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TOC/Graphical Abstract



Synthesis of Stereopure Acyclic 1,5-Dimethylalkane Chirons: Building Blocks of Highly Methyl Branched Natural Products

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ABSTRACT: An efficient synthetic method towards stereopure acyclic 1,5-dimethylalkane building blocks from methyl (2*R*)-3-hydroxy-2-methylpropionate (*R*)-1 (>99% ee) and methyl (2*S*)-3-hydroxy-2-methylpropionate (*S*)-1 (>99% ee) through a series of chemical transformations, including Julia–Kocienski olefination and diimide reduction, is described. Through this strategy, two fragments of β -D-mannosyl phosphomycoketide (C₃₂-MPM) and four stereopure 1,5-dimethylalkane C₁₀ chirons are prepared. These C₃₂-MPM fragments and C₁₀ chirons have shown great potential application as building blocks for the synthesis of highly methyl-branched natural products containing chiral oligoisoprenoid-like chains.

KEYWORDS: Stereopure, Acyclic, 1,5-Dimethylalkane C₁₀ Chiron, Highly Methyl Branched Natural Product, Oligoisoprenoid Chain.

INTRODUCTION

The chiral 1,5-dimethylalkane subunit is ubiquitous among many biologically active natural products (Figure 1), such as vitamins,^{1,2} phytol,³ insect pheromones⁴⁻¹², marine natural

archaeal lipids, $^{15-18}$ and the bacterial membrane lipids (β -D-mannosyl products,^{13,14} phosphomycoketides).^{19,20} Total synthesis of these methyl-branched natural products has been an interesting and active subject for several decades due to their structural determinations and their increasing biological and biomedical applications.²¹⁻²⁸ For this purpose, a series of 1,5dimethylalkane C₉ chirons (Figure 2A)^{6,11,18,29-34} and 1,5-dimethylalkane C₁₀ chirons (Figure $(2B)^{15,18,35-39}$ have been prepared. These C₉ chirons have been used to prepare a vitamin E C₁₄side chain^{29,31,34} and some insect pheromones (Figure 1, III-VI).^{6,11,29,33} Not only have C_{10} chirons been used to prepare a vitamin E side chain³⁷ and insect pheromones,³⁶ but they have also been used to prepare highly methyl-branched archaeal lipids.^{15,18} Additionally, van Summeren *et al.* reported the total synthesis of C_{32} -MPM using the C_{10} chiron: methyl (3*R*,7*S*)-3,7-dimethyl-8-hydroxyoctanoic ester (Figure 2B: XVIa).⁴⁰ However, this approach yielded C₃₂**mycoketide**, the precursor of the final C_{32} -MPM, with only 70% stereopurity.⁴¹ In a recently published report, we described a highly stereocontrolled total synthesis of C_{32} -MPM with >96% stereopurity starting from a single chiral source, (2S)-3-hydroxy-2-methylpropionate ((S)-1).⁴² Here, we report the synthesis of a series of stereopure 1,5-dimethylalkane acyclic chirons (Figure 2C). Through a series of chemical transformations, including Julia-Kocienski olefination and diimide reduction, we developed an alternative synthesis of the C_{15} and C_{16} fragments of C_{32} -**MPM** beginning from (2R)-3-hydroxy-2-methylpropionate ((R)-1). We also prepared four stereopure 1,5-dimethylalkane C_{10} chirons (Figure 2C) from (S)-1 and/or (R)-1. To further evaluate the synthetic value of these chirons in natural product synthesis, we prepared the vitamin E C₁₄-side chain (Figure 1, I) and the precursor of apple leaf miner pheromone (Figure 1, **III**) in a straightforward fashion.



Figure 1. Examples of natural products containing 1,5-dimethylalkanesubunits.



Figure 2. Structures of 1,5-dimethylalkane chirons. A) Examples of 1,5-dimethylalkane C₉ chirons reported in Literature;^{6,11,18,29-34} B) Examples of 1,5-dimethylalkane C₁₀ chirons reported in Literature.^{18,35-39} C) Structures of C₁₅/C₁₆ fragments of C₃₂-MPM and 1,5-dimethylalkane C₁₀ chirons synthesized.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Synthesis of the C₁₅ and C₁₆ fragments of C₃₂-MPM (Scheme 1), and the C₁₅ diastereomer 15 (Scheme 2).

(2R)-3-(*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-2-methylpropyl tosylate (2) could be prepared from methyl (2R)-3-hydroxy-2-methylpropionate [(R)-1] in three steps (89% yield) via TBDPS

silylation, Dibal-H reduction and tosylation (Scheme 1). Tosylate 2 was then used as the common precursor to generate the two substrates needed in the Julia–Kocienski olefination reaction. *N*-Phenyltetrazolyl sulfone **6** was obtained from **2** in four steps (63% yield), and aldehyde (*S*)-**7** was prepared from **2** in two steps (84% yield). The Julia–Kocienski olefination⁴³ step was carried out by slow addition of lithium hexamethyldisilazide into a solution of sulfone **6** and (*S*)-**7** in THF at -78 °C. Excess sulfone **6** could be used to improve the yield of olefination followed by recovery of the unreacted sulfone **6** by silica gel chromatography during the product purification. The reaction yielded alkene **8** in 61% yield as a mixture of (*E*/*Z*)-isomers (*E*/*Z* ~7:3). The relatively low *E*-selectivity of the reaction with these methyl branched substrates is consistent with our recently report with *E*/*Z* ~75:25.⁴²

