

Discussion

Comments on non-citation by H.R. Shaterian et al.
[J. Mol. Catal. A: Chem. 272 (2007) 142–151]
of the original work on the discovery of $\text{HClO}_4\text{-SiO}_2$

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Recently Chakraborti and Gulhane developed extremely efficient catalytic systems, namely perchloric acid adsorbed on silica ($\text{HClO}_4\text{-SiO}_2$) [1,2] and fluoroboric acid adsorbed on silica ($\text{HBF}_4\text{-SiO}_2$) [2,3]. The ease of preparation from cheap and readily available chemicals, strong catalytic power, ease of handling, and feasibility of reuse of $\text{HClO}_4\text{-SiO}_2$ soon attracted other researchers to apply it to various synthetic transformations [4]. Although the contributions of Chakraborti and Gulhane on their discovery of $\text{HClO}_4\text{-SiO}_2$ [1] have been cited in most of the research publications dealing with the newer applications of this catalyst, such citations would have been more appropriate by mentioning them in the text rather than merely doing so in the experimental part of some papers.

However, recently some unacceptable practice has been noticed in the research publications by a few groups who used Chakraborti's catalyst $\text{HClO}_4\text{-SiO}_2$ in their work. Mention can be made of a recent report in this journal by Shaterian et al. [5]. This publication relates to the use of $\text{HClO}_4\text{-SiO}_2$ discovered by Chakraborti and Gulhane [1,2] but did not cite the innovative work of the original inventors [1], which was also recorded in a patent [2]. Thus, the use of $\text{HClO}_4\text{-SiO}_2$ without citing the original work [1] amounts to violation of ethical guidelines [6] by these researchers.

It is very unfortunate that such unacceptable practice may affect the ethics of young researchers. This type of behaviour should be condemned and possibly invite sanctions as necessary.

References

- [1] A.K. Chakraborti, R. Gulhane, J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Commun. (2003) 1896–1897.
- [2] A.K. Chakraborti, R. Gulhane, Indian Patent, 266/DEL/2003, March 10, 2003.
- [3] A.K. Chakraborti, R. Gulhane, Tetrahedron Lett. 44 (2003) 3521–3525.
- [4] Scopus search revealed that since the introduction in 2003 by Chakraborti and Gulhane, about fifty research publications appeared on the use of $\text{HClO}_4\text{-SiO}_2$ for various organic transformations.
- [5] H.R. Shaterian, F. Shahrekipoor, M. Ghashang, J. Mol. Catal. A: Chem. 272 (2007) 142–151.
- [6] "An author should cite those publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the reported work and that will guide the reader quickly to the earlier work that is essential for understanding the present investigation. An author is obligated to perform a literature search to find, and then cite, the original publications that describe closely related work." Ethical Guidelines to Authors in Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research: ACS Publications, Revised in January 2006.

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