Unravelling the Organocatalytic Facet of Vasicine

Sushila Sharma¹,² Neeraj Kumar¹,²

¹CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, India, ²bAcademy of Scientific and Innovative Research, New Delhi, India

Organocatalysis has emerged as an attractive alternative to metallocatalysts in organic syntheses with regard to their selectivity, renewability and biodegradability. Owing to the functionalized structure and optically pure character of natural products such as carbohydrates, terpenes, alkaloids (proline and cinchona based organocatalyst), they have been efficiently utilized in various organocatalytic transformations.¹ Vasicine is an abundantly available quinazoline alkaloid mainly isolated from Adhatoda vasica leaves (present upto 1%) and is a privileged structure containing both Lewis acidic and basic sites, hence, able to activate both nucleophile and electrophile. Despite its medicinal importance in Ayurveda, its organocatalytic potential was not known before. Herein we disclose the prospects of vasicine as an efficient organocatalyst for transition metal free organic transformations viz. reduction and C-C bond formation reactions.²

![Chemical Structure of Vasicine]

References


2. a) S. Sharma, M. Kumar, V. Kumar, N. Kumar, Tetrahedron Lett. 2013, 54, 4868; b) S. Sharma, M. Kumar, V. Kumar, N. Kumar, J. Org. Chem. 2014, 79, 9433.