Scheme 1



Reduction of alkene **8** to compound **9** was then investigated using various reduction conditions. The results of these investigations are summarized in Table 1. The palladiumcatalyzed hydrogenation approach afforded reduction product (67% yield) containing a 21% α methyl epimerization along with a 15% recovery of its starting material (entry 1). Using platinum as a hydrogenation catalyst increased both the yield (90%) and stereopurity (*ca.* 9% α methyl epimerization) of alkane **9** (entry 2). Iridium black, and osmium powder did not catalyze

the hydrogenation reaction (entries 3 and 4). The hydroboration/protonation procedure⁴⁴ could not be used to convert alkene 8 to compound 9 (entry 5). Reduction of 8 by Ashby's method⁴⁵ (LiAlH₄/Nickel(II) chloride), however, yielded 9 in 33% yield but the reaction was incomplete as 43% of 8 was recovered (entry 6). Diimide (HN=NH) offered an attractive alternative for alkene reduction as the proposed reaction mechanism involves a cyclic transition state that precludes epimerization.^{46,47} Three additional methods for the *in situ* generation of diimide (A: NH₂NH₂/NaIO₄,⁴⁸ B: TsNHNH₂/NaOAc,⁴⁹ C: NH₂NH₂/CuSO₄⁵⁰) were examined to reduce alkene 8. Method A (NH₂NH₂/NaIO₄) gave stereopure 9 in 33% yield along with 14% recovery of 8. On the other hand, Method B (TsNHNH₂/NaOAc) gave no reduced product, but Method C gave the best result. From the latter method, a 90% yield of the stereopure 9 was obtained when alkene 8 was reacted with 100 equivalent of hydrazine and ~10% copper(II) sulfate in ethanol at 70 °C for 15 hours (Table 1, entry 15). Stereopure C₁₅ fragment 9 of C₃₂-MPM was then obtained from (R)-1 in nine steps with 31% overall yield. Additionally, C_{15} fragment 9 could be converted to the C₁₆ fragment 13 in four steps with 46% overall yield (Scheme 1). This approach provides an alternative route leading to the C_{16} fragment from (*R*)-1 in addition to our previously reported method beginning from (S)-1.⁴² Both C_{15} and C_{16} fragments (10 and 13, respectively) have been used as intermediates to prepare β -D-mannosyl phosphomycoketide (C₃₂-MPM).^{40,42}

Entry	Reductive Reaction Conditions	Recovery	Yield
-		of 8 (%) ^a	$(\%)^{b}$
$1^{c,d}$	10% Pd/C (0.2 equiv.), H ₂ , benzene, rt, overnight	15	67
		6	
$2^{c,e}$	10% Pt/C (0.2 equiv.), H ₂ , benzene, rt, overnight	0	90
3	Iridium black (0.2 equiv.), H ₂ , benzene, rt, overnight	100	0
4	Osmium powder (0.2 equiv.), H_2 , benzene, rt, overnight	100	0
5	i). 9-BBN/THF, rt, 24 h; ii). CH ₃ CO ₂ H, rt, 24 h	70	0
6	NiCl ₂ (2.0 equiv.)/LiAlH ₄ (2.0 equiv.), THF, -78 °C-rt, 24 h	43	33
7	NH ₂ NH ₂ (100 equiv.), NaIO ₄ (2.5 equiv.), 75 °C, 2 h	14	33
8	TsNHNH ₂ (10 equiv.), NaOAc, dimethyl ethylene ether, reflux,	84	0
	4 h		
9	CuSO ₄ (0.5 equiv.), NH ₂ NH ₂ (140 equiv.), EtOH, rt, 63 h	10	64
10	CuSO ₄ (0.5 equiv.), NH ₂ NH ₂ (140 equiv.), EtOH, 70 °C, 24 h	0	62
11	CuSO ₄ (0.22 equiv.), NH ₂ NH ₂ (140 equiv.), EtOH, 70 °C, 24 h	0	63
12	CuSO ₄ (0.22 equiv.), NH ₂ NH ₂ (140 equiv.), EtOH, 70 °C, 15 h	0	82
13	CuSO ₄ (0.22 equiv.), NH ₂ NH ₂ (70 equiv.), EtOH, 70 °C, 15 h	5	73
14	CuSO ₄ (0.22 equiv.), NH ₂ NH ₂ (100 equiv.), EtOH, 70 °C, 15 h	0	82
15	CuSO ₄ (0.11 equiv.), NH ₂ NH ₂ (100 equiv.), EtOH, 70 °C, 15 h	0	90
16	CuSO ₄ (0.10 equiv.), NH ₂ NH ₂ (100 equiv.), EtOH, 70 °C, 7.5 h	0	80
17	CuSO ₄ (0.05equiv.), NH ₂ NH ₂ (100 equiv.), EtOH, 70 °C, 8 h	3	68

Table 1. Reduction of alkene 8 to alkane 9.

^a Estimated by the ¹H NMR of the isolated product. ^b Isolated yield. ^c Epimerization estimated by the ¹³C NMR of the isolated product. ^d 21% α -Methyl epimerization observed. ^e 9% α -Methyl epimerization observed.

Aldehyde (R)-7 was prepared from (S)-1 in five steps with 81% yield.⁴² The Julia-Kocienski olefination of aldehyde (R)-7 with sulfone 6 in the presence of lithium

hexamethyldisilazide gave alkene 14 in 65% yield (Scheme 2). Reduction of alkene 14 with diimide yielded *O*-silylated alkane 15 (a diastereomer of 9) in 89% yield. Compound 15 could be used as an intermediate to prepare a modified C_{32} -MPM molecule with a change in chirality of single carbon from (*S*) to (*R*). We believe the efficient synthesis of natural and unnatural C_{32} -MPMs would allow further investigation into how the structure of C_{32} -MPM can influence its biological functions.





