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Schuhmacher S, Schulz E, Oelze M, König A, Roegler C, Lange K *et al.* (2009). A new class of organic nitrates: investigations on

bioactivation, tolerance and cross-tolerance phenomena. *Br J Pharmacol* 158: 510–520.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

2-Aminoethylnitrate: pharmacological uses rediscovered and claimed as original

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I am writing regarding an article I read recently which was published in your journal. The article, entitled 'A new class of organic nitrates: investigations on bioactivation, tolerance and cross-tolerance phenomena' was published by Schuhmacher *et al.* (2009). I happened to see this article while working as an undergraduate student researcher in a chemistry/biochemistry laboratory. The article presents the mononitrate compound 2-aminoethylnitrate as a modern marvel in the treatment of endothelial dysfunction that leads to cardiovascular disease(s). I was asked to synthesize this compound and as per my aspiration to understand the details and purpose of my assignment, I delved into a search for some useful references. During this process, I stumbled upon an article dating back to 1963 titled Anginal syndrome: Treatment with a long-acting nitrate (itramin tosylate) published by Batterman and Mouratoff (1963). This article addressed the use of 2-aminoethylnitrate in its p-toluenesulfonate salt form for the treatment of anginal syndrome. Not only had this idea been discussed in this article, but a number of clinical trials had also been performed relaying successful results. Also, some of the observations were confirmed by Kinnard *et al.*, (1964). I found it quite intriguing that nearly the same information is presented in the article by Schuhmacher *et al.* (2009) who failed to mention, acknowledge or cite the earlier works which were published more than 40 years before their article. Upon discovering this, I brought this information to my mentor's attention who encouraged me to write to the editor to raise awareness of the issue. I was later surprised to also find a supportive and encouraging commentary written by Bauersachs (2009) in

the same issue of British Journal of Pharmacology (BJP). Understandably, there was an attempt of undue, instant promotion of the use of 2-aminoethylnitrate as a modern breakthrough in which BJP became an inadvertent partner. I am concerned about the reputation of BJP and also the fact that this type of percolation of scientific errors must stop before they become a dogma and therefore have taken the initiative to bring this to your attention.

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Linked Article

This letter is responded to by Daiber, pp. 951–952 of this issue. To view the letter visit <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/bph.12147> These letters are accompanied by an Editor's Note on pp. 949–950 of this issue. To view visit <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/bph.12148>

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