Special Issue

N-Heterocyclic Carbenes and Their Complexes in Catalysis

Message from the Guest Editors

Over the last 30 years, *N*-Heterocyclic carbenes (NHCs) have had a profound impact on catalysis and on organometallic chemistry in general. Their widely tuneable electronic and steric features have contributed significantly to their recognition as both: 1) an important class of ligands in organometallic chemistry, as demonstrated by the numerous applications ranging from homogeneous catalysis to material and medicinal sciences; and 2) as excellent nucleophilic organocatalysts. This exponential growth in the preparation and application of NHCs has elevated this class of compounds to the forefront of the modern chemical era, making them prevalent in academia and industry. The structural diversity of this exciting class of compounds is still being explored and exploited. Their synthesis and applications are more carefully being investigated in terms of sustainability, user-friendliness and recyclability. New designs are continuously being deployed as organocatalysts or as ligands for *p*-, *d*-, and *f*-block metal complexes that are active catalysts in a number of transformations.

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