B. Synthesis of C_{10} chirons (21-24)

Enantiomeric aldehydes (*R*)-7 and (*S*)-7 were converted to the corresponding *N*-phenyltetrazolyl sulfones (*R*)-16 and (*S*)-16 in five steps with 60%-63% yield (Scheme 3). The Julia–Kocienski olefinations of (*R*)-7 to (*R*)-16, (*S*)-7 to (*R*)-16, (*R*)-7 to (*S*)-16, and (*S*)-7 to (*S*)-16 in the presence of lithium hexylmethyldisilazide yielded alkenes 17 (78% yield), 18 (86%), 19 (69%) and 20 (74%), respectively. Reduction of the latter set of alkenes with hydrazine in the presence of copper(II) sulfate produced C_{10} chirons 21-24 in 86-97% yields. Each of these chirons contained a benzyl and a TBDPS protective group. Compounds with these two protective groups underwent the most common reaction conditions, such as treatment with acids, bases,

oxidants, reductants, and organometallic reagents but they could be selectively removed either by TBAF or by palladium-catalyzed hydrogenation to generate up to eight partially protected alcohols. Therefore, C_{10} chirons **21-24** (Figure 2C) are expected to be more versatile and flexible than any other of the C₉ and C₁₀ chirons previously reported (Figures 2A and 2B). These partially protected alcohols are expected to be very useful for the synthesis of a range of methylbranched natural products (Figure 1). The C₁₀ chiron, **21**, has been synthesized and applied towards the total synthesis of C₃₂-MPM.⁴²

Scheme 3



C. Application of C_{10} chirons to the synthesis of vitamin E C_{14} -side chain and the precursor of apple leaf miner pheromone (III)

To further evaluate the synthetic value of these chirons, the vitamin E C_{14} -side chain (27) was prepared from chiron 21 (Scheme 4). Removal of the benzyl group of 21 by palladiumcatalyzed hydrogenation gave 25 in 93% yield. Reaction of 25 with TsCl in pyridine gave the tosylate 26 in 75% yield. The coupling reaction of tosylate 26 with isobutylmagnesium chloride

in the presence of copper (I) bromide dimethyl sulfide followed by desilylation with TBAF gave the vitamin E C_{14} -side chain (27)^{29,31,34} in 96% yield.



Chiron 23 was treated with TBAF to give alcohol 28 in 96% yield. Reaction of 28 with TsCl in pyridine gave tosylate 29 in 72% yield. Coupling of tosylate 29 with propylmagnesium chloride in the presence of copper (I) bromide-dimethyl sulfide complex provided 30 in 98% yield. Finally, catalytic hydrogenation of 30 produced alcohol 31 in 91% yield. The apple leafminer pheromone (Figure 1, III) was prepared from 31 in two steps with ~70% yield.³⁶

Scheme 5



In summary, through a series of classic chemical transformations, including the Julia–Kocienski olefination and diimide reduction, we have developed an alternative synthesis of C_{15}/C_{16} fragments of C_{32} -MPM (10 and 13 respectively) from (2*R*)-3-hydroxy-2-methylpropionate ((*R*)-1) in addition to our recently reported method beginning from (*S*)-1.⁴² We further prepared four stereopure 1,5-dimethylalkane acyclic C_{10} building blocks (21-24) from (*R*)-1 and (*S*)-1. These C_{10} chirons could be partially deprotected using either TBAF or Pd/H₂, and are expected to be more versatile and flexible than other C_9 and C_{10} chirons reported (Figure 2, A and B). The synthesis of vitamin E C_{14} -side chain, the precursor of insect pheromone, and C_{32} -MPM⁴² has clearly demonstrated these 1,5-dimethyl fragments and chirons as very useful intermediates for the efficient synthesis of highly methyl-branched natural and unnatural products containing oligoisopenoid-like chains (Figure 1).

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Methyl (2*R*)-3-hydroxy-2-methylpropionate (*R*)-1 (>99% ee) and methyl (2*S*)-3-hydroxy-2-methylpropionate (*S*)-1 (>99% ee) were purchased from TCI America. All other reagents and anhydrous solvents were purchased from Aldrich; other solvents were purchased from Fisher.

(2*R*)-3-(*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-2-methylpropyl *p*-toluenesulfonate (2): To a solution of (*R*)-1 (11.8 g, 100 mmol) and imidazole (15.0 g, 220 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (100 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise TBDPSCI (28.2 mL, 110 mmol). After the mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h, the reaction was quenched with water (40 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was co-evaporated with dry toluene (2 × 10 mL) and then dried under vacuum.

To a solution of dried crude co-evaporated mixture (methyl (2*R*)-3-(*tert*butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-2-methylpropionate (~100 mmol)) in anhydrous dichloromethane (200 mL) under an argon atmosphere at -78 °C was added dropwise Dibal-H (1.0 M in hexane, 270 mL, 270 mmol). After the reaction mixture was stirred at -40 °C then warmed to -10 °C for 1 h, the mixture was poured into a cooled aqueous potassium sodium tartrate solution (1.0 M, 300 mL) and allowed to stir at rt overnight. The reaction mixture was extracted with diethyl ether, then the combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. After filtration and solvent removal, the residue was co-evaporated with dry toluene (2 × 10 mL) and dried *in vacuo*.

To a solution of the dried crude (2S)-3-(*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-2-methylpropanol (~100 mmol) and DMAP (20 mg) in dry pyridine (150 mL) under argon at 0 °C was added *p*-TsCl (22.88 g, 120 mmol). After stirring at rt overnight, the reaction mixture was quenched with

water (150 mL). The reaction mixture was then extracted with ether (3 × 150 mL), and the combined organic layers were washed successively with 1 *N* HCl (150 mL), saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (100 mL) and brine (150 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄. After filtration and solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 10% ethyl acetate in hexane to give $2:^{51,52}$ 42.8 g (89% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.78 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.60-7.55 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.25 (m, 8H), 4.12 (dd, 1H, *J* = 5.6, 9.2 Hz), 4.00 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.0, 9.2 Hz), 3.50 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.8, 10.4 Hz), 3.46 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.8, 10.4 Hz), 2.42 (s, 3H), 2.01 (m, 1H), 0.97 (s, 9H), 0.86 (d, 1H, *J* = 6.8); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 144.7, 135.7, 135.6, 134.9, 133.49, 133.46, 129.9, 129.8, 128.1, 127.8, 72.3, 64.6, 35.8, 26.9, 21.8, 19.3, 13.4.

