

Practical and Philosophical Issues in the Development of a Green, Microscale Organic Chemistry Laboratory Program

Thomas E. Goodwin

The Toad Suck Institute for Green Organic Chemistry
Department of Chemistry
Hendrix College
1600 Washington Avenue
Conway, AR 72032
Fax: 501-450-3829, goodwin@hendrix.edu

We have long been proponents of microscale organic chemistry experiments, largely due to environmental impact considerations. While we have always been concerned with making our experiments more environmentally benign, our efforts in this arena have intensified over the last three years. We have now completed the first full year of a new green organic chemistry laboratory program. We have grappled with philosophical and practical issues that are as yet not fully resolved as we ask "how green is green enough?". This presentation will focus not only on the questions posed and problems encountered, but also on our developing answers. Examples of new green experiments will be discussed, some an outgrowth of our research on chemical communication among elephants.