

## Match Maker/ Pharmaceutical Process Innovations/ 20 March 2025

# IMPROVED PROCESS FOR CENTHAQUINE

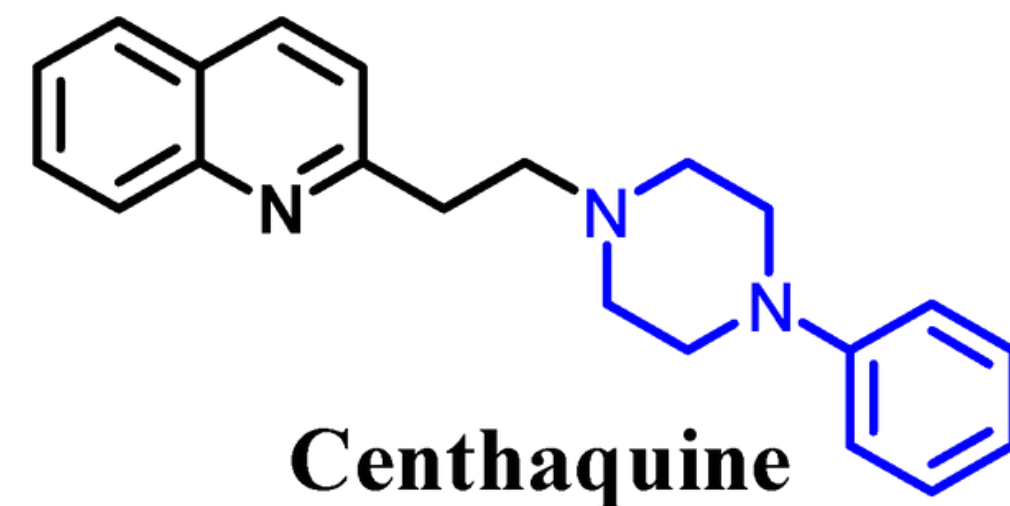
**Lead Inventor: Dr. Ajay Kumar Srivastava**

Organization: CSIR-CDRI

TechEx.in Case Manager: Kavita Parekh ([kavita.parekh@ventercenter.co.in](mailto:kavita.parekh@ventercenter.co.in))

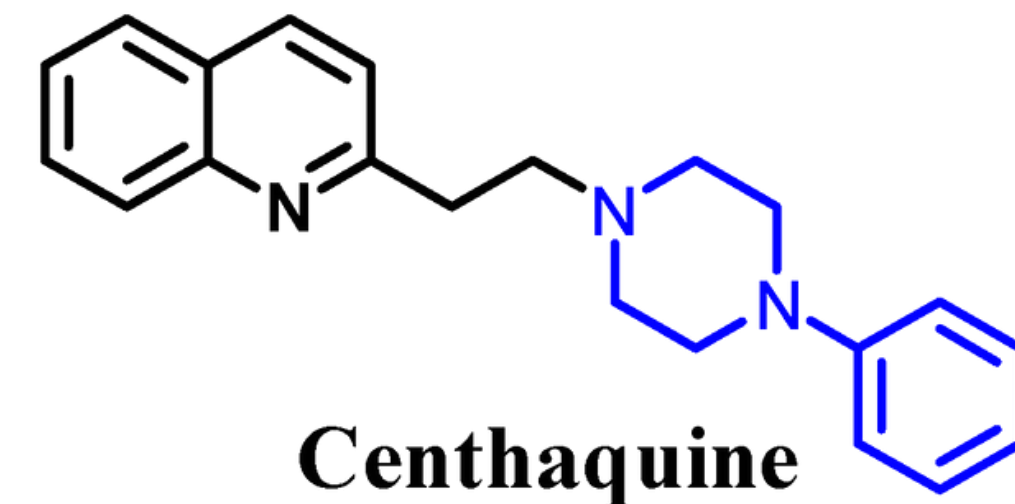
# About Centhaquine

- Centhaquine was invented at CSIR-CDRI in 1989 as an hypotensive agent.
- It was further developed by US-based Pharmazz, Inc.
- It got approval in 2020, was introduced in the Indian market (brand name Lyfaquin) in 2022 for the management of hypovolemic shock.
- Dr Reddy's Laboratories has currently entered a licensing agreement with Pharmazz to commercialise in India.



