Efficient and General Preparation of Pyranostilbenes: First Total Synthesis of Artocarbene and Pawhuskin B

Byung Ho Park,^a Yong Rok Lee,*^a Won Seok Lyoo^b

^a School of Chemical Engineering and Technology, Yeungnam University, Gyeongsan 712-749, Korea

^b School of Textiles, Yeungnam University, Gyeongsan 712-749, Korea

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Abstract: An efficient and general synthesis providing pyranostilbenes in moderate yields has been developed. It consists of the reaction of pinosylvin with the appropriate α , β -unsaturated aldehyde catalyzed by ethylenediamine diacetate. As an application of this methodology, biologically active natural products artocarbene and pawhuskin B were synthesized by a convergent sequence from commercially available aldehydes.

Key words: heterocycles, alkenes, phenols, artocarbene, pawhuskin B

Compounds containing the benzopyran moiety are widely distributed throughout nature,¹ possess many biological activities,² and are used as versatile intermediates in organic and natural product synthesis.³ Molecules bearing the stilbene moiety are also widely found in nature⁴ and have a variety of interesting biological activities and properties, including antimicrobial,⁵ antimalarial,⁶ antioxidant,⁷ antileukemic,⁸ anti-platelet aggregative,⁹ anticarcinogenic,¹⁰ anti-HIV,¹¹ protein tyrosine kinase inhibitory,¹² anti-inflammatory,¹³ antimutagenic,¹⁴ antifungal,¹⁵ and hepatoprotective¹⁶ activities.

In particular, pyranostilbenes with the benzopyran moiety on the stilbene are also found in nature.^{17–20} Among these, artocarbene (1; Figure 1) was isolated from the tropical evergreen *Artocarpus incisus*, distributed throughout Thailand.^{6,17} This plant has been used in folk medicine for the treatment of tapeworm infection⁶ and has been shown to possess antimalarial⁶ and antityrosinase¹⁸ activities. Pawhuskin B (2; Figure 1) was isolated from Dalea purpurea, which was used by Plains Indians to ward off disease and for unspecified ailments together pawhuskins A and C.¹⁹ It has a high affinity for the opioid receptor in bioassay testing.¹⁹ Recently, a synthetic approach for natural pawhuskin C without a benzopyran ring has been reported.²⁰ Natural compounds **3–5** (Figure 1) were isolated from the roots of Lonchocarpus utilus, used as an insecticide and pesticide,²¹ and have shown potent inhibition of NADH:ubiquinone oxidoreductase and phorbol ester induced ornithine decarboxylase activities.²¹ This range of important biological activities and properties has stimulated research into the synthesis of molecules with a benzopyran moiety on the stilbene. The structures of these natural products 1-5 have been established by spectral analysis, but no synthetic approaches for the formation of pyranostilbenes have been reported.

Recently, we developed a new and useful methodology for preparing a variety of benzopyrans using reactions of resorcinols with α , β -unsaturated aldehydes catalyzed by ethylenediamine diacetate (EDDA).²² These reactions involve cycloadditions through a 6π -electrocyclization or hetero-Diels–Alder reaction²² and provide a rapid route for the synthesis of benzopyran derivatives with a variety of substituents on the pyranyl ring. As part of an ongoing study of the synthetic efficacy of this methodology, we describe herein an efficient and general synthesis of a variety of pyranostilbene derivatives through a domino aldol-type reaction and 6π -electrocyclization reaction.





Figure 1 Naturally occurring compounds 1-5 with benzopyran on the stilbene nucleus

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Scheme 1 Reaction of pinosylvin (6) with 3-methylbut-2-enal (7) in the presence of ethylenediamine diacetate



Scheme 2 Reaction of pinosylvin (6) with citral (9) in the presence of ethylenediamine diacetate

We also report on the first total synthesis of the naturally occurring artocarbene (1) and pawhuskin B (2).

We first investigated the synthesis of pyranostilbene derivatives using pinosylvin (6) as starting material (Scheme 1). Reaction of 6 with 3-methylbut-2-enal (7) in the presence of ethylenediamine diacetate (20 mol%) in refluxing *p*-xylene for eight hours afforded benzopyran 8 in 78% yield through a domino aldol-type reaction and a 6π -electrocyclization reaction.^{22a} Compound 8 was easily separated by column chromatography and characterized by spectroscopic analyses. In the ¹H NMR spectrum, two vinyl protons on the 2*H*-pyranyl ring were observed at δ = 6.60 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1 H) and 5.59 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1 H).

