

Preface

The last few decades have witnessed some exciting developments of synthetic methodologies in organic chemistry. Chiefly among these developments are ring-closing metathesis (RCM) and transition metal-catalyzed C–H activation, which have emerged as novel and useful tools.

A touchstone for any synthetic methodology is how practical it is in synthesis, especially total synthesis of natural products. Therefore, it is not surprising that books on total synthesis occupy a place on nearly every organic chemist's bookshelf.

This volume is somewhat different from previous books on total synthesis. We have been fortunate enough to enlist eleven current practitioners in the field of total synthesis to describe one of their best total syntheses. These authors leveraged synthetic methodologies developed in their own laboratories as key operations in their construction of natural products. As such, this book reflects a true sense of what is happening at the frontiers of organic chemistry.

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