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# The chemistry of enamines

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**S. F. DYKE**

*Reader in Organic Chemistry  
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## Preface

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The term 'enamine' was first introduced in 1927 to emphasise the structural similarity between the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated amine system and the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated alcohol moiety present in enols. Isolated reports concerning the reactions of enamines date back to the early nineteen hundreds; indeed in 1916 Robinson correctly interpreted the course of the reaction between an alkyl halide and ethyl  $\beta$ -aminocrotonate (R. Robinson, *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1916, **109**, 1038; see also E. E. P. Hamilton and R. Robinson, *ibid.*, p. 1029). However, it was not until 1954, when Stork and his associates described alkylation and acylation reactions, and demonstrated the ease of preparation of a number of enamines, that general interest was aroused. Since then a considerable amount of work has been reported on a wide variety of enamines, expanding considerably the scope of the original observations. This interest still continues as new and synthetically useful reactions of vinylamines are reported.

In this book which, like other volumes in the series, is aimed at the senior undergraduate and immediate postgraduate worker, an attempt is made to illustrate the basic principles of enamine chemistry. It is impossible to present a comprehensive survey in a volume of reasonable size, therefore emphasis has been placed upon those reactions that seem to offer useful synthetic procedures. It has also been necessary to exclude virtually all descriptions of dienamines,  $\alpha,\beta$ -acetylenic amines (ynamines) and vinylogous amides. References to the original literature have been kept to a minimum; fortunately several recent reviews of all or part of the subject matter are available, and reference to these has been made for further reading.

It is my pleasure to thank Dr R. C. Brown for critically reading the manuscript, and for helping with the proof-reading.

S. F. DYKE