1-(*tert*-**Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-(2***S***)-2-methyl-nonane (3): Under argon, hexylmagnesium bromide (2.0 M in diethyl ether, 40 mL, 80 mmol) was added slowly over 2 h to a solution of 2** (4.83 g, 10.0 mmol), copper (I) bromide-dimethyl sulfide complex (514 mg, 2.50 mmol) in anhydrous THF (130 mL) at -78 °C. After the mixture was stirred in cold for 2 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to 0 °C and stir overnight. The reaction was quenched with saturated ammonium chloride, followed by extraction with ether. The organic layers were combined, washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. After filtration and solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with hexane to give **3** as an oil: 2.72 g (68% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.69-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.30 (m, 6H), 3.51 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.0, 10.0 Hz), 3.43 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.4, 10.0 Hz), 1.64 (m, 1H), 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.33 -1.77 (m, 11H), 1.06 (s, 9H), 0.91 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.88 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 135.8, 134.3, 129.6, 127.7, 69.1, 35.9, 33.3, 32.1, 30.1, 29.5, 27.1, 27.0, 22.9, 19.5, 17.1, 14.3; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₂₆H₄₁OSi [MH⁺] 397.2921, found 391.2918.

(2*S*)-2-Methyl-1-nonanol (4): To a solution of 3 (2.72 g, 6.85 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 10.0 mL, 10.0 mmol). After the mixture was stirred at rt overnight, the solvent was removed, and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 10% ethyl acetate in hexane to give **4** as an oil:⁵³ 1.08 g (100% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 3.44 (m, 1H), 3.36 (m, 1H), 1.56 (m, 1H), 1.40-1.15 (m, 12H), 0.90-0.85 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 68.5, 35.8, 33.2, 32.0, 30.0, 29.4, 27.1, 22.8, 16.7, 14.2.

5-[(2*S*)-2-Methyl-nonylsulfanyl]-1-phenyl-1*H*-tetrazole (5): To a solution of **4** (1.08 g, 6.85 mmol), 1-phenyl-1*H*-tetrazole-5-thiol (1.46 g, 8.22 mmol), PPh₃ (2.16 g, 8.22 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20 mL) under argon at 0 °C was added DEAD (1.32 mL, 8.22 mmol). After the mixture was warmed to rt and stirred for 1 h, the reaction was quenched with water and extracted with diethyl ether. The organic layers were combined and the solvent was removed, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 5% ethyl acetate in hexane to give **5** as an oil: 2.08 g (95% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.65-7.50 (m, 5H), 3.46 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.8, 12.4 Hz), 3.26 (dd, 1H, *J* = 12.4, 7.6 Hz), 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.47 (m, 1H), 1.41-1.18 (m, 11H), 1.04 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.5 Hz), 0.88 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 154.8, 133.9, 130.1, 129.8, 123.9, 40.6, 36.0, 33.0, 31.9, 29.8, 29.3, 26.9, 22.7, 19.2, 14.2; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₁₇H₂₇N₄S [MH⁺] 319.1951, found 319.1953.

5-[(2*S***)-2-Methyl-nonane-1-sulfonyl]-1-phenyl-1***H***-tetrazole (6): To a solution of 5** (1.75 g, 5.48 mmol) in dichloromethane (65 mL) at 0 °C was added *m*-CPBA (77%, 6.15 g, 27.4 mmol) was added. After the reaction mixture was stirred at rt overnight, 10% aqueous $Na_2S_2O_3$ (10 mL)

and saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (15 mL) were added, stirred for an additional 30 min, then extracted with dichloromethane multiple times. The organic layers were combined and washed successively with 10% aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ (10 mL), saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (2 × 10 mL) and brine. After solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 5% ethyl acetate in hexane to give **6** an oil: 1.87 g (97% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.73-7.56 (m, 5H), 3.81 (dd, 1H, *J* = 4.8, 14.4 Hz), 3.58 (dd, 1H, *J* = 14.4, 8.0 Hz), 2.33 (m, 1H), 1.53 (m, 1H), 1.43-1.20 (m, 11H), 1.15 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.88 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 154.2, 133.2, 131.6, 129.8, 125.3, 62.0, 36.7, 31.9, 29.5, 29.3, 28.4, 26.4, 22.7, 19.8, 14.2; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₁₇H₂₇N₄O₂S [MH⁺] 351.1849, found 351.1855.

(3S)-4-(*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-3-methylbutanal [(S)-7)]: A solution mixture of 2 (14.6 g, 30.3 mmol) and sodium cyanide (1.78 g, 95%, 36.4 mmol) in DMF (35 mL) was heated and stirred at 60 °C for 24 h. After quenching the reaction with water (30 mL), the crude product was extracted with hexane (4 × 35 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. Following filtration and solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 5% ethyl acetate in hexane to give (3*S*)-4-(*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-3-methylbutanenitrile:³² 9.86 g (96% yield). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 135.67, 135.64, 133.32, 133.26, 130.0, 127.9, 119.0, 67.0, 33.4, 27.0, 21.2, 19.4, 16.0.