As shown in Scheme 2, reaction of pinosylvin (6) with 3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dienal (citral, 9) in refluxing benzene for ten hours afforded the desired product 10 in 60% yield. It is interesting that when the temperature was raised to 138 °C for ten hours by the use of *p*-xylene as solvent, both product 10 (23%) and tetracycle 11 (40%) were produced (Scheme 2). The two compounds were easily separated by column chromatography and characterized by spectroscopic analyses on the basis of data reported in the literature.^{19,23} The ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 10 showed the two vinyl protons on the 2Hpyranyl ring at $\delta = 6.59$ (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1 H) and 5.49 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1 H), whereas the ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 11 showed a methine proton of benzylic position at $\delta = 2.83$ as a broad singlet. Further support for the structural assignment of tetracycle 11 was obtained from its ^{13}C NMR spectrum, which clearly showed the expected two quaternary carbons on the two tetrahydropyranyl rings at $\delta = 83.8$ and 74.7.

Additional reactions of pinosylvin (6) with several types of α,β -unsaturated aldehydes 12–16 were carried out in the presence of ethylenediamine diacetate (20 mol%) in refluxing benzene or *p*-xylene (Table 1). Reaction of **6** with crotonaldehyde (12) for 12 hours afforded adduct 17 in 43% yield (entry 1), whereas treatment with *trans*-cinnamaldehyde (13) in refluxing benzene for 12 hours afforded compound 18 in 79% yield (entry 2). In the case of trans, trans-farnesal (14), bearing a long chain, the reaction in refluxing benzene for 12 hours produced the desired product 19 in 58% yield (entry 3). With the other α,β -unsaturated aldehydes 15 and 16, containing cyclohexene rings, the cycloaddition reactions were also successful (entries 4 and 5). Thus, the reactions of 6 with cyclohex-1-ene-1-carboxaldehyde (15) and (-)-perillaldehyde (16) in refluxing *p*-xylene provided the corresponding adducts 20 and 21 in 67 and 79% yields, respectively, as single compounds (entries 4 and 5). These reactions provide a rapid route for the synthesis of pyranostilbenes with a variety of substituents on the 2*H*-pyranyl rings.

As an application of this methodology, the total syntheses of naturally occurring artocarbene (1) and pawhuskin B (2) were attempted. Scheme 3 shows the retrosynthetic analysis for artocarbene (1) through disconnection. Artocarbene (1) can be prepared by a benzopyran-formation reaction of *trans*-stilbene 28 with 3-methylbut-2-enal (7) through the domino aldol-type reaction and 6π -electrocyclization reaction described above. Compound 28 can be readily generated by a Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons reaction of benzaldehyde 26 and benzylic phosphonate 25. Aldehyde 26 can be prepared from commercially available 2,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, while phosphonate 25

 α,β -Unsaturated aldehyde

Table 1 Entry



may be derived from commercially available 3,5-dihydroxybenzaldehyde (22).

The synthetic approach of artocarbene (1) is shown in Scheme 4. Protection of aldehyde 22 with chloromethyl methyl ether under basic conditions provided by N,N-diisopropylethylamine, followed by reduction with sodium borohydride gave the protected benzyl alcohol 23 in 94% yield (2 steps). Alcohol 23 was then converted into the corresponding iodide 24 in 83% yield (2 steps) by a sequence consisting of mesylate formation followed by displacement with sodium iodide. Reaction of iodide 24 with triethyl phosphite in refluxing xylene for five hours afforded the desired phosphonate 25 in 97% yield. The Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons reaction of phosphonate 25 with benzaldehyde 26 in the presence of potassium tertbutoxide in tetrahydrofuran gave the desired trans-stilbene 27 in 71% yield.²⁴ Deprotection of the two methoxymethyl ethers of compound 27 with concentrated



Scheme 3 Retrosynthetic analysis for artocarbene (1)

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Yield (%)



Scheme 4 Total synthesis of artocarbene (1)



Scheme 5 Total synthesis of pawhuskin B (2)

hydrochloric acid in methanol at room temperature for ten hours afforded compound **28** in 60% yield. Reaction of **28** with 3-methylbut-2-enal (7) in the presence of ethylenediamine diacetate (20 mol%) in refluxing xylene for eight hours gave adduct **29** (87%). Removal of the two silyl ether groups with tetrabutylammonium fluoride provided artocarbene (**1**) in 90% yield. The spectroscopic data of synthetic material **1** was in agreement with the reported data.¹⁷

Next, the total synthesis of pawhuskin B (2) (Scheme 5) began with phosphonate 25, prepared as described above. The Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons reaction of phosphonate 25 with benzaldehyde 30, prepared from 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, provided *trans*-stilbene 31 in 91%

yield.²⁴ Deprotection of the two methoxymethyl ethers was accomplished with concentrated hydrochloric acid in methanol at room temperature for ten hours to afford compound **32** (68%). Treatment of **32** with citral (**9**) catalyzed by ethylenediamine diacetate (20 mol%) in refluxing benzene for 12 hours gave adduct **33** in 61% yield. Removal of the two silyl ethers with tetrabutylammonium fluoride in tetrahydrofuran at room temperature for five hours gave pawhuskin B (**2**) in 91% yield. The spectroscopic data of synthetic compound **2** are identical to those of the natural product reported in the literature.¹⁹

In conclusion, we have described reactions for the formation of pyranostilbene derivatives starting from pinosylvin (6) and α,β -unsaturated aldehydes 12–16 in the presence of ethylenediamine diacetate. As an application of this new methodology, the first total syntheses of natural products artocarbene (1) and pawhuskin B (2) were accomplished by a convergent sequence. The required *trans*-stilbenes 28 and 32, key intermediates in the syntheses of these two natural products, were prepared in a straightforward manner by Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons reactions of the corresponding phosphonates synthesized from commercially available aldehydes.