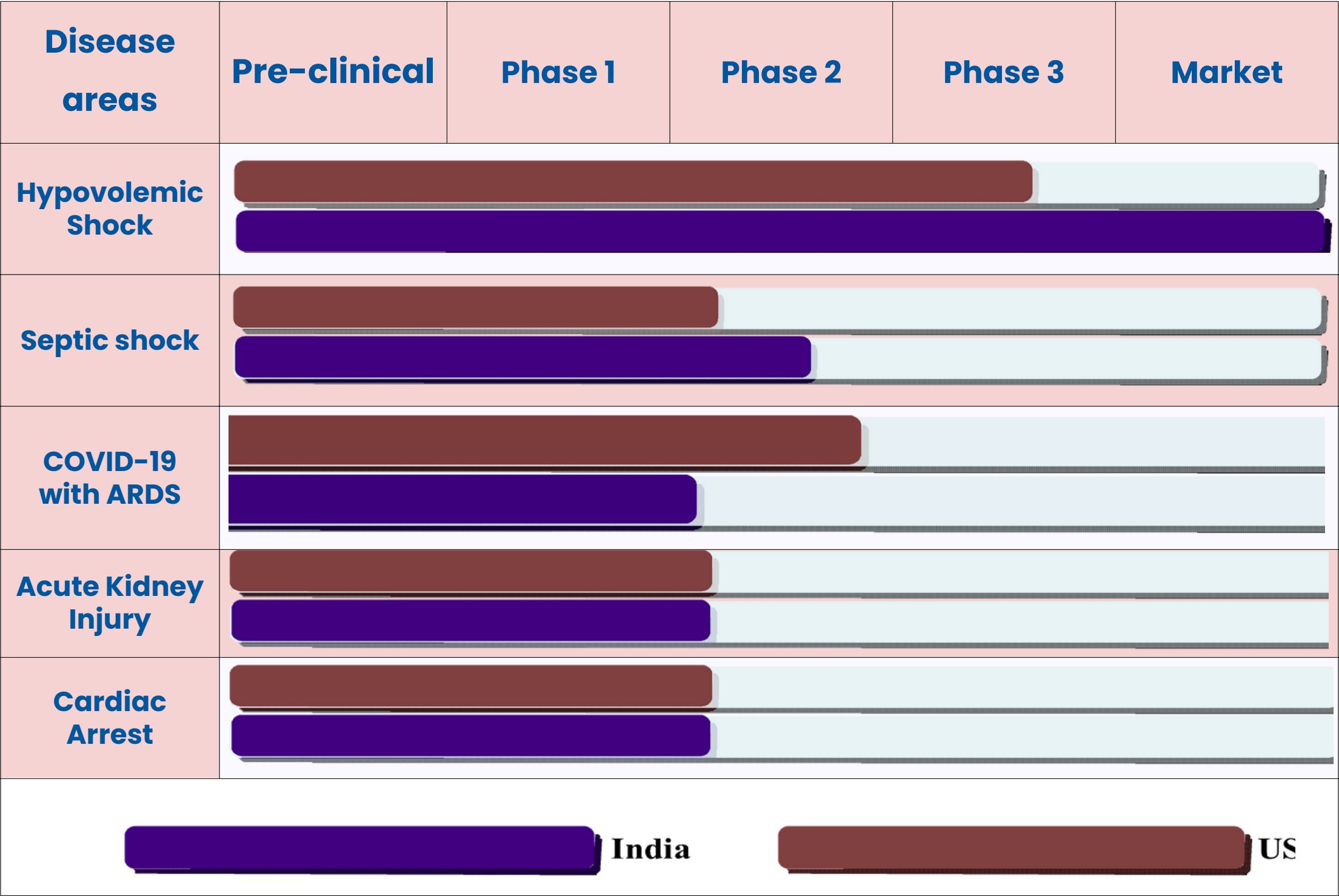
# Market Opportunities

- Every year ~1.7 Million Americans suffer hypovolemic shock, of which 348,000 suffer severe symptoms and are therefore eligible for Centhaquine. Market size estimate is approximately 40m\$ per year in USA.
- In India there are estimated 2 million patient with market cost of approximately 200M\$ (~ Rs 2000Cr)



