Peroxometal-mediated oxidation of bromine leading to environmentally favourable protocol for selective bromination of organic substrates: Implications for vanadium bromo peroxidase (VBrPO)

SIDDHARTHA D DHAR and MIHIR K CHAUDHURI Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati 781 001, India

Tribromide (Br_3^-) appears to be the ultimate product of a peroxo-metal mediated oxidation reaction, e.g.

$$Bu_4NBr \xrightarrow{V_2O_5, H_2O_2 \text{ or}} Bu_4NBr_3.$$

The identity of Bu₄NBr₃ was ascertained by isolation followed by spectroscopic and X-ray crystallographic characterization.

Taking clues from the knowledge derived from the aforementioned reaction as well as from that of the activity of VBrPO, it has been shown that V_2O_5 very effectively catalyses the bromination of organic substrates, including selective bromination of aromatics by Bu_4NBr in presence of hydrogen peroxide.

$$3Bu_4NBr + H_2O_2 \xrightarrow{V_2O_5(cat)} [Bu_4NBr_3] + 2Bu_4NOH,$$

$$Ar---H + [Bu_4NBr_3] \xrightarrow{} Ar---Br + Bu_4NBr + HBr.$$

For instance:

Versatility of this environmentally benign reaction protocol involving a variety of substrates has also been demonstrated by other collaborators.

Implications of this investigation with reference to VBrPO activity are discussed.