

Guidelines for synthesis/synthesis-oriented reviews in Natural Product Reports

There are two main mechanisms for publication in NPR:

1. Review Articles. ~10-20 pages. These are generally comprehensive and for a specified time period.
2. Highlights. ~4-6 pages (although occasionally longer). These allow for the coverage of smaller areas, particularly emerging areas (such as the interface between synthesis and other areas), and could also include perspectives or personal accounts of an area.

Ideally, **reviews** of synthetic work:

- a) should not be simply a repetition of the original papers. In most cases it should not be necessary to discuss every individual step.
- b) should, where possible, provide the reader with information about the key elements of the synthesis and if possible comment on strategic features e.g. if possible explain why the strategy was chosen and what the advantages/disadvantages are.
- c) should provide comparative data where multiple syntheses of a compound are being discussed. This might be as simple as applying metrics such as longest linear sequence and overall yields or if warranted a comment on amenability to SAR studies etc.

Where appropriate, authors can include their own personal (critical) viewpoint [subject to editorial approval].

In the case of **highlights**, authors are encouraged to cover individual important members or classes of secondary metabolites of which 2 or 3 syntheses have been published just recently. Ideally these will be 4 - 6 pages, and cover structure/biology and key features of synthesis. They should appear shortly (within 12-24 months) after important work has been published.

Alternatively **highlights** can be used to provide a [critical] commentary or exposé on the emergence of an area, whereby the goal is to introduce the broader readership to the area without necessarily being comprehensive. This could also apply to personalized accounts of an area. Again, exhaustive detail would not be needed [and in fact would likely be precluded by space] and only key features of synthetic work should be discussed in the broader context of the article.