# Clinical Studies

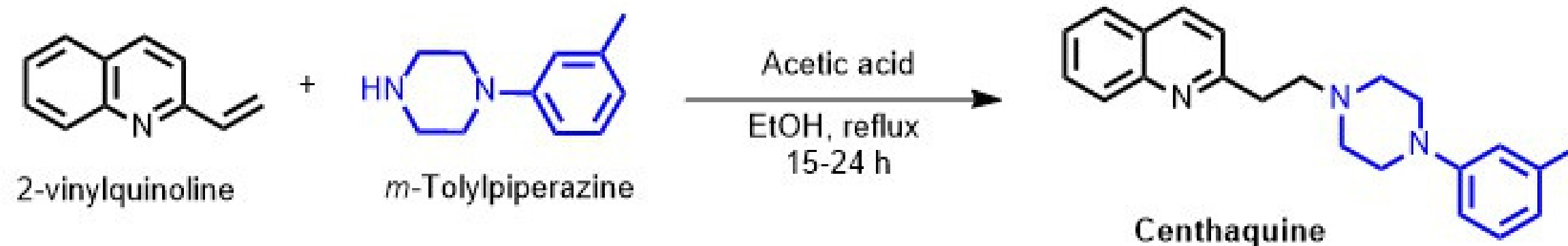
- Clinical Investigations going for septic shock, acute kidney injury, cardiac arrest and COVID-19 with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) making it an interesting drug for process development.



# Currently used methods

- i) 1989, US3983121; Patent *Expired* -  
First method by Nitya Anand et. al. *Yield = 47%*  
ii) 2015, US20150250782A1, Patent *Active* - Improved  
procedure by Gulati et. al. *Yield = 73%*

