

Editor's Note

Sodium borohydride reduction of aromatic carboxylic acids via methyl esters

AAMEER SAEED and ZAMAN ASHRAF

Journal of Chemical Sciences, Vol. 118, No.5, September 2006, pp. 419–423.

Prof. A Bianco from the Department of Chemistry, Università di Roma, “La Sapienza”, Rome, Italy has informed us that the above paper which appeared in the *Journal of Chemical Sciences* is the exact copy of his work published in 2006 (A Bianco, P Passacantilli, G Righi 1998. ‘Improved procedure for the reduction of esters to alcohols by sodium borohydride’, *Synthetic Communications*, vol. 18, pp. 1765–771).

We contacted the corresponding author of the paper in *Journal of Chemical Sciences* (A Saeed) and sent him the comments by Bianco alleging plagiarism and a copy of Bianco's *Synthetic Communications* paper. The author (A Saeed), in his reply, solemnly declared that he had not seen the *Synthetic Communications* paper earlier and the similarity, if any, was unintentional and accidental. He also stated that there were several published papers on the reduction of esters using sodium borohydride before and after Bianco's publication.

Meanwhile, we sent both the papers to two independent experts for their scrutiny and to report whether the later publication by A Saeed and Z Ashraf constituted a case of plagiarism. Both the referees stated in their reports, that this is not a case of plagiarism. Although the contents of both the papers are overlapping, they are not identical as claimed by Prof. Bianco. One of the referees stated that the authors of the *Journal of Chemical Sciences* paper may be asked to insert a ‘Corrigendum’ in the *Journal of Chemical Sciences* to the effect that ‘reference to earlier paper by Bianco *et al* was omitted inadvertently’. The Editor agreed with this recommendation.

Accordingly, we contacted A Saeed and informed him of the Editor's decision and requested him to insert a ‘Corrigendum’ in the *Journal of Chemical Sciences*. We have not received any reply from the author in spite of reminders. Hence this note is published to apprise the readers of the complaint received and the steps taken by the Journal.

S S Krishnamurthy

Editor

Journal of Chemical Sciences