To a solution of (3S)-4-(*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-3-methylbutanenitrile (1.14 g, 3.39 mmol) in anhydrous dichloromethane (4.0 mL) stirring at -78 °C under argon was added dropwise Dibal-H (1.0 M in hexane, 3.7 mL, 3.7 mmol). After stirring at -78 °C for 1 h, the reaction was quenched and acidified to pH 3 by slow addition of 1 *N* HCl. To the mixture,

diethyl ether (10 mL) and aqueous potassium sodium tartrate solution (1.0 M, 5.0 mL) were added, then the entire mixture was stirred at rt for an additional 2 h. The aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 10 mL) and the combined organic layers were washed with brine then dried over MgSO₄. After filtration and solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 5% ethyl acetate in hexane to give (*S*)-7:^{32,54} 1.014 g (88% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 9.78 (s, 1H), 7.70-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.48-7.30 (m, 6H), 3.57 (dd, 1H, *J* = 5.2, 10.0 Hz), 3.45 (dd, 1H, *J* = 7.2, 10.0 Hz), 2.60 (m, 1H), 2.40-2.20 (m, 2H), 1.05 (s, 9H), 0.94 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 202.8, 135.73, 135.71, 133.6, 129.8, 127.8, 68.5, 48.3, 31.4, 27.0, 19.4, 16.9.

1-(*tert*-**Butyldiphenylsilyloxy**)-(2*S*,6*S*)-2,6-dimethyl-(*Z*/*E*)-4-tridecene (8): Standard procedure for Julia–Kocienski olefination reaction: Under argon, LiHMDS (0.50 M in THF, 4.0 mL, 2.0 mmol) was added in a dropwise fashion over 15 min. to a solution of **6** (700 mg, 2.00 mmol) and (*S*)-**7** (0.448 g, 1.32 mmol) in anhydrous THF (15 mL) at -78 °C. The resulting yellow solution was stirred at -78 °C for 3 h and then allowed to warm to rt overnight. The reaction was quenched with aqueous saturated NH₄Cl and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O. After solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with hexane to give **8** as an oil: 0.374 g (61% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.70-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.30 (m, 6H), 5.26 (m, 2H), 3.49 (m, 2H), 2.45-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.84 (m, 1H), 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.34-1.25 (m, 12H), 1.06 (s, 9H), 0.94-0.83 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 138.3, 137.7, 135.8, 134.28, 134.25, 129.6, 127.7, 126.5, 126.4, 68.8, 68.5, 37.7, 37.3, 36.9, 36.8, 36.4, 36.3, 32.1, 31.8, 31.2, 30.0, 29.9, 29.5, 27.7, 27.5, 27.0, 22.8, 21.4, 21.1, 19.5, 16.8, 16.6, 14.3; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₃₁H₄₉OSi [MH⁺] 465.3547, found 465.3555. **1**-(*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-(2*S*,6*S*)-2,6-dimethyl-tridecane (9): Standard procedure for diimide reduction reaction: CuSO₄ (1.4 mg, 0.0086 mmol) was added to a solution of **8** (40 mg, 0.086 mmol) and hydrazine (0.27 mL, 8.6 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL). After the mixture was bubbled with air and stirred at 70 °C for 15 h, the solvent was removed, and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with hexane to give product **9**:⁴⁰ 36 mg (90% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.70-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.30 (m, 6H), 3.51 (dd, 1H, *J* = 5.6, 9.6 Hz), 3.43 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.4, 9.6 Hz), 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.45-1.00 (m, 19H), 1.05 (s, 9H), 0.92 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.88 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 0.83 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 135.8, 134.3, 129.6, 127.7, 69.1, 37.5, 37.2, 35.9, 33.6, 32.9, 32.1, 30.1, 29.5, 27.2, 27.0, 24.5, 22.8, 19.9, 19.5, 17.1, 14.3.

(2*S*,6*S*)-2,6-Dimethyl-1-tridecanol (10): TBAF (1.0 M, 1.66 mL, 1.66 mmol) was added to a solution of **9** (388 mg, 0.83 mmol) in THF (3.0 mL). After the mixture was stirred at rt overnight, the solvent was removed, and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatograph, eluting with 8% ethyl acetate in hexane to give product 10:⁴⁰ 189 mg (100%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 3.50 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.0, 10.4 Hz), 3.40 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.4, 10.4 Hz), 1.72 (brs, 1H), 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.45-1.17 (m, 16H), 1.17-1.00 (m, 3H), 0.92 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.88 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 0.84 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 68.3, 37.3, 37.0, 35.8, 33.5, 32.7, 31.9, 30.0, 29.4, 27.1, 24.4, 22.7, 19.7, 16.6, 14.1.

(25,65)-2,6-Dimethyl-tridecanal (11): Under argon, Dess-Martin periodinane (662 mg, 1.56 mmol) was added to a solution of 10 (297 mg, 1.30 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) at 0 °C. After stirring at 0 °C to rt for 3 h, TLC showed the reaction was complete. The mixture was

diluted with ether (100 mL), the solid filtered off, and rinsed with ether. The filtrate was washed subsequently with 10% aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ (20 mL), aqueous NaHCO₃ (20 mL), brine (20 mL) and dried over MgSO₄. After filtration and solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 3% ethyl acetate in hexane to give **11**:⁴⁰ 0.228 g (77% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 9.61 (m, 1H), 2.33 (m, 1H), 1.70 (m, 1H), 1.45-1.16 (m, 17H), 1.16-1.03 (m, 1H), 1.09 (d, 3H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 0.88 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 0.84 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 205.5, 46.5, 37.2, 37.1, 32.8, 32.1, 31.0, 30.1, 29.5, 27.2, 24.6, 22.8, 19.8, 14.2, 13.5.