## (a) Acid-catalyzed addition of *m*-tolylpiperazine to 2-vinylquinoline

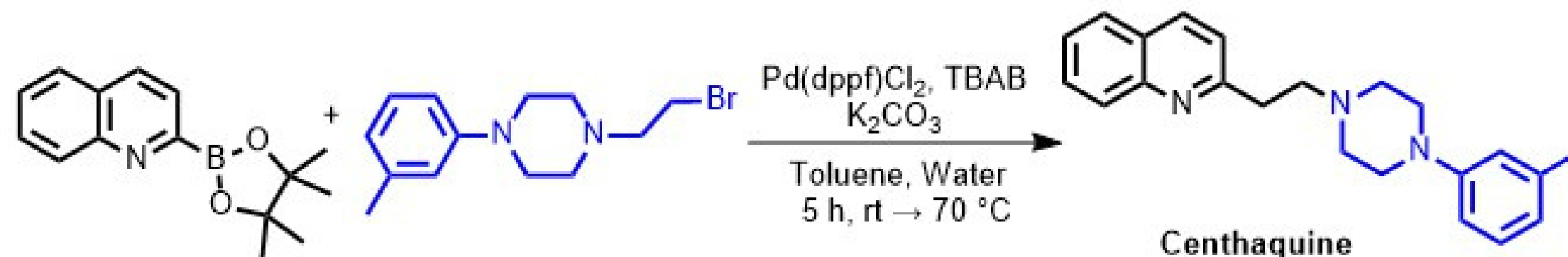


### Key Limitations:

- Use of acid
- High temperature
- Moderate yield
- Impurity formation

## (b) Pd-catalyzed coupling of boronic acid with alkyl halide

2020, CN114685366A, Patent *Pending*  
by Hanpu et. al. *Yield = 81%*



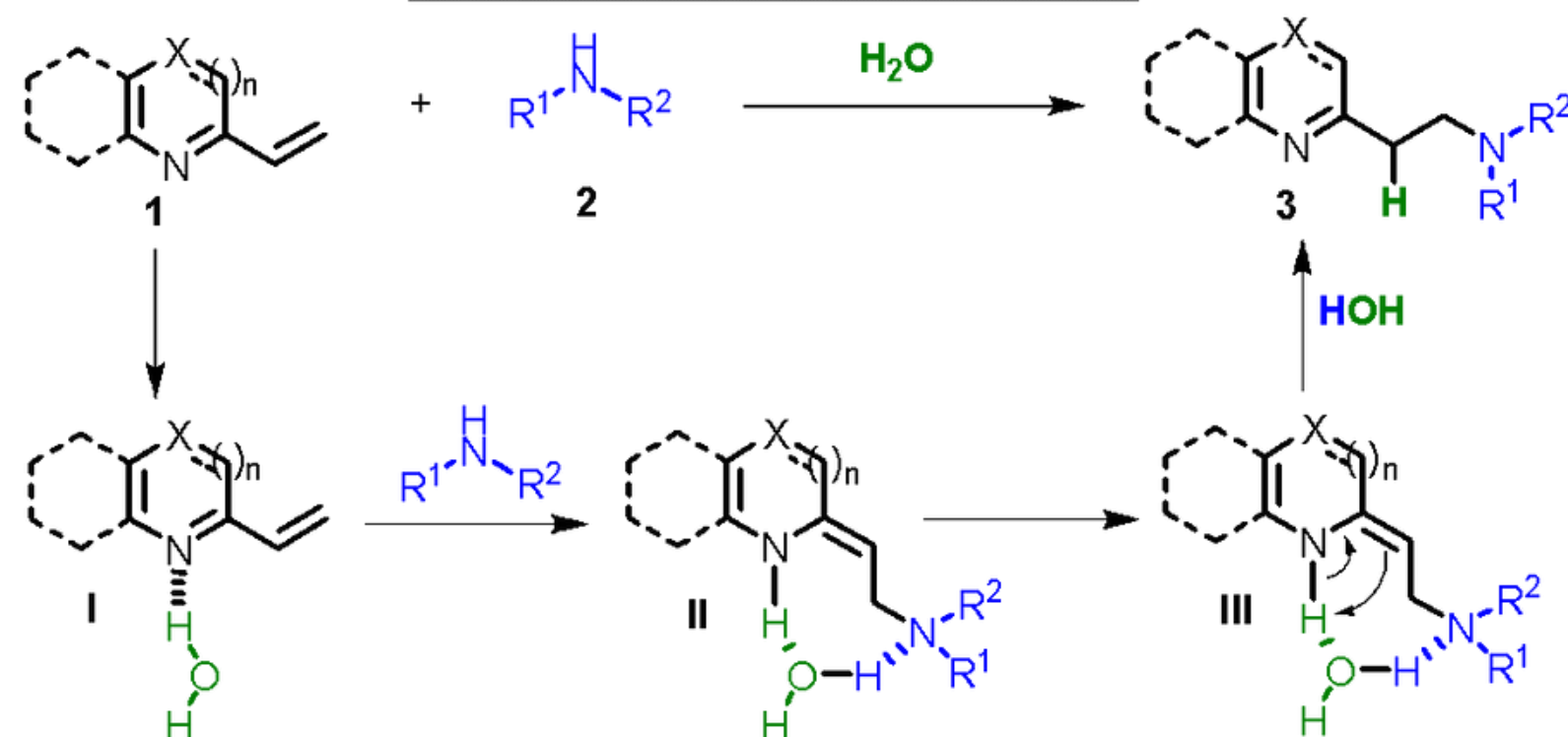
### Key Limitations:

