

added zeolite as the prepared catalysts are too large to enter the pores of the zeolite supercages.

In situ EXAFS studies are currently underway to probe the exact mechanism by which these hybrid catalyst systems operate (14).

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Palladium Catalysts in Modern Organic Synthesis

Database of Palladium Chemistry: Reactions, Catalytic Cycles and Chemical Parameters
CD-ROM version 1.0

BY J.-L. MALLERON AND A. JUIN, Academic Press, London, 1996, ISBN 012-466760-0, £545.00

Palladium mediated reactions are particularly valuable for the direct introduction of carbonyl groups, for forming carbon-carbon bonds via coupling processes typified by Heck reactions, and for selective oxidations such as those based on conventional Wacker reactions. Recent exciting results with asymmetric palladium-catalysed reactions will keep palladium at the forefront of new methodologies in synthetic organic chemistry. Therefore, many texts are available concerned with applications of palladium species in organic synthesis, such as those in (1, 2).

The present CDROM is not a text but a database of some 3500 published organic transformations in which 'palladium' is the catalyst. All the usual mechanistic types are represented and the records take the form of reference citations with equations showing structures of reactants and products, and other information. Author names, catalysts/ligands, structures, solvents, reactants and products can be searched, and this is a fairly rapid process. Substructures can be searched by using ISIS/Draw to draw the reaction, transferring it to the box "reaction", then searching.

The database needs a PC with MS Windows

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However, there is certainly a place for such databases, but this one is not cheap. Potential users are probably already using on-line databases. So the price of a CDROM (and updates) has to be compared with on-line search costs. At present, this reviewer would tend to favour the latter, but as larger amounts of information become available at lower prices, the balance could move towards the use of CDROMs.

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