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XXII EUROPEAN COLLOQUIUM ON ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Viene qui riportato un commento di un partecipante al convegno,

Il XXII European Colloquium on Heterocyclic Chemistry (www.22ehc.uniba.it) si è svolto a Bari lo scorso settembre con il patrocinio della Società Chimica Italiana, la Divisione di Chimica Organica della SCI, l'Università di Bari, il Consorzio Interuniversitario Nazionale sulle Metodologie e Processi Innovativi di Sintesi (CINMPIS). Il Convegno, che viene organizzato ad anni alterni in diverse sedi europee, si prefiggeva di fornire ai partecipanti lo stato dell'arte nei vari ambiti della chimica dei composti eterociclici con un panel di conferenzieri di fama internazionale. Vengono di seguito riportati i commenti di Mieczysław Makosza dell'"Institute of Organic Chemistry" della "Polish Academy of Sciences".

Saverio Florio

The XXII European Colloquium on Heterocyclic Chemistry was organized in Bari on September 2-6, 2006. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee was Prof. Saverio Florio, Dipartimento Farmaco-Chimico, University Bari. The members of the Organizing Committee were mostly young coworkers of prof. Florio and have done excellent job in every aspects.

The crucial element of a scientific meeting is its program. The program of Colloquium was composed with advice of International Scientific Committee in good balance between lectures of senior, well established scientists and a plethora of

young rising stars, who in a series of invited lectures presented interesting results in a various aspects of heterocyclic chemistry. As one could expect from such thematic symposium majority of lectures and communications were oriented to synthesis and transformations of biologically active heterocyclic compounds. Judging from these presentations this practically important field of organic chemistry is doing well. Relatively less attention was devoted to methodology of construction of heterocyclic rings or generally speaking new chemical reactions and transformations involving heterocyclic systems, as a tool of organic synthesis without stress on potential applications of the produced com-

pounds. This approach represented Prof. P. Knochel, who in the fascinating lecture that close the symposium, presented almost unlimited possibility connected with formation and reactivity of magnesium arenes produced *via* halogen-metal exchange in heterocyclic and carbocyclic arenes. It should be stressed that most of the lectures were followed by animated discussions, but, as a rule, schedule of the scientific sessions was kept on time.

It was a good idea to start the Colloquium with the evening lecture on history of discovery and manufacturing of indigo, perhaps the first and the most important heterocyclic product industrially produced. The special flavor of this opening lecture was given by the historical building where the lecture was presented.

The Colloquium proceeded in the Palace Hotel located in the vicinity of the Castle of Bari and the old town. Selection of this site was very fortunate, the hotel provided excellent facilities – spacious lecture room with adequate audiovisual facilities and air-conditioning and proper rooms for coffee breaks, poster sessions and exhibitions.

The social program of the Colloquium well matched its high scientific level. The participants have had occasion to meet at the

opening get-together in the premises of the hotel with champagne and snacks.

Further social events of the colloquium: excursion to Matera and Altamura followed by country dinner and the conference dinner were really memorable events. The excursion gave participants opportunity to see landscape of the interior of the Southern Italy, very interesting dwellings digged in tuff in the town of Matera as well as the old town and Cathedral in Altamura (unfortunately the latter visit was too short and the cathedral was too crowded). The country dinner in the old farm Masseria San Giovanni that concluded the excursion with a great variety of food and fine wine was a great experience.

The conference dinner organized in Villa Romanazzi Carducci was an excellent occasion for the participants to enjoy informal interaction with old and new friends enhanced by fine food and wines.

I am sure that this flawlessly organized colloquium will remain in memory of the participants as an interesting and valuable scientific event connected with very enjoyable experience of the South Italy – its historical monuments, landscape, food, wine and, what is the most important, fine people who extend to us great hospitality.

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