All experiments were carried out under a N₂ atmosphere. Precoated silica gel plates (Merck, Art. 5554) with a fluorescent indicator were used for analytical TLC. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel 9385 (Merck). ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Model ARX (300 and 75 MHz, respectively) spectrometer; samples were prepared in CDCl₃ or acetone-*d*₆. IR spectra were recorded on a Jasco FTIR 5300 spectrophotometer. HRMS and MS spectra were carried out at the Korea Basic Science Institute.

Pyranostilbenes; General Procedure

EDDA (18 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added to a soln of pinosylvin (**6**; 0.5 mmol) and the appropriate α , β -unsaturated aldehyde (1.0–1.5 mmol) in benzene (10 mL) or *p*-xylene (10 mL). The mixture was refluxed for 8–12 h, and the subsequent removal of the solvent left an oily residue, which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel) to give the product.

(E)-2,2-Dimethyl-7-styryl-2H-chromen-5-ol (8)

The reaction of **6** (106 mg, 0.5 mmol) with 3-methylbut-2-enal (7; 84 mg, 1.0 mmol) in refluxing *p*-xylene (10 mL) for 8 h afforded compound **8**.

Yield: 109 mg (78%); solid; mp 138-140 °C.

IR (KBr): 3372, 2976, 1615, 1566, 1451, 1424, 1360, 1323, 1275, 1248, 1113, 1046, 957, 868, 826, 777 $\rm cm^{-1}.$

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.32 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.60 (s, 1 H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.46 (s, 1 H), 5.59 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1 H), 1.42 (s, 6 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 154.1, 151.3, 138.4, 137.1, 129.3, 129.0, 128.6, 128.1, 127.7, 126.5, 116.3, 109.3, 107.3, 106.2, 76.1, 27.8.

MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%) = 278 [M⁺] (17), 277 (3), 265 (2), 264 (20), 263 (100), 155 (2), 132 (4), 91 (4).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for C₁₉H₁₈O₂: 278.1307; found: 278.1309.

(*E*)-2-Methyl-2-(4-methylpent-3-enyl)-7-styryl-2*H*-chromen-5-ol (10)

The reaction of 6 (106 mg, 0.5 mmol) with citral (9; 152 mg, 1.0 mmol) in refluxing benzene (10 mL) for 10 h afforded compound **10**.

Yield: 104 mg (60%); oil.

IR (neat): 3409, 2970, 2921, 1613, 1567, 1429, 1343, 1263, 1198, 1143, 1083, 1058, 960, 824, 749 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.26 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.55 (s, 1 H), 6.39 (s, 1 H), 5.49 (*J* = 9.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.10–4.98 (m, 2 H), 2.18–1.99 (m, 2 H), 1.75–1.63 (m, 2 H), 1.60 (s, 3 H), 1.53 (s, 3 H), 1.34 (s, 3 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 154.4, 151.4, 138.3, 137.2, 131.7, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1, 127.7, 126.5, 124.1, 116.8, 109.2, 107.1, 106.1, 78.4, 41.1, 26.3, 25.7, 22.7, 17.6.

MS (EI, 70 eV): *m*/*z* (%) = 346 [M⁺] (9), 264 (19), 263 (100), 150 (3), 107 (3), 77 (3), 69 (9), 58 (5).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for C₂₄H₂₆O₂: 346.1933; found: 346.1936.

Compounds 10 and 11

The reaction of **6** (106 mg, 0.5 mmol) with citral (**9**; 152 mg, 1.0 mmol) in refluxing *p*-xylene (10 mL) for 10 h afforded compounds **10** and **11**.

Yield (10): 40 mg (23%); yield (11): 69 mg (40%).

Compound 11

Oil.

IR (neat): 3026, 2975, 2930, 1610, 1578, 1449, 1424, 1352, 1314, 1130, 1065, 997, 963, 909, 883, 827, 733 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.27 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.94 (s, 2 H), 6.60 (s, 1 H), 6.57 (s, 1 H), 2.83 (br s, 1 H), 2.24–1.98 (m, 2 H), 1.79 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 2 H), 1.48 (s, 3 H), 1.41–1.36 (m, 1 H), 1.33 (s, 3 H), 1.25–1.18 (m, 1 H), 0.98 (s, 3 H), 0.74–0.61 (m, 1 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 157.3, 156.9, 137.4, 136.8, 129.2, 128.6, 128.2, 127.3, 126.4, 116.9, 107.8, 107.4, 83.8, 74.7, 46.7, 37.3, 35.2, 29.7, 29.0, 28.3, 23.8, 22.1.

MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%) = 346 [M⁺] (30), 331 (7), 303 (5), 265 (10), 264 (22), 263 (100), 151 (10), 123 (7), 109 (5), 91 (7), 69 (31).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for C₂₄H₂₆O₂: 346.1933; found: 346.1929.

(*E*)-2-Methyl-7-styryl-2*H*-chromen-5-ol (17)

The reaction of 6 (106 mg, 0.5 mmol) with crotonaldehyde (12; 105 mg, 1.5 mmol) in refluxing benzene (10 mL) for 12 h afforded compound 17.

Yield: 57 mg (43%); solid; mp 92-93 °C.

IR (KBr): 3425, 2969, 2925, 1615, 1569, 1429, 1296, 1105, 1065, 960, 868, 823, 750 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.64 (s, 1 H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.66 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 3.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.05–4.90 (m, 1 H), 1.47 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 154.6, 151.4, 138.4, 137.0, 129.0, 128.6, 128.1, 127.7, 126.5, 125.3, 117.9, 109.9, 106.9, 106.4, 71.3, 21.0.

MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 264 [M⁺] (37), 263 (30), 250 (19), 249 (100), 155 (28), 116 (9), 91 (31), 69 (11), 59 (12).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for C₁₈H₁₆O₂: 264.1150; found: 264.1146.

(E)-2-Phenyl-7-styryl-2H-chromen-5-ol (18)

The reaction of 6 (106 mg, 0.5 mmol) with *trans*-cinnamaldehyde (13; 198 mg, 1.5 mmol) in refluxing benzene (10 mL) for 12 h afforded compound 18.

Yield: 129 mg (79%); solid; mp 55-56 °C.

IR (KBr): 3339, 1615, 1564, 1352, 1202, 1144, 1073, 1019, 949, 822, 764, 704 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.37–7.17 (m, 10 H), 6.90 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.78 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.77 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1

H), 6.54 (s, 1 H), 6.40 (s, 1 H), 5.79 (br s, 1 H), 5.70 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.25 (br s, 1 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, acetone-*d*₆): δ = 154.4, 153.3, 141.3, 138.8, 137.3, 128.7, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 127.6, 126.9, 126.5, 122.7, 118.5, 109.6, 106.7, 105.5, 76.3.

MS (EI, 70 eV): *m*/*z* (%) = 326 [M⁺] (100), 325 (81), 249 (31), 225 (16), 165 (8), 115 (8), 105 (14), 91 (14), 86 (22), 84 (33), 77 (11), 58 (8).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for C₂₃H₁₈O₂: 326.1307; found: 326.1307.

2-[(*E*)-4,8-Dimethylnona-3,7-dienyl]-2-methyl-7-[(*E*)-styryl]-2*H*-chromen-5-ol (19)

The reaction of **6** (106 mg, 0.5 mmol) with *trans,trans*-farnesal (14; 220 mg, 1.0 mmol) in refluxing benzene (10 mL) for 12 h afforded compound **19**.

Yield: 120 mg (58%); oil.

IR (neat): 3366, 2967, 1612, 1427, 1329, 1070, 960, 823 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 7.31 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 8.1 Hz, 2 H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.63 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.59 (s, 1 H), 6.42 (s, 1 H), 5.53 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.33 (br s, 1 H), 5.12– 5.03 (m, 2 H), 2.19–1.86 (m, 6 H), 1.80–1.68 (m, 2 H), 1.65 (s, 3 H), 1.56 (s, 6 H), 1.38 (s, 3 H).

 13 C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 154.4, 151.4, 138.3, 137.2, 135.3, 131.3, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1, 127.6, 126.5, 124.3, 123.9, 116.7, 109.2, 107.1, 106.0, 78.5, 41.1, 39.7, 26.7, 26.3, 25.7, 22.6, 17.7, 16.0.

MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%) = 414 [M⁺] (10), 265 (4), 264 (19), 263 (100), 69 (6).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for C₂₉H₃₄O₂: 414.2559; found: 414.2563.

(E)-6-Styryl-2,3,4,4a-tetrahydro-1*H*-xanthen-8-ol (20)

The reaction of **6** (106 mg, 0.5 mmol) with cyclohex-1-ene-1-carboxaldehyde (**15**; 110 mg, 1.0 mmol) in refluxing *p*-xylene (10 mL) for 12 h afforded compound **20**.

Yield: 102 mg (67%); oil.

