

"Multi-Week Synthesis of a Sunscreen Agent for the Organic Chemistry Laboratory."
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Abstract: A multi-week laboratory experiment on the synthesis of the sunscreen agent octyl 4-methoxycinnamate is presented. The synthesis of the compound illustrates the usefulness of three important synthetic methods typically encountered in the second semester of a traditional organic chemistry course. Reasonable-to-good average yields were obtained for each of the synthetic steps by our organic chemistry laboratory students. The effectiveness of the synthesized sunscreen was evaluated utilizing UV-vis spectroscopy.