Hofmann rearrangement, also known as Hofmann degradation and not to be confused with Hofmann elimination, is the reaction of a primary amide with a halogen (chlorine or bromine) in strongly basic (sodium or potassium hydroxide) aqueous medium, which converts the amide to a primary amine. For example:

\[
\text{Et-CONH}_2 + \text{Br}_2, \text{NaOH} \rightarrow \text{Et-NH}_2 + \text{CO}_2
\]

Mechanism:

Contributors

- Gamini Gunawardena from the OChemPal site (Utah Valley University)