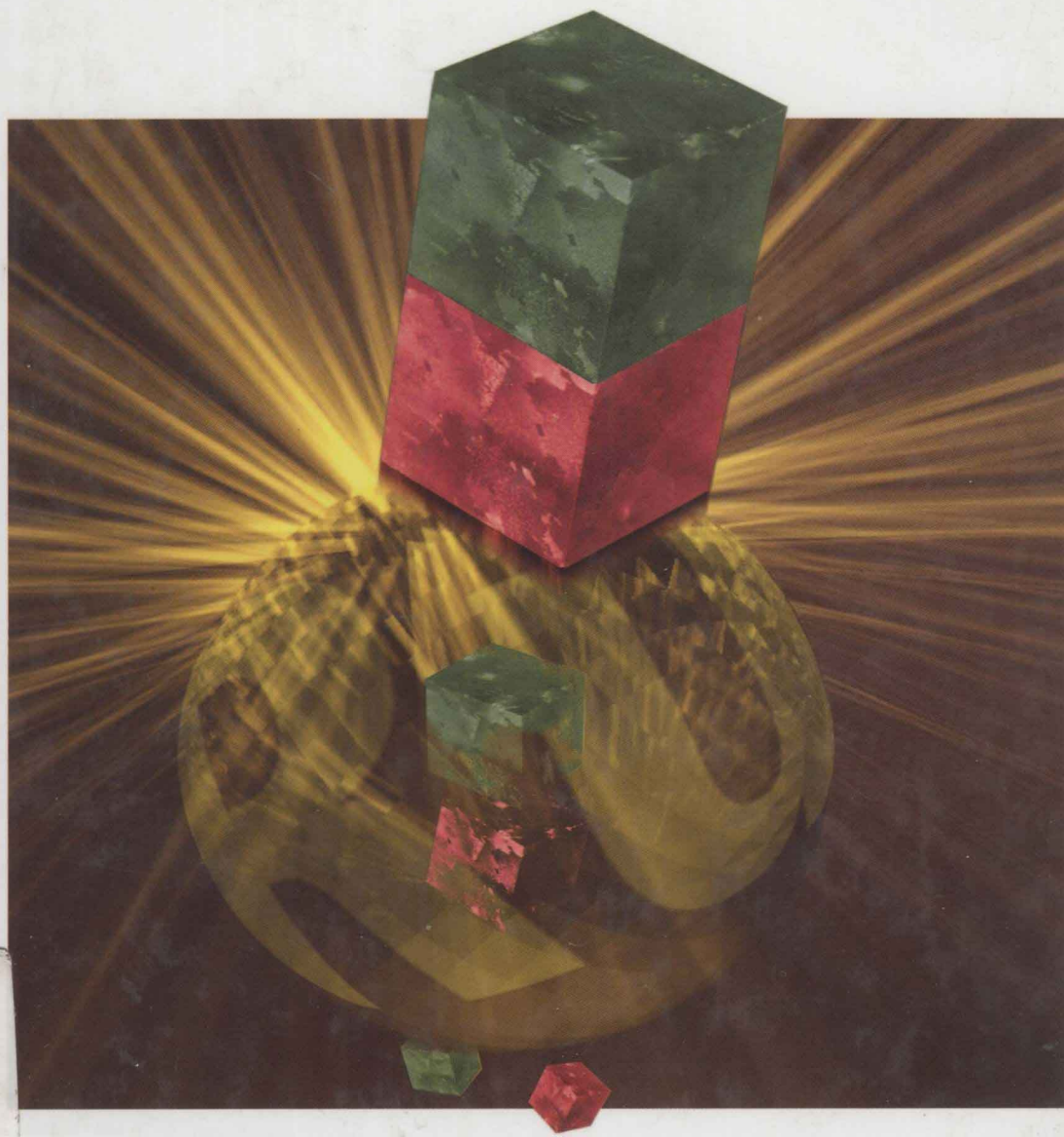


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Ruthenium in Organic Synthesis



Shun-Ichi Murahashi (Ed.)

Ruthenium in Organic Synthesis



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Preface

In the recent past, transition metals have contributed extensively to organic synthesis, and this trend will continue in the future. Although ruthenium chemistry has lagged somewhat behind that of the other transition metals such as palladium, ruthenium complexes have a variety of useful characteristics including high electron transfer ability, high coordination ability to hetero-atoms, Lewis acid activity, low redox potentials, and unique reactivity of metal species and intermediates such as oxo-metals, metallacycles, and carbene complexes. Consequently, a large number of novel, useful reactions have begun to be developed using both stoichiometric and catalytic amounts of ruthenium complexes. Although several organic reactions using ruthenium catalysts have been reviewed separately, there is at present no comprehensive book available which details the field of ruthenium chemistry. Hence, the publication of this volume, *Ruthenium in Organic Synthesis*, is both interesting and timely, bearing in mind the recent developments in ruthenium chemistry and the practical application of ruthenium compounds. I hope that this book will provide valuable information to those researchers currently working on the chemistry of ruthenium – both in academia and industry – and will stimulate new developments in this fascinating area of chemistry.