(3*S*,7*S*)-3,7-dimethyl-1-tetradecene (12): Under argon *s*-BuLi (1.4 M in cyclohexane, 2.1 mL, 3.0 mmol) was added slowly to a suspension of triphenylmethylphosphonium bromide (1.07 g, 3.00 mmol) in anhydrous THF (6 mL) at -78 °C. After stirring at -78 °C for 30 min, a solution of 11 (226 mg, 1.00 mmol) in anhydrous THF (3 mL) was added to the mixture under argon. The mixture was allowed to warm to rt overnight. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride followed by extraction with ether, and drying the organic layers over magnesium sulfate. After solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with hexane to give 12 as an oil: 146 mg (65% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 5.69 (m, 1H), 4.98-4.86 (m, 2H), 2.10 (m, 1H), 1.40-1.16 (m, 17H), 1.13-1.00 (m, 2H), 0.97 (d, 3H, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 0.88 (t, 3H, *J* = 5.2 Hz), 0.83 (d, 3H, *J* = 5.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 145.2, 112.3, 37.9, 37.29, 37.28, 37.1, 32.9, 32.1, 30.1, 29.6, 27.3, 24.8, 22.9, 20.4, 19.8, 14.3; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₁₆H₃₂ [M⁺] 224.2499, found 224.2500.

(3S,7S)-3,7-Dimethyl-1-tetradecanol (13): Under argon, 9-BBN (226 mg, 0.93 mmol) was added to a solution of 12 (104 mg, 0.46 mmol) in anhydrous THF (5 mL). After the reaction

mixture was stirred at rt overnight, water (3 mL) and NaBO₃-4H₂O (859 mg, 5.58 mmol) were added, the mixture was stirred at rt for an additional 2 h. The mixture was extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 10 mL), the organic layers combined, and washed with brine. After solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 10% ethyl acetate in hexane to give **13** as an oil:⁴² 103 mg (92% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 3.67 (m, 2H), 1.63 (brs, 1H), 1.59 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.00 (m, 20H), 0.92-0.82 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 61.3, 40.1, 37.6, 37.5, 37.2, 32.9, 32.1, 30.1, 29.7, 29.5, 27.2, 24.5, 22.8, 19.84, 19.78, 14.2; HRMS (EI-GCMS) calcd for C₁₆H₃₃O [M-H]⁺ 241.2531, found 241.2534.

1-(*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-(2*R*,6*S*)-2,6-dimethyl-(*Z/E*)-4-tridecene (14): Compound 14 was prepared according to standard procedure, as described for the synthesis of **8**. LiHMDS (0.50 M in THF, 3.06 mL, 1.53 mmol) was slowly added to a solution of **6** (536 mg, 1.53 mmol) and (*R*)-**7** (0369 mg, 1.08 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) at -78 °C for 15 min. The reaction afforded **14** as an oil: 0.326 g (65% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.83-7.73 (m, 4H), 7.53-7.42 (m, 6H), 5.45-5.20 (m, 2H), 3.70-3.50 (m, 2H), 2.51 (m, 0.3H), 2.29 (m, 1H), 2.14 (m, 0.7H), 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.43-1.28 (m, 12H), 1.18 (s, 9H), 1.04-0.93 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 138.3, 137.7, 135.8, 134.26, 134.24, 129.6, 127.7, 126.5, 126.4, 69.0, 68.6, 37.8, 37.4, 37.0, 36.7, 36.5, 36.3, 32.1, 31.8, 31.2, 30.0, 29.9, 29.5, 27.7, 27.6, 27.1, 22.9, 21.4, 21.2, 19.50, 19.48, 16.84, 16.68, 14.3; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₃₁H₄₉OSi [MH⁺] 465.3547, found 465.3558.

1-(*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-(2*R*,6*S*)-2,6-dimethyl-tridecane (15): Following the standard procedure described for the synthesis of 9, compound 15 was prepared from the reaction of 14

(216 mg, 0.465 mmol) and hydrazine (1.46 mL, 46.5 mmol) in the presence of CuSO₄ (7.4 mg, 0.047 mmol) in ethanol (25 mL) while bubbling air flow and stirring at 70 °C for 15 h. The reaction afforded product **15** as an oil: 194 mg (89% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.70-7.62 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.30 (m, 6H), 3.51 (dd, 1H, *J* = 5.6, 10.0 Hz), 3.44 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.4, 10.0 Hz), 1.64 (m, 1H), 1.45-1.00 (m, 19H), 1.06 (s, 9H), 0.92 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.88 (t, 3H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 0.83 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 135.8, 134.3, 129.6, 127.7, 69.2, 37.5, 37.3, 35.9, 33.6, 32.9, 32.1, 30.2, 29.6, 27.3, 27.1, 24.6, 22.9, 19.9, 17.1, 14.3; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₃₁H₅₁OSi [MH⁺] 467.3704, found 467.3714.

5-[(2*S***)-4-Benzyloxy-2-methyl-butane-1-sulfonyl]-1-phenyl-1***H***-tetrazole [(***S***)-16)]: (***S***)-16 was prepared from [(***S***)-7] in five steps with 60% overall yield according to the procedure described for the synthesis of (***R***)-16.⁴² ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) \delta 7.70-7.50 (m, 5H), 7.36-7.23 (m, 5H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 3.98 (dd, 1H,** *J* **= 14.4, 4.4 Hz), 3.60 (dd, 1H,** *J* **= 14.4, 8.0 Hz), 3.58-3.51 (m, 2H), 2.54 (m, 1H), 1.83 (m, 1H), 1.68 (m, 1H), 1.17 (d, 3H,** *J* **= 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) \delta 154.1, 138.2, 133.1, 131.5, 129.7, 128.5, 127.72, 127.71, 125.3, 73.1, 67.3, 61.8, 36.1, 26.4, 19.8.**

