

SYNTHESIS

Editorial

Dear Readers and Authors,



Each December is a time to look ahead to new developments in the coming year and to reflect upon the last twelve months. The first year with 24 issues of *Synthesis* lies behind us. The decision to publish two issues per month has allowed us to manage more efficiently the vast increase in submissions we have had over the last three years. The milestone of 4000 published pages has been surpassed for the first time, with 4278 pages, to be precise – an increase of 16% compared with 2005.

The top five countries in terms of number of submissions are India, China, Iran, Germany and the USA. In particular, India and China have seen the most significant increase, accounting for approximately 35% of all submissions. As to the number of published articles, Germany, USA, India, France and China fill the first five positions. The primary goal of *Synthesis* has always been and remains the dissemination of high-quality research results in synthetic organic chemistry and closely related disciplines. The improved ISI Impact Factor of 2.401, which keeps *Synthesis* among the top ten full-paper primary research journals in organic chemistry, indicates that the journal is headed in the right direction.

Not surprisingly, the most popular articles in *Synthesis* are the Reviews. “Chiral Auxiliaries – Principles and Recent Applications” by F. Glorius and Y. Gnas (issue 12) was the most downloaded Review article from 2006 by the end of November, whereas the PSP article by P. Knochel and A. Krasovskiy on a “Convenient Titration Method for Organometallic Zinc, Magnesium, and Lanthanide Reagents” gathered the most interest from among the original contributions. From the statistics available at the time of writing, the five most popular Reviews and original papers that appeared between January and November 2006 are listed in the following table.

Most downloaded Reviews and original contributions of the time period January–November 2006

	Title	Corresponding Authors	Article Type
1	Chiral Auxiliaries – Principles and Recent Applications	F. Glorius	Review on page 1899
2	Stereoselective Synthesis of 1,3-Diols	M. Müller	Review on page 557
3	Guanidines in Organic Synthesis	T. Ishikawa	Review on page 737
4	Catalytic Enantioselective Construction of All-Carbon Quaternary Stereocenters	B. M. Trost	Review on page 369
5	α,β -Dehydroamino Acids	B. König	Review on page 1
6	Convenient Titration Method for Organometallic Zinc, Magnesium, and Lanthanide Reagents	P. Knochel	PSP on page 890
7	A Novel Synthesis of New 3-Aryl-7-methylpyrano[4,3- <i>b</i>]pyran-4 <i>H</i> ,5 <i>H</i> -diones Using Hypervalent Iodine(III) Reagents	O. Prakash, A. K. Sadana	Short Paper on page 21
8	A New Regioselective Bromination of Activated Aromatic Rings	P. M. Esteves, M. C. S. de Mattos	Short Paper on page 221
9	'In situ' Generated 'HCl' – An Efficient Catalyst for Solvent-Free Hantzsch Reaction at Room Temperature: Synthesis of New Dihydropyridine Glycoconjugates	G. V. M. Sharma	Paper on page 55
10	Oxidation of Alcohols with Catalytic Amounts of IBX	A. Giannis	Paper on page 257

In addition to the now-customary special articles (Reviews, Features and PSPs) in each regular issue, special issues of *Synthesis* continue to be highlights of the year, as was again the case with this year's July I issue dedicated to Professor Dieter Hoppe. Although restricted to a special section, the valuable contributions dedicated to Professor Martin Semmelhack were of such high quantity that the total number of pages exceeded that of some regular issues. Another excellent organic chemist and former regional editor of *Synthesis* – Paul Wender – celebrates his 60th birthday in 2007. On this occasion, *Synthesis* will publish a dedicated special issue organized by Erick Carreira.

As mentioned above, quality of research and its presentation remain top priorities at *Synthesis*. The journal currently has a rejection rate of 48% – the highest in its history. Only manuscripts that fit within the scientific parameters of *Synthesis* and meet the high quality standards of the journal are accepted for publication by one of the regional editors with the help of at least two referees. Many thanks go to the regional editors for their fine and enthusiastic work in handling the manuscript submissions, soliciting special articles, and overseeing the peer-review process. Credit and appreciation also go to the referees, whose unseen contributions help us to maintain our high scientific standard.

The most obvious change you will note for 2007 is the layout of the table of contents for each issue. Due to the ever-increasing amount of primary literature published every year and the convenience of electronic access, many of today's scientists have adapted their approach to browsing the literature and rely evermore on abstracts to help them

gauge the aptness of an article to their own interests. As a result, the importance of a well-designed graphical abstract has intensified – it has truly become a "billboard" for the article. Our new layout answers to the implied requirement by providing more space per article, thereby permitting a better fit for larger molecules and offering enhanced readability. We continue to encourage the effective use of color to boost the explanatory power of graphical abstracts. A document with several sample graphical abstracts is available next to the updated version of the Instructions for Authors in the "For Authors" section on the *Synthesis* web site (www.thieme-chemistry.com).

We will continue to keep you, our readers and authors, informed about any other new features and developments throughout 2007. We look forward to publishing your exciting new discoveries that encompass all aspects and trends in synthetic organic chemistry.

On behalf of the editors and the editorial office team in Stuttgart, I thank you, our authors and referees, for your contributions, help and valuable comments, and you, our readers, for your continued interest in the content of *Synthesis*.

With my best wishes for success, peace, and happiness in the New Year!

Susanne Haak
Managing Editor
December 2006