synthesis such as structure (primary, secondary, etc.), ring effects, strain, activation, stereochemistry, remote substituent effects, etc.

The arrangement of the chemistry in each of Parts I–III follows a similar pattern. Thus, each section commences with functions containing at least one halogen. This section deals with all combinations of halogen with other heteroatoms in the described order. The next section deals with functions containing at least one chalcogen in combination with any other heteroatoms except halogens. Subsequent sections each exclude the previous title heteroatom functions.

## VOLUME 7 INDEXES

Subject Indexes are included in each of Volumes 1–6 and Cumulative Subject and Author Indexes appear in Volume 7. Most entries in the Subject Index consist of two or three lines: the first line is the entry itself (e.g. Lactones) and the second line is descriptive of that entry (e.g. reduction); in many cases more detail is given (e.g. with 9-BBN).

## REFERENCES

The references are handled by the system previously used successfully in *Comprehensive Heterocyclic Chemistry*. In this system reference numbers appear neither in the text, nor as footnotes, nor at the end of chapters. Instead, each time a reference is cited in the text there appears (in parentheses) a two-letter code assigned to the journal being cited, which is preceded by the year (tens and units only for twentieth-century references) and followed by the page number. For example: "It was shown <80TL1327> that . . .". In this phrase, "80" refers to 1980, "TL" to *Tetrahedron Letters*, and "1327" to the page number. For those journals which are published in parts, or which have more than one volume number per year, the appropriate part of the volume is indicated, e.g. as in <73JCS(P2)1594> or <78JOM(162)611>, where the first example refers to *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans 2*, 1973, page 1594; and the second to *J. Organomet. Chem.*, 1978, volume 162, page 611.

This reference system is adopted because it is far more useful to the reader than the conventional "superscript number" system. It enables readers to go directly to the literature reference cited, without first having to consult the bibliography at the end of each chapter.

References to the last century quote the year in full. Books have a prefix "B-" and if they are commonly quoted (e.g. *Organic Reactions*) they will have a code. Otherwise, as with uncommon journals, they are given a miscellaneous code (MI) and numbered arbitrarily *abb1*, *abb2*, etc., where *abb* refers to the volume and chapter number and 1, 2, etc., are assigned sequentially. Patents are assigned appropriate three-letter codes.

The references are given in full at the end of each volume. They include *Chemical Abstract* references when these are likely to help; in particular, they are given for all patents, and for less accessible sources such as journals in languages other than English, French, or German, company reports, obscure books, and theses.

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