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Introduction

We have abstracted over 1400 references in carbohydrate chemistry for 1983. The areas of interest reflected in these references have confirmed the trends apparent in recent years. Besides the well-established fields of glycoside, nucleoside, and antibiotic chemistry, there has been a rapid increase in papers reporting the synthesis of chiral natural products from carbohydrate precursors, and a separate chapter on oligosaccharides has clearly justified its inclusion. Incidentally, these last two chapters have both resulted from suggestions made to us by interested readers, and we would like to encourage further participation of this kind. The emphasis in these areas should not obscure the fact that many other aspects of monosaccharide and oligosaccharide chemistry continue to attract much interest, as is demonstrated by the fact that only six of the twenty-four chapters in this volume contain fewer than thirty references.

An appreciation of the life and work of J.K.N.Jones has been published.¹

Reviews covering general aspects of carbohydrate chemistry have included a survey of nucleophilic substitution reactions in carbohydrate derivatives,² discussions of the role of lone-pair interactions in the selective functionalization of hexopyranosides in esterification and etherification reactions,^{3,4} and a review of some studies in asymmetric synthesis, Diels-Alder reactions, and stereospecific sugar synthesis.⁵

References

- 1 W.A.Szarek, M.Stacey, and G.W.Hay, Adv. Carbohydr. Chem. Biochem., 1983, 41, 1.
- 2 Z.Smiatacz and A.Moczulska, Wiad. Chem., 1982, 36, 595 (Chem. Abstr., 1983, 99, 105 588).
- 3 V.G.S.Box, Heterocycles, 1983, 20, 677.
- 4 V.G.S.Box, Heterocycles, 1983, 20, 1641.
- 5 T.Mukaiyama, Pure Appl. Chem., 1982, 54, 2455.