Interpret query features with “Generate Structure from Name”

As you know already, this feature available from the Reaction- and from the Substances & Properties- Query pages is very simple to use, and allows a rapid transformation of any type of name (chemical name, generic name, InChI key, CAS registry number, Smiles string) into a chemical structure, which will then serve as query templates for further refinement using the editors and saving time in drawing complex molecules, such as steroids.

But did you know that this feature is also able to interpret query features to some extent? Type for example 3-alkyl-indole, and see what happens: this general name is translated into a substructure query containing the ‘ALK’ generic group on the 3 position of the molecule.

This may not work in all cases, but where this works, this method of searching can be a significant help.