IR (neat): 3397, 2930, 1613, 1570, 1431, 1335, 1182, 1155, 1073, 1012, 959, 819, 752, 693 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.47-7.20$ (m, 5 H), 6.97 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.87 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.53 (s, 1 H), 6.42 (s, 1 H), 6.34 (s, 1 H), 5.15 (br s, 1 H), 4.93-4.89 (m, 1 H), 2.47 (d, J = 13.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.25-2.21 (m, 1 H), 1.91-1.70 (m, 3 H), 1.54-1.30 (m, 3 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 153.9, 150.5, 137.2, 137.1, 136.6, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.5, 126.5, 110.1, 109.3, 106.4, 105.9, 76.6, 35.0, 33.2, 26.7, 24.3.

MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 304 [M⁺] (94), 303 (85), 276 (28), 275 (100), 125 (14), 109 (36), 86 (23), 84 (35), 81 (13), 58 (35).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for C₂₁H₂₀O₂: 304.1463; found: 304.1462.

3-[(*S*)-Isopropenyl]-6-[(*E*)-styryl]-2,3,4,4a-tetrahydro-1*H*-xanthen-8-ol (21)

The reaction of **6** (106 mg, 0.5 mmol) with (–)-perillaldehyde (16; 150 mg, 1.0 mmol) in refluxing *p*-xylene (10 mL) for 8 h afforded compound **21**.

Yield: 136 mg (79%); oil.

IR (neat): 3400, 2934, 1614, 1579, 1427, 1331, 1163, 1065, 960, 889, 822, 750 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 7.3 Hz, 2 H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.59 (s, 1 H), 6.51 (br s, 1 H), 6.45 (s, 1 H), 5.01 (dd, *J* = 11.1, 5.1 Hz, 1 H), 4.79 (s, 2 H), 2.55 (d, *J* = 14.7 Hz, 1 H), 2.34–2.29 (m, 1 H), 2.21–2.13 (m, 2 H), 1.90–1.73 (m, 3 H), 1.79 (s, 3 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 154.6, 153.8, 150.7, 148.3, 137.2, 137.1, 135.5, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.5, 126.5, 110.5, 109.3, 106.7, 105.8, 76.6, 43.1, 39.6, 32.4, 31.7, 20.7.

MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%) = 344 [M⁺] (100), 343 (64), 329 (23), 315 (21), 301 (5), 276 (25), 275 (51), 262 (38), 165 (10), 149 (12), 115 (10), 91 (13), 83 (11), 69 (14).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for C₂₄H₂₄O₂: 344.1776; found: 344.1778.

3,5-Bis(methoxymethoxy)benzyl Alcohol (23) Protected Benzaldehyde Intermediate

MOMCl (1.761 g, 22.0 mmol) was added to a soln of **22** (1.380 g, 10.0 mmol) and DIPEA (5.160 g, 40.0 mmol) in anhyd CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL) at r.t. The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 10 h, and then H_2O (20 mL) was added. The mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3 × 30 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with sat. aq NH_4Cl (30 mL) and H_2O (20 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and evaporated in vacuo. Flash chromatography (silica gel, hexane–EtOAc, 5:1) afforded the protected benzaldehyde.

Yield: 2.215 g (98%); oil.

IR (neat): 2955, 2830, 2732, 1702, 1600, 1465, 1389, 1297, 1214, 1153, 1084, 1033, 927, 856, 726 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 9.88 (s, 1 H), 7.18 (s, 2 H), 6.94 (s, 1 H), 5.18 (s, 4 H), 3.46 (s, 6 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 191.6, 158.7, 138.4, 111.1, 110.4, 90.4, 56.2.

Compound 23

The protected benzaldehyde (2.054 g, 9.1 mmol) in MeOH (3 mL) was added dropwise to a suspension of NaBH₄ (0.344 g, 9.1 mmol) in MeOH (20 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to stir at r.t. for 3 h and then quenched by addition of H₂O (30 mL). The mixture was acidified with 2 N aq HCl (30 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3×40 mL). The organic layer was washed with H₂O (30 mL) and brine (30 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by chromatography (silica gel, hexane–EtOAc, 1:1); this gave protected alcohol **23**.

Yield: 1.992 g (96%); oil.

IR (neat): 3419, 2953, 1604, 1462, 1294, 1149, 1082, 1034, 924, 846, 702 $\rm cm^{-1}.$

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 6.67 (s, 2 H), 6.61 (s, 1 H), 5.12 (s, 4 H), 4.57 (s, 2 H), 3.44 (s, 6 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 158.3, 143.5, 107.9, 104.0, 94.3, 65.0, 56.0.

MS (EI, 70 eV): *m*/*z* (%) = 228 [M⁺] (100), 198 (9), 183 (5), 168 (15), 167 (6), 152 (7), 107 (4).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for C₁₁H₁₆O₅: 228.0998; found: 228.1000.