- Use of Pd catalyst
- High temperature
- Expensive starting materials

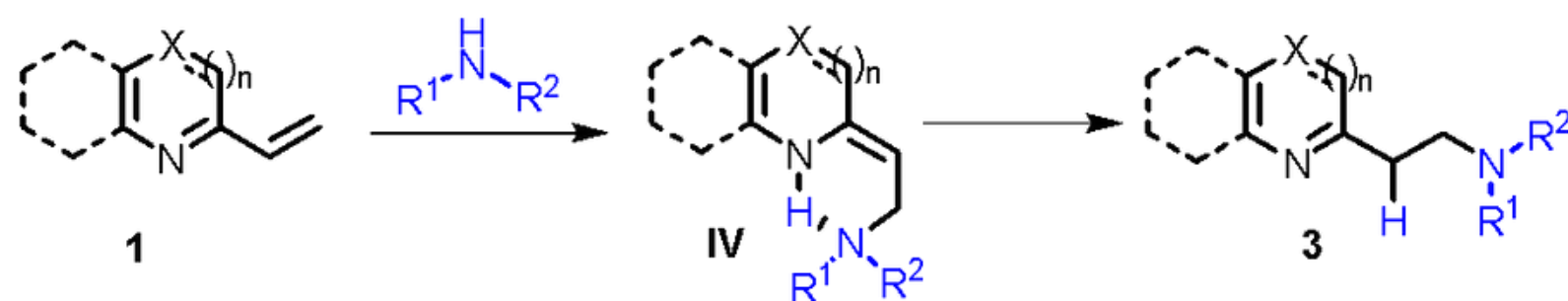
# Improved Method by CDRI



## Reaction Mechanism



### In case of aprotic solvent



## Key advantages:

- Aqueous Process
- No acid catalyst
- Room temperature process
- No Column Purification required
- Reduces impurity formation
- Greener synthesis process.
- High-yielding

Estimated Cost of Raw Materials :  
**USD ~224 per kg** of Product Yield



# Current Status

## Technology Status :

- Status of the technology – TRL 4 (Lab level results shown)
- Demonstrated at 50g scale

## Patent Status :

- Indian Patent Filed: Application No. 202111044824
- Priority Date: 01/10/2021
- Publication Date(U/S 11A): 07/04/2023

## Publications :

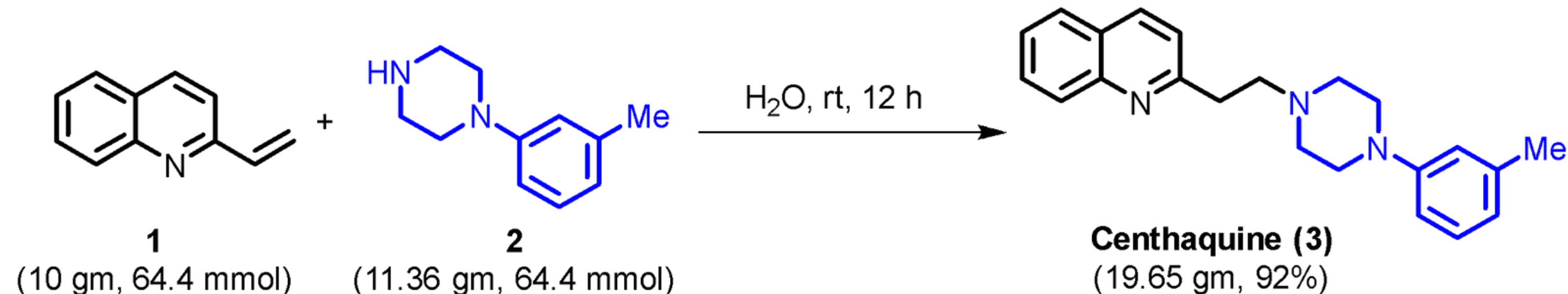
- Yadav, A.; Ambule, M. D.; Srivastava, A. K. Catalyst-Free Anti-Markovnikov Hydroamination and Hydrothiolation of Vinyl Heteroarenes in Aqueous Medium: An Improved Process Towards Cethaquine. Org. Biomol. Chem. **2024**, 22, 1721–1726.