8-Benzyloxy-1-(*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-(2*S*,6*R*)-2,6-dimethyl-(*Z*/*E*)-4-octene (18): Compound 18 was prepared according to the standard procedure described for the synthesis of 8. LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 2.4 mL, 2.4 mmol) was slowly added to a solution of (*R*)-16⁴² (918 mg, 2.38 mmol) and (*S*)-7 (317 mg, 0.931 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) at -78 °C for 15 min. The reaction yielded 18 as an oil: 399 mg (86% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.70-7.20 (m, 15H), 5.40-5.10 (m, 2H), 4.50-4.40 (m, 2H), 3.51-3.30 (m, 4H), 2.60 (m, 0.3H), 2.30-2.10 (m, 1.7H), 2.00-1.40 (m, 4H), 1.06 (s, 9H), 0.97-0.85 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 138.8, 138.7, 137.3, 136.6, 135.7, 134.13, 134.11, 129.6, 128.39, 128.37, 127.7, 127.53, 127.50, 127.3, 127.2, 73.03, 72.99, 68.88, 68.83, 68.7, 68.4, 37.3, 37.0, 36.5, 36.4, 36.2, 33.9, 31.1, 28.9, 27.0, 21.5, 21.2, 19.43, 19.41, 16.9, 16.6; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₃₃H₄₄O₂Si [MNH₄⁺] 518.3449, found 518.3462.

8-Benzyloxy-1-(*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-(2R,6S)-2,6-dimethyl-(Z/E)-4-octene (19): Compound 19 was prepared according to the standard procedure described for the synthesis of 8. LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 1.5 mL, 1.5 mmol) was slowly added to a solution of (S)-16 (563 mg, 1.46 mmol) and (R)- 7^{42} (341 mg, 1.00 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) at -78 °C for 15 min. The reaction yielded 19 as an oil: 345 mg (69% yield). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data of 18 and 19 are consistent.

8-Benzyloxy-1-(*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-(2*S*,6*S*)-2,6-dimethyl-(*Z*/*E*)-4-octene (20): Compound 20 was prepared according to the standard procedure described for the synthesis of 8. LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 1.5 mL, 1.5 mmol) was slowly added to a solution of (*S*)-16 (386 mg, 1.00 mmol) and (*S*)-7 (170 mg, 0.500 mmol) in anhydrous THF (5 mL) at -78 °C for 15 min. The reaction yielded 20 as an oil: 185 mg (74% yield). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data are consistent with that of its enantiomer 17.⁴²

8-Benzyloxy-1-*(tert-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-(2S,6S)-2,6-dimethyl-octane (22)*: According to the standard procedure described for the synthesis of **9**, compound **22** was prepared from **18** (397 mg, 0.793 mmol) and hydrazine (2.66 mL, 79.7 mmol) in the presence of CuSO₄ (12.7 mg, 0.0797 mmol) in ethanol (40 mL) while bubbling air and stirring at 70 °C for 15 h. The reaction

yielded **22** as an oil: 0.370 g (93% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.70-7.60 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.20 (m, 11H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 3.55-3.35 (m, 4H), 1.70-1.00 (m, 10H), 1.05 (s, 9H), 0.91 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 0.86 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 138.9, 135.8, 134.3, 129.6, 128.5, 127.73, 127.69, 127.6, 73.0, 69.1, 68.9, 37.5, 37.0, 35.8, 33.6, 30.0, 27.0, 24.4, 19.8, 19.5, 17.1; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₃₃H₅₀NO₂Si [MNH₄]⁺ 520.3605, found 520.3612.

8-Benzyloxy-1-(*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-(2*R*,6*R*)-2,6-dimethyl-octane (23): According to the standard procedure described for the synthesis of 9, compound 23 was prepared from 19 (339 mg, 0.793 mmol) and hydrazine (2.26 mL, 67.7 mmol) in the presence of CuSO₄ (10.8 mg, 0.0677 mmol) in ethanol (35 mL) while bubbling air and stirring at 70 °C for 15 h. The reaction yielded 23 as an oil: 0.293 g (86% yield). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data of 22 and 23 are consistent.

8-Benzyloxy-1-(*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-(2*S*,6*R*)-2,6-dimethyl-octane (24): According to the standard procedure described for the synthesis of 9, compound 24 was prepared from 20 (178 mg, 0.355 mmol) and hydrazine (1.19 mL, 35.5 mmol) in the presence of CuSO₄ (5.7 mg, 0.036 mmol) in ethanol (18 mL) while bubbling air and stirring at 70 °C for 15 h. The reaction yielded 24 as an oil: 0.164 g (92% yield). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data are consistent with that of its enantiomer 21.⁴²

8-(*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyloxy)-(3*S*,7*R*)-3,7-dimethyl-octyl *p*-toluenesulfonate (26): DMAP (2.0 mg) and TsCl (132 mg, 0.694 mmol) were added to a solution of 25^{42} (191 mg, 0.463 mmol) in pyridine (5.0 mL) at 0 °C. After the reaction mixture was stirred at rt overnight, the reaction was quenched with water (1.0 mL) and extracted with ether. The organic layer was washed with 1 *N* HCl, water, followed by saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and brine, and then dried over MgSO₄.

After filtration and solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 5% ethyl acetate in hexane to give **26** as an oil: (197 mg, 75% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.70-7.62 (m, 4H), 7.45-7.28 (m, 8H), 4.10-4.00 (m, 2H), 3.48 (dd, 1H, *J* = 10.0, 5.6 Hz), 3.42 (dd, 1H, *J* = 10.0, 6.4 Hz), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.70-1.00 (m, 10H), 1.05 (s, 9H), 0.90 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 0.78 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 144.7, 135.7, 134.2, 133.4, 129.9, 129.6, 128.0, 127.7, 69.2, 68.9, 37.1, 35.81, 35.78, 33.4, 29.3, 27.0, 24.2, 21.8, 19.5, 19.3, 17.1; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₃₃H₄₆O₄NaSiS [MNa⁺] 589.2778, found 589.2793.