3,5-Bis(methoxymethoxy)benzyl Iodide (24)

MsCl (0.916 g, 8.0 mmol) was added dropwise to a soln of alcohol **23** (1.789 g, 7.8 mmol) and DIPEA (2.012 g, 15.6 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to stir at r.t. for 10 h and then quenched by the addition of H_2O (30 mL). The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 40 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with NH₄Cl soln (30 mL), H₂O (30 mL), and

brine (30 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated under reduced pressure. A mixture of the resulting residue and NaI (3.507, 23.4 mmol) in acetone (50 mL) was stirred for 10 h. The removal of the solvent under reduced pressure left an oily residue, which was then purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane–EtOAc, 5:1) to give product **24**.

Yield: 2.188 g (83%); oil.

IR (neat): 3022, 2935, 1601, 1457, 1364, 1179, 1151, 1024, 967, 867, 808, 744 cm⁻¹.

 ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 6.70 (s, 2 H), 6.60 (s, 1 H), 5.12 (s, 4 H), 4.35 (s, 2 H), 3.45 (s, 6 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 158.2, 141.2, 110.0, 104.4, 94.4, 56.0, 5.2.

HRMS–FAB: $m/z [M + H]^+$ calcd for C₁₁H₁₆O₄I: 339.0093; found: 339.0091.

Diethyl [3,5-Bis(methoxymethoxy)benzyl]phosphonate (25)

 $P(OEt)_3$ (1 mL) was added to a soln of **24** (2.025 g, 6.0 mmol) in *p*-xylene (10 mL) at r.t. The mixture was heated at 100 °C for 5 h. The removal of the solvent under reduced pressure left an oily residue, which was then purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane–EtOAc, 1:1) to give product **25**.

Yield: 2.024 g (97%); oil.

IR (neat): 3457, 2982, 1602, 1464, 1400, 1150, 1029, 965, 857, 792 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 6.61–6.58 (m, 3 H), 5.10 (m, 4 H), 4.05–3.95 (m, 4 H), 3.42 (s, 6 H), 3.01 (d, J_{PH} = 21.6 Hz, 2 H), 1.26–1.21 (m, 6 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 158.1, 133.6, 111.1, 103.4, 94.3, 62.1, 55.9, 33.9 (d, J_{CP} = 138.1 Hz), 16.2.

MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%) = 348 [M⁺] (100), 318 (28), 317 (22), 316 (94), 315 (27), 287 (42), 271 (25), 232 (24), 229 (20), 160 (21).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for C₁₅H₂₅O₇P: 348.1338; found: 348.1335.

(*E*)-3,5-Bis(methoxymethoxy)-2',4'-bis(triisopropylsiloxy)stilbene (27)

t-BuOK (0.717 g, 6.4 mmol) was added to a soln of **25** (1.055 g, 3.0 mmol) and aldehyde **26** (1.440 g, 3.2 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for a further 30 min. The mixture was quenched by the addition of H₂O (30 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3×30 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with NH₄Cl soln (30 mL), H₂O (30 mL), and brine (30 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated under reduced pressure. The removal of the solvent under reduced pressure left an oily residue, which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane–EtOAc, 20:1) to give product **27**.

Yield: 1.465 g (71%); oil.

IR (neat): 2948, 2866, 1595, 1495, 1309, 1182, 1149, 1080, 1035, 986, 889, 840, 760 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.45 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.58 (t, *J* = 2.0 H z, 1 H), 6.49 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.38 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.15 (s, 4 H), 3.47 (s, 6 H), 1.33–1.16 (m, 6 H), 1.13–1.03 (m, 36 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 158.5, 156.7, 154.5, 140.6, 126.4, 125.7, 124.4, 121.5, 113.6, 110.8, 107.5, 103.9, 94.5, 56.0, 18.0, 17.9, 17.7, 13.0, 12.7, 12.0.

MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 644 [M⁺] (100), 601 (12), 407 (23), 87 (10), 73 (15), 59 (14), 57 (10).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for $C_{36}H_{60}O_6Si_2$: 644.3928; found: 644.3925.

(E)-3,5-Dihydroxy-2',4'-bis(triisopropylsiloxy)stilbene (28)

Concd HCl (5 drops) was added to a soln of **27** (1.305 g, 2.0 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL), and the mixture was stirred at r.t. for 10 h. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure left an oily residue, which was then diluted with H_2O (30 mL). The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 40 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with sat. aq NaHCO₃ (30 mL), H_2O (30 mL), and brine (30 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated under reduced pressure. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure left an oily residue, which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane–EtOAc, 7:1) to give **28**.

Yield: 0.668 g (60%); oil.

