

Discussion

Comment on paper entitled: “Silica Sulfate as a recyclable and efficient catalyst for Beckmann rearrangement under microwave irradiation”  
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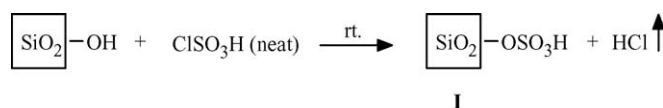
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Silica sulfuric acid (SSA) is an acidic solid compound in which sulfuric acid is covalently bonded to silica gel. SSA was first prepared in 2001 by the reaction of silica gel with chlorosulfonic acid (Scheme 1) [1].

After introduction of SSA, many research papers have been published on its application in organic synthetic methodology. These papers should be categorized into several areas such as multicomponent reactions, formation and cleavage of carbon–nitrogen and carbon–oxygen bonds, oxidation reactions, etc.

The wide scope of applications and versatility of SSA reflected in the publication of many papers by different international groups and made us to prepare a review article that has been accepted for publication and will be published in near future [2].

Very recently, some research groups took advantage of SSA in some organic transformations such as Beckman rearrangement [3], synthesis of aryloxyacetic acid and aryloxythioacetic acid esters [4], synthesis of diacetals [5], deprotection of 1,1-diacetates [6] without properly addressing the corresponding reference, name or both. Moreover, they named our reagent personally, although they used the same scheme (see reference [1] and compare the reported scheme of this paper with scheme in other references) and the same preparation procedure (word to word) or with slight modification as we have reported in our previous papers [1]. For example, some of them introduced this reagent by using other names or spellings such as silica sulfate



Scheme 1.

[3,5,6,7], silicasulfuric acid [8–10], silica sulphuric acid [11], and silicasulphuric acid [12].

According to ethical guidelines for publishing scientific papers, authors should cite those publications that related closely to their work that guide the reader quickly to the earlier work that is essential for understanding the present investigation. In contrast to the ethics in publishing of Journal of Molecular Catalysis A: Chemical which any author must be accept it in the course of submitting papers, Li et al. used SSA in their paper [3] without citing the original reference and correct name of reagent, i.e. silica sulfuric acid (SSA) [1].

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