(2*R*,6*R*)-2,6,10-Trimethyl-undecanol-1 (27): Under argon to the solution of 26 (99.0 mg, 0.175 mmol), copper(I) bromide-dimethyl sulfide complex (20 mg, 0.097 mmol) in anhydrous THF (5 mL) at -78 °C was added isobutylmagnesium chloride (2.0 M in diethyl ether, 2.0 mL, 4.0 mmol). After stirring at -78 °C for 2 h, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 0 °C and stir overnight. The reaction was quenched with saturated ammonium chloride, the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with ether. The organic layers were combined and washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. After filtration and solvent removal, and the residue was treated with a TBAF solution (1.0 M in THF, 1.0 mL, 1.0 mmol) and allowed to at rt overnight. After solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 10% ethyl acetate hexane to give 27:²⁹ 36 mg (96% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 3.55-3.47 (m, 2H), 1.62 (m, 1H), 1.52 (m, 1H), 1.42-1.00 (m, 13H), 0.92 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.90-0.82 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 68.6, 39.5, 37.5, 37.4, 35.9, 33.6, 32.9, 28.1, 24.9, 24.6, 22.9, 22.8, 19.9, 16.8.

(2*R*,6*R*)-8-Benzyloxy-2,6-dimethyloctanol-1 (28): A TBAF solution (1.0 M solution, 0.50 mL, 0.50 mmol) was added to a solution of 23 (100 mg, 0.200 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL). After the mixture was stirred at rt overnight, the solvent was removed, and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 15% ethyl acetate in hexane to give 28 as an oil: 51 mg (96% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.40-7.20 (m, 5H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 3.60-3.30 (m, 4H), 1.70-1.10 (m, 10H), 0.91 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.87 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 138.8, 128.4, 127.7, 127.6, 73.0, 68.8, 68.4, 37.4, 36.9, 35.8, 33.4, 29.9, 24.4, 19.7, 16.7; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₁₇H₂₉O₂ [MH⁺] 265.2162, found 265.2162.

(2*R*,6*R*)-8-Benzyloxy-2,6-dimethyloctyl *p*-toluenesulfonate (29): To a solution of 28 (49.0 mg, 0.185 mmol) in pyridine (2.0 mL) at 0 °C were added DMAP (1.0 mg) and TsCl (71 mg, 0.372 mmol). After the reaction mixture was stirred at rt overnight, the reaction was quenched with water then extracted with ether. The organic layer was washed successively with 1 N HCl, water, saturated aqueous NaHCO₃, and brine, and then dried over MgSO₄. After filtration and solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 5% ethyl acetate in hexane to give 29 as an oil: 56 mg, 72% yield. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.78 (d, 2H, *J* = 9.6 Hz), 7.40-7.20 (m, 7H), 4.49 (s, 2H), 3.87 (dd, 1H, *J* = 6.0, 9.2 Hz), 3.79 (m, 1H, *J* = 6.4, 9.2 Hz), 3.54-3.40 (m, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.85-0.95 (m, 10H), 0.87 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.84 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 144.7, 138.8, 133.3, 129.9, 128.5, 128.0, 127.7, 127.6, 75.3, 73.0, 68.7, 37.2, 36.9, 33.0, 32.9, 29.9, 24.0, 21.7, 19.7, 16.5; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₂₄H₃₅O₄S [MH⁺] 419.2251, found 419.2259.

(3*R*,7*S*)-1-Benzyloxy-3,5-dimethylundecane (30): Under argon to a solution of 29 (55 mg, 0.13 mmol), copper (I) bromide-dimethyl sulfide complex (26.7 mg, 0.13 mmol) in anhydrous THF (5 mL) at -78 °C was added *n*-propylmagnesium chloride (2.0 M in diethyl ether, 1.3 mL, 2.6 mmol). After the mixture was allowed to stir at -78 °C then warm up to 0 °C overnight, the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ether. After solvent removal, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 10% ethyl acetate in hexane to give **30** as an oil: 37 mg (98% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 7.40-7.20 (m, 5H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 3.60-3.40 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.00 (m, 16H), 0.92-0.80 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 138.8, 128.5, 127.7, 127.6, 73.0, 68.9, 37.6, 37.5, 36.99, 36.97, 32.9, 30.0, 29.5, 24.5, 23.2, 19.82, 19.80, 14.3; HRMS (ESI/APCl) calcd for C₂₀H₃₃O [M-H]⁺ 289.2526, found 289.2518.

(3*R*,7*S*)-3,5-Dimethylundecanol-1 (31): 10% Pd on carbon (5.0 mg, 0.047 mmol) was added in a single portion to a solution of 30 (33 mg, 0.11 mmol) in ethyl acetate (5 mL). The resulting suspension was saturated with hydrogen gas by 5 vacuum-hydrogen cycles. After stirring at rt overnight under an H₂ atmosphere, TLC showed the reaction was complete. The catalyst was filtered off, the solvent from the filtrate was removed, and the filtrate residue was purified by silica gel chromatography, eluting with 10% ethyl acetate in hexane to give 31 as an oil:³⁶ 20 mg (91% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃/TMS) δ 3.80-3.60 (m, 2H), 1.58 (m, 2H), 1.43-1.02 (m, 14H), 0.92-0.82 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 61.4, 40.2, 37.6, 37.4, 37.0, 32.9, 29.6, 29.5, 24.5, 23.2, 19.8, 19.7, 14.3.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for all new compounds.

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Synthesis of Stereopure Acyclic 1,5-Dimethylalkyl Chirons: Building Blocks of Highly Methyl Branched Natural Products

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