# Value Proposition of the CDRI Process

- High yield: >90% (current method) vs 47% or 71% (previous methods)
- Lower estimated Raw Material Cost \$ 224/kg.
- Higher purity ==> Lower cost of purification
- Green credentials
  - a. Aqueous synthesis
  - b. Room temperature operation
  - c. Lower E-Factor
- Optimised at >50g scale in three batches
- Complete characterisation of impurities and API
- Prepared Citrate Salt



# A Comparison in Green-Metrics Parameters



Green metrics	Existing approach 1	Existing approach 2	Our approach
Yield	46.82%	72.56%	<b>92%</b>
Carbon Efficiency	46.54%	72.81%	<b>92.05%</b>
E-Factor*	25.06	16.12	<b>0.08</b>
Atom Efficiency Factor	46.82%	72.5%	<b>92%</b>
Mass Intensity*	26.06	17.12	<b>1.08</b>

\*lower is better

# Who should be interested and why?

## Who

Pharmaceutical API Manufacturers :

- Interested in making and selling Centhaquine approved indications

## Why

Advantages offered by this method :

- Cost Effective & High Yielding
- Greener Method

# Lead Inventor



**Dr Ajay Kumar  
Srivastava**

Principal Scientist,  
CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow

- Holds a MSc in Chemistry from Delhi University and a doctoral degree in Chemistry from Jadavpur University.
- Has two years Postdoctoral research experience in the field of Chemistry and Chemical-Biology with Prof. S. B. Park at Department of Chemistry, Seoul National University, South Korea.
- Aug 2011-March 2017 he worked as Scientist at CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad
- Since March 2017, he is working as Principal Scientist at CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow.
- His expertise include total synthesis, process development, medicinal chemistry and green chemistry.
- He has published 54 research articles and has supervised 10 PhD students
- His group has transferred the process for the Umifenovir to Medizest Pvt Ltd. for the repurposing during Covid-19
- His groups is also working with Dr Reddys' Lab and with ARKN Pvt. Ltd. on various sponsored projects.

# Organisation – CSIR–CDRI's Success Stories

Central Drug Research Institute a constituent laboratory of (CSIR) under the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Since Inception	13 New Drugs Discovered and Developed
	6 Diagnostics
	> 80 Process Technologies
	> 12,000 Research Publications
	> 456 Patents Filed Abroad
	> 586 Patents filed in India
	> 2,000 Ph.D.'s
	> 2,000 Sponsored Trainings
	> 7000 Post Graduate Trainings



World's first non-steroidal once-a-week contraceptive pill for women



$\alpha$   $\beta$  – Arteether for severe *P. falciparum* malaria including cerebral malaria and chloroquine-resistant cases, being marketed in > 20 countries



Clinically validated traditional medicine from Bacopa for ADHD in elderly marketed in >7 countries



Centchroman with a brand name Chhaya is part of National Family Program



Indigenised qRT-PCR Diagnostic Kits towards Atmanirbhar Bharat



Indigenized Indigenous DNA Staining Dye "GreenR" towards Atmanirbhar Bharat

Currently, 3 small molecules and 2 Phytopharmaceuticals are in clinical trial. Further, 5 small molecules and 4 Phytopharmaceuticals are in pre-clinical stage of development for various therapeutic areas of national and global importance.



# Organisation – CSIR–CDRI's Industry Collaborations



Match Maker/ Pharmaceutical Process Innovations/ 20 March 2025/Improved Process for Cethaquine

## Next Steps

Possible to scale up with support from industry partners from >50 g batch scale to pilot scale or continuous flow (as required by industry) and in partnerships with other CSIR labs

## Seeking

**Licensees for technology and IP on "as is where is" basis**

**Joint development and sponsored R&D partners or scaling up and advancing the technology**





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