Introduction to Organic Photochemistry

John D. Coyle

The Open University, Milton Keynes

The purpose of this book is to provide an introductory account of the major types of organic photochemical reactions, to enable those with a prior knowledge of basic organic chemistry to appreciate the differences between processes which occur photochemically (through an electronically excited state) and those that occur thermally (directly from the electronic ground state). The material is organized according to organic functional groups, in parallel with the approach adopted in most general textbooks on organic chemistry. In this respect it differs from many of the existing, older organic photochemistry texts. The first chapter provides an account of the distinctive features of photochemical reactions, and a physical/mechanistic framework for the descriptions in the rest of the book. The overall emphasis is on organic photoreactions potentially useful in synthesis. The book thus integrates this branch of chemistry with broader aspects of the subject, and introduces the reader to important applications of organic photochemistry.

About the author

John Coyle is currently Lecturer in Chemistry at the Open University. His interest in organic photochemistry started during research at Oxford University, and has expanded to include mechanistic and synthetic aspects, and more recently, the role of photochemistry in a range of biological processes involving proteins. He has previously written, in collaboration with
John Barltrop, Excited States in Organic Chemistry, and Principles of Photochemistry, and was involved in the production of the Open University's major undergraduate course, 'Photochemistry: Light, Chemical Change and Life'.

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