

1

Introduction and General Aspects

We hope that the following chapters provide a fair summary of the large amount of carbohydrate chemistry published in 1987, and give an indication of the wide range of compounds reported and studied during the year. The report covers monosaccharides, disaccharides, and specific oligosaccharides (as defined in Chapter 4). As usual, the most extensive chapters cover glycosides and nucleosides, but several other chapters contain a large number of references, and over 1500 references altogether demonstrate the interest in this area of chemistry. The report reflects a particular surge of interest in C-glycosides in Chapter 3 and in inositol phosphates in Chapter 18.

The lack of a precise definition of a carbohydrate has led to somewhat arbitrary decisions as to whether border-line cases merit inclusion in our survey; we have tried to assess likely interest to carbohydrate chemists, or whether significant carbohydrate chemistry is discussed in work focussed as much if not more on aglycone units. We apologize if our judgement does not always meet with your approval.

Reviews of a more general nature not covered elsewhere in this report include a review on the evolution of a general strategy for the stereoselective construction of polyoxygenated natural products,¹ and a review of some miscellaneous topics involving synthetic reactions of carbohydrates, including syntheses of aminosugars, deoxysugars, glycosides, and the Ferrier ring synthesis.²

References

- 1 S.J.Danishefcky, Aldrichimica Acta, 1986, 19, 59 (Chem. Abstr., 1987, 106, 138 108).
- 2 F.Sztaricskai, I.Pelyvas, and R.Bognar, Magy. Kem. Lapja, 1986, 41, 147 (Chem. Abstr., 1987, 106, 156 776).