IR (neat): 3389, 2948, 2868, 1596, 1511, 1302, 1155, 996, 890, 742 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.41 (d, *J* = 16.5 H, 1 H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.49 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.39 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.21 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.32–1.16 (m, 6 H), 1.13–1.07 (m, 36 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 156.8, 156.7, 154.5, 140.1, 126.6, 125.5, 124.6, 121.5, 113.6, 110.8, 105.8, 101.6, 18.0, 17.9, 17.8, 13.2, 12.9, 12.7, 12.6.

MS (EI, 70 eV): *m*/*z* (%) = 556 [M⁺] (100), 515 (12), 514 (29), 513 (71), 207 (10), 186 (12), 87 (11), 73 (13), 59 (16).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for $C_{32}H_{52}O_4Si_2$: 556.3404; found: 556.3403.

(*E*)-7-[2,4-Bis(triisopropylsiloxy)styryl]-2,2-dimethyl-2*H*-chromen-5-ol (29)

EDDA (5 mg, 0.03 mmol) was added to a soln of stilbene **28** (0.167 g, 0.3 mmol) and 3-methylbut-2-enal (7; 0.051 g, 0.6 mmol) in *p*-xylene (10 mL). The mixture was refluxed for 8 h and the solvent was removed; this left an oily residue, which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane–EtOAc, 10:1) to give **29**.

Yield: 0.162 g (87%); oil.

IR (neat): 3415, 2949, 2868, 1600, 1497, 1425, 1311, 1250, 1113, 1060, 1003, 890, 772 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.4 H, 1 H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.54 (s, 1 H), 6.49 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.42 (s, 1 H), 6.39 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.56 (d, *J* = 9.8 HZ, 1 H), 1.42 (s, 6 H), 1.34–1.19 (m, 6 H), 1.17–1.08 (m, 36 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 156.6, 154.5, 154.1, 151.3, 139.6, 128.8, 126.7, 125.8, 124.2, 121.7, 116.4, 113.5, 110.8, 108.7, 107.4, 105.4, 75.9, 27.8, 18.0, 17.8, 17.7, 13.0, 12.7.

MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 622 [M⁺] (100), 608 (17), 607 (33), 579 (20), 407 (19), 254 (11), 155 (27), 91 (29).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for $C_{37}H_{58}O_4Si_2$: 622.3874; found: 622.3871.

Artocarbene (1)

A 1.0 M soln of TBAF in THF (0.6 mL, 0.6 mmol) was added to a soln of **29** (0.151 g, 0.2 mmol) in THF (10 mL) and the mixture was stirred at r.t. for 5 h. The mixture was then quenched by the addition of sat. aq NH₄Cl (30 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3×40 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with H₂O (30 mL) and brine (30 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated under reduced pressure. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure left an oily residue, which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane–EtOAc, 2:1) to give **1**.

Yield: 0.068 g (90%); solid

IR (KBr): 3411, 2977, 1610, 1516, 1456, 1264, 1117, 1060, 971, 837, 773 $\rm cm^{-1}.$

¹H NMR (300 MHz, acetone- d_6): $\delta = 8.40$ (s, 2 H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.33 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.32 (s, 1 H), 6.87 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.65 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.57 (s, 1 H), 6.47 (s, 1 H), 6.43 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.38 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1 H), 5.59 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1 H), 1.37 (s, 6 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ = 160.0, 157.8, 155.8, 154.8, 141.5 129.6, 129.1, 126.8, 125.3, 118.7, 118.0, 110.2, 109.3, 107.3, 107.0 104.4, 77.1, 28.8.

(*E*)-3,5-Bis(methoxymethoxy)-3',4'-bis(triisopropylsiloxy)stilbene (31)

t-BuOK (0.494 g, 4.4 mmol) was added to a soln of **25** (1.392 g, 4.0 mmol) and the benzaldehyde **30** (1.532 g, 4.4 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min, then quenched by the addition of H₂O (40 mL), and extracted with EtOAc (3×40 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with aq NH₄Cl (30 mL), H₂O (30 mL), and brine (30 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated under reduced pressure. The removal of the solvent under reduced pressure left an oily residue, which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane–EtOAc, 20:1) to give product **31**.

Yield: 2.583 g (91%); oil.

IR (neat): 2948, 2867, 1593, 1511, 1463, 1287, 1223, 1981, 1036, 888, 849 $\rm cm^{-1}.$

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 6.97-6.89$ (m, 3 H), 6.81-6.79 (m, 3 H), 6.75 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.62 (t, J = 2.0 H, 1 H), 5.17 (s, 4 H), 3.48 (s, 6 H), 1.34-1.23 (m, 6 H), 1.13-1.03 (m, 36 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 158.4, 147.2, 147.1, 140.0, 130.1, 129.5, 126.0, 119.9, 119.6, 118.0, 107.7, 103.7, 94.5, 56.1, 18.0. 17.9, 17.7, 13.2, 12.3.

MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%) = 644 [M⁺] (12), 487 (12), 252 (19), 251 (100), 207 (7), 180 (7), 179 (50), 165 (11), 157 (7), 131 (7), 75 (11).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for $C_{36}H_{60}O_6Si_2$: 644.3928; found: 644.3925.

