Professor Jan Epsztajn

A Tribute

Jan Epsztajn was born in Łódź (Poland) on November 28, 1932. He obtained his M.Sc. degree at the Technical University of Łódź (Politechnika Łódzka) in 1957 under the supervision of Professor Jan Michalski. He then worked for two years for the chemical industry. In 1959 he moved to the University of Łódź (Uniwersytet Łódzki) and joined the group of Professor Witold E. Hahn. In 1963 he received his Ph.D. degree and was appointed Assistant Professor at the University of Łódź. With the permission of the University he also worked part-time for the pharmaceutical industry.

Twice, with sabbaticals (1968/69 and 1975), he carried out research at the University of East Anglia (Norwich, UK) in the research group of Professor Alan R. Katritzky. He was engaged in studies related to the synthesis of *N*-amino species and their conversion into N-N-NO_2 aromatic heterocycles as well as aliphatic systems.

After his return and completion of the habilitation thesis in 1977, he received his D.Sc. degree and was appointed Associate Professor at the University of Łódź where in 1988 he was promoted to the position of full Professor.

His scientific interest was initially oriented towards applications of the Mannich Reaction in the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds and at the same time he was also involved in a study of the reactivity of pyridocycloalkenes in their relation to alkylpyridines. Part of this study was carried out in cooperation with Professor Hubertus Ahlbrecht and Dr. Hans-Otto Kalinowski from the Justus Liebig University in Giessen (Germany). This research was concerned with the conformational analysis of cycloalkenes fused with aromatic species.

In Poland he pioneered research on the applications of *ortho*-metallation (lithiation) as a methodology for the preparation of heterocyclic systems fused with aromatic and heteroaromatic rings. The essential examples of this activity were as follows: regioselective construction of

phthalides, isoindolinones, isocoumarines, isocoumarones as well their aza-analogues and a general procedure for aza-anthraquinones systems. The list of selected publications of Professor Jan Epsztajn illustrates the scope of his chemical interests.

Professor Jan Epsztajn has received several distinctions for his contributions to chemistry.

Professor Jan Epsztajn has served the chemical community for many years. Along with his direct scientific activity, he was promoter and motivator of various important events.

Professor Jan Epsztajn is always friendly and with a remarkable sensitivity he listens and helps not necessarily in relation to work. It has been a great honor and pleasure for me to write this tribute.

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Selected Publications of Professor Jan Epsztajn

1. O wyzyskaniu reakcji Mannicha do syntezy układów heterocyklicznych. II. Pochodne kwasu (-2,3,4,5-czterohydro-1,2,4,-triazynylo-4)-octowego (Application of Mannich Reaction for Synthesis of Heterocyclic Systems. Part II. (2,3,4,5-Tetrahydro-1,2,4-triazinyl-4)-acetic Acid Derivatives) Hahn, W. H.; Epsztajn, J. *Rocz. Chem.* **1961**, *35*, 907.
2. Cykloparafiny skondensowane z pierścieniami heterocyklicznymi. III. Synteza cyklicznych analogów α-winylopirydyn (Cycloparaffins Conjugated with Heterocyclic Rings. Part III. Synthesis of Cyclic Analogues of α-Vinylpyridines) Hahn W. H.; Epsztajn, J. *Rocz. Chem.* **1964**, *38*, 989.
3. Pochodne benzo[4,5]azepiny (Benz[4,5]azepine derivatives) Hahn, W. H.; Epsztajn, J.; Madeja-Kotkowska, Z. *Rocz. Chem.* **1965**, *39*, 1423.
4. Cykloparafiny skondensowane z pierścieniami heterocyklicznymi. XV. Reakcja aldehydów aromatycznych z 6-metylo-2,3-cykloalkenopirydynami (Cycloparaffins Conjugated with Heterocyclic Rings. Part XV. Reaction of Aromatic Aldehydes with 6-Methyl-2,3-cycloalkenpyridines) Epsztajn, J.; Hahn, W. E.; Tosik, B. K. *Rocz. Chem.* **1969**, *43*, 807.
5. Amine-nitroimides: a New Functional GroupEpsztajn, J; Katritzky, A. R. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1969**, *10*, 4739.

6. N-Oxides and Related Compounds-XXXIX; Some Reactions of 1-Aminopyridinium Salts Epsztajn, J.; Lunt, E; Katritzky, A. R. *Tetrahedron* **1970**, *26*, 1665.
7. Lithiation of Pyrido[b]cycloalkenes with Phenyllithium Epsztajn, J.: Bieniek, A.; Brzeziński, J. Z. *Bull. Acad. Pol. Sci., Ser.Sci. Chim.* **1975**, *23*, 917.
8. Allylic and Benzylic Deamination by Thermal Cleavage of 1-Substituted 1,2-dihydro-2,4,6-triphenylpyridines Bulton, A. J.; Epsztajn, J.; Katritzky, A. R.; Nie, P.-L. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1976**, *17*, 2689.
9. Lithiation of The Cycloalkeno[b]quinolines by Phenyllithium Brzeziński, J. Z.; Epsztan, J.; Michalski, T. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1976**, *17*, 4635.
10. *N*-Oxides and Related Compounds. Part 58. Some Precursors of Pyridinum Methylide Bapat, J. B.; Epsztajn, J.; Katritzky, A. R.; Plau, B. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1* **1977**, 1692.
11. Reactions of the N,N-dialkylpyridylcarboxylic Amides with Lithium Amides. Regioselective Lithiation of N,N-diisopropyl-pyridylcarboxylic Amides, A Useful Method for Synthesis of 2,3- and 3,4-Disubstituted Pyridines Epsztajn, J.; Berski, Z.; Brzeziński J. Z.; Jóźwiak, A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1980**, *21*, 4739.
12. The Dual Behaviour of N,N-Dialkylpyridylcarboxylic Amides in the Reaction with Lithium Diisopropylamide Epsztajn, J.; Bieniek, A.; Brzeziński J. Z.; Jóźwiak, A. *Tetrahedron Letters* **1983**, *24*, 4735.
13. Delocalisation, Conformation and Basicity of Anilines Ahlbrecht, H.; Düber, E. O.; Epsztajn, J.; Marcinkowski, R. M. K. *Tetrahedron* **1984**, *40*, 1157.
14. The Conformational Analysis of Benzocycloalkanones Using the Lanthanide Induced Shift Method Epsztan, J.; Bieniek, A.; Brzeziński, J. Z.; Kalinowski, H.-O. *Tetrahedron* **1986**, *42*, 3559.
15. Applications of Organolithium and Related Reagents in Synthesis, Part 7. Synthesis and Metallation of 4-Methoxypicolin- and 2-Methoxyisonicotinanilides. A Useful Method for Preparatoin of 2,3,4,-trisubstisutes pyridines Epsztajn, J.; Bieniek, A.; Płotka, M. W., Suwald, K. *Tetrahedron* **1989**, *45*, 7469.
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17. Applications of Organolithium and Related Reagents in Synthesis, Part 9. Synthesis and Metallation of 4-Chloropicolin- and 2-Chloroisonicotinanilides. A Useful Method for Preparation of 2,3,4,-Trisubstisutes Pyridines Epsztajn, J.; Bieniek A.; Kowalska, J. A. *Tetrahedron* **1991**, *47*, 1697.
18. Applications of Organolithium and Related Reagents in Synthesis, Part 11. Metallation of 2-Methyl- and 4-Methylisonicotin acids. A Useful Method for Preparation of Aza-isocoumarins Epsztajn, J.; Płotka, M. W.; Ścianowski, J. *Synth. Commun.* **1992**, *22*, 1239.
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