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:

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

Mechanism:

Contributors

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