(E)-3,5-Dihydroxy-3',4'-bis(triisopropylsiloxy)stilbene (32)

Concd HCl (5 drops) was added to a soln of **31** (1.290 mg, 2.0 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) and the mixture was stirred at r.t. for 10 h. The removal of the solvent under reduced pressure left an oily residue, which was then diluted with H_2O (30 mL). The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 40 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with sat. aq NaHCO₃ (30 mL), H_2O (30 mL), and brine (30 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated under reduced pressure. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure left an oily residue, which was then purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane–EtOAc, 4:1) to give **32**.

Yield: 0.757 g (68%); oil.

IR (neat): 3372, 2946, 2867, 1596, 1512, 1465, 1069, 995, 887, 850, 739 $\rm cm^{-1}$

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 6.96$ (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.89 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.70 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.54 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.23 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.34–1.23 (m, 6 H), 1.13–1.03 (m, 36 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 156.5, 147.2, 146.9, 140.5, 129.9, 129.6, 125.5, 119.9, 119.6, 118.0, 106.1, 101.9, 18.0, 17.9, 13.1, 12.9.

MS (EI, 70 eV): *m*/*z* (%) = 556 [M⁺] (100), 356 (21), 158 (13), 157 (85), 129 (14), 116 (10), 115 (87), 101 (13), 87 (41), 75 (15), 73 (410, 59 (56), 58 (45).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for $C_{32}H_{52}O_4Si_2$: 556.3404; found: 556.3407.

(*E*)-7-[3,4-Bis(triisopropylsiloxy)styryl]-2-methyl-2-(4-methyl-pent-3-enyl)-2*H*-chromen-5-ol (33)

EDDA (4.0 mg) was added to a soln of stilbene **32** (0.223, 0.4 mmol) and citral (**9**; 0.122 g, 0.8 mmol) in benzene (10 mL). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h; removal of the solvent left an oily residue, which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane–EtOAc, 20:1) to give **33**.

Yield: 0.169 g (61%); oil.

IR (neat): 3431, 2947, 2868, 1611, 1512, 1301, 1131, 1082, 999, 899 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 6.95$ (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.87 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.87 (dd, J = 8.1, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.66 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.63 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.56 (br s, 1 H), 6.40 (br s, 1 H), 5.52 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1 H), 5.11–5.06 (m, 1 H), 2.16–2.10 (m, 2 H), 1.74–1.69 (m, 2 H), 1.65 (s, 3 H), 1.57 (s, 3 H), 1.38 (s, 3 H), 1.33–1.24 (m, 6 H), 1.12–1.08 (m, 36 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 154.3, 151.3, 147.1, 147.0, 138.8, 131.7, 130.2, 128.9, 127.9, 125.8, 124.1, 119.9, 119.5, 117.9, 116.8, 108.7, 106.9, 105.6, 78.4, 41.2, 26.3, 25.7, 22.8, 18.0, 17.9, 17.6, 13.2.

MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 690 [M⁺] (70), 609 (21), 608 (52), 607 (100), 408 (10), 407 (31), 157 (12), 115 (22), 87 (18), 73 (20), 59 (23).

HRMS (EI): m/z [M⁺] calcd for $C_{42}H_{66}O_4Si_2$: 690.4500; found: 690.4496.

Pawhuskin B (2)

A 1.0 M soln of TBAF in THF (0.6 mL, 0.6 mmol) was added to a soln of **33** (0.151 g, 0.2 mmol) in THF (10 mL) and the mixture was stirred at r.t. for 5 h. The reaction mixture was quenched by the addition of sat. aq NH₄Cl (30 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3×40 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with H₂O (30 mL) and brine (30 mL), dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated under reduced pressure. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure left an oily residue, which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane–EtOAc, 2:1) to give **2**.

Yield: 0.075 g (91%); oil.

IR (neat): 3387, 2937, 1609, 1518, 1442, 1366, 1273, 1195, 1096, 979, 827, 738 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, acetone- d_6): $\delta = 8.11$ (br s, 2 H), 7.07 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.97 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.91 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.79 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.71 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.55 (s, 1 H), 6.51 (s, 1 H), 5.59 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1 H), 5.14–5.09 (m, 1 H), 2.16–2.03 (m, 2 H), 1.72–1.66 (m, 2 H), 1.63 (s, 3 H), 1.57 (s, 3 H), 1.36 (s, 3 H).

¹³C NMR (75 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ = 155.5, 154.2, 146.4, 140.0, 132.1, 130.9, 129.7, 128.2, 126.8, 125.4, 120.3, 118.5, 116.5, 114.1, 109.8, 106.9, 106.5, 78.9, 42.1, 26.8, 26.0, 23.7, 17.9.

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