I would like to thank the authors of the individual chapters, each of whom is acknowledged as a world expert in their area of ruthenium chemistry, for their cooperation in writing within the limited number of pages available. I would also like to thank the team at Wiley-VCH, especially Dr. Elke Maase and Dr. Romy Kirsten for their help and cooperation, not only for editing the manuscripts but also for providing valuable assistance during the publishing process.

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Introduction

Shun-Ichi Murahashi

Metal-catalyzed reactions have made a great contribution to the recent growth of organic synthesis, and a variety of synthetic methods have been reported using mainly Group 8 transition metal complexes in stoichiometric or catalytic amounts. In particular, useful transformations bearing high chemo- and stereoselectivities have been discovered in the field of palladium chemistry. Of all elements of the Periodic Table, ruthenium has the widest scope of oxidation states (from -2 valent in $\text{Ru}(\text{CO})_4^{2-}$ to octavalent in RuO_4), and various coordination geometries in each electron configuration, which is in contrast to the narrow scope of oxidation states and simple square planar structure of palladium. For instance, in the principal lower oxidation states of 0, II, and III, ruthenium complexes normally prefer trigonal-bipyramidal and octahedral structures, respectively. Such a variety of ruthenium complexes has great potential for the exploitation of novel catalytic reactions and synthetic methods; however, as a consequence of the difficulties of matching the catalysts and substrates, ruthenium chemistry has lagged behind palladium chemistry by almost decade. Indeed, until the 1980s the reported useful synthetic methods using ruthenium catalysts are limited to a few reactions which include oxidations with RuO_4 , hydrogenation reactions, and hydrogen transfer reactions. As the coordination chemistry of ruthenium complexes has progressed, specific characters of ruthenium have been made clear.

Ruthenium is relatively inexpensive in comparison with the other Group 8 transition metals such as rhodium, and a wide variety of ruthenium complexes have been prepared. $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$ is frequently used as the starting material in the preparation of most of these ruthenium complexes [1]. The ruthenium complexes can be roughly divided into five groups according to their supporting ligands: carbonyl, tertiary phosphines, cyclopentadienyl, arene/dienes, and carbenes. These ligands have proven to serve effectively as the activating factors such as generation of coordinatively unsaturated species by the liberation of ligands, and stabilization of reactive intermediates. It has been understood that the precise control of coordination sites and redox sequences of the intermediates are especially important in the case of ruthenium to design specific organic transformations. Moreover, ruthenium complexes also demonstrate a variety of useful characteristics, which include low redox potential, high electron transfer ability, high coordination ability to heteroatoms, Lewis acid acidity, unique reactivity of metallic species and intermediates such as

oxo-metals, metallacycles, and metal carbene complexes. Therefore, a large number of novel, useful reactions have begun to be developed using catalytic amounts of ruthenium complexes [2,3]. The great influence of ruthenium chemistry on organic synthesis in recent years has now elevated the metal's importance to the same level as palladium, or even higher. Indeed, some ruthenium-catalyzed reactions have become industrial processes, with typical examples including a combination of the ruthenium-catalyzed asymmetric hydrogenation of 2-benzamidomethyl-3-oxobutanoate via kinetic resolution [4] and the ruthenium-catalyzed oxidation of (1*R*',3*S*)-3-[1'-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)ethyl]azetidin-2-one. The latter process provides an important industrial scheme for the synthesis of 4-acetoxiazetidinone, which is a versatile and key intermediate in the synthesis of cabapenem antibiotics [5]. Grubb's ruthenium carbene complexes have also been used for industrial ring-opening metathesis polymerization (ROMP) [6]. Recent progress in the ruthenium carbene complex-catalyzed carbon-carbon double bond formation for organic synthesis is outstanding, and has become extremely important [7].

The 13 chapters of this book survey a range of fields of organic syntheses promoted by ruthenium catalysts, which involve hydrogenation, oxidation, various carbon-carbon bond formations, C-H activation, carbonylation, isomerization, bond-cleavage reaction, metathesis reaction, and miscellaneous nucleophilic and electrophilic reactions.

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