

Stereoselective Total Synthesis of Crassalactone A, a Natural Cytotoxic Styryl Lactone¹⁾

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A stereoselective total synthesis of a naturally occurring cytotoxic styryl lactone, crassalactone A (**1**), has been accomplished. The synthesis involves (–)-diisopropyl D-tartrate as the starting material, and the stereoselective additions of *Grignard* reagent and MeNO₂ to two chiral aldehyde intermediates as the key steps.

Introduction. – *Polyanthia* species are well-known for their valuable constituents with cytotoxic, anti-HIV, antimicrobial, and antimalarial properties [1]. From the cytotoxic AcOEt extract of the leaves and twigs of the plant *Polyanthia crassa*, a styryl lactone, crassalactone A (**1**; Fig.), together with several other constituents, have been isolated [2]. The structure of **1** was established on the basis of spectroscopic data, and the absolute configuration by chemical conversions. The cytotoxic effect of **1** was tested, and the compound was found to exhibit broad cytotoxic activity against a panel of mammalian and rat cancer cell lines. Due to fascinating structural features and the impressive bioactivity of **1**, we were interested in its total synthesis. Earlier two syntheses of this compound have been reported [3]. In the first synthesis, (*R*)-mandelic acid was used as the starting material, and OsO₄ (which is poisonous and volatile) was employed for *cis*-hydroxylation [3a]. In the second synthesis, 1,5-D-gluconolactone was the starting material, and the overall synthetic time (95 h) was longer [3b]. Herein, we disclose an alternative stereoselective synthesis of **1** without applying OsO₄ (used in the first synthesis) and maintaining the synthetic time shorter (59 h) (compared to the second synthesis). We have utilized a different starting material, (–)-diisopropyl D-tartrate, and a different reaction sequence. However, the last step, the lactonization, was analogous to that in the earlier second synthesis [3b].

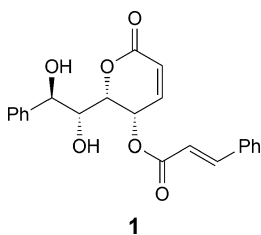


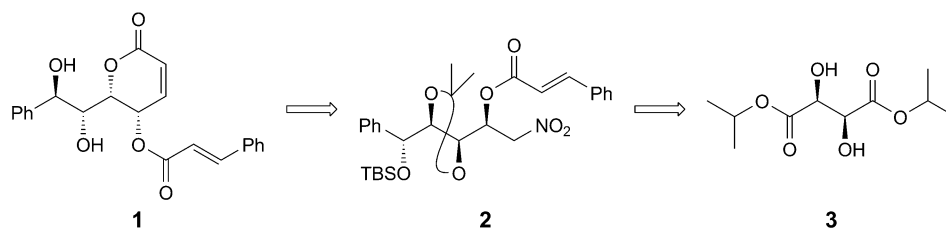
Figure. Structure of crassalactone A

¹⁾ Part 83 of the series, 'Synthetic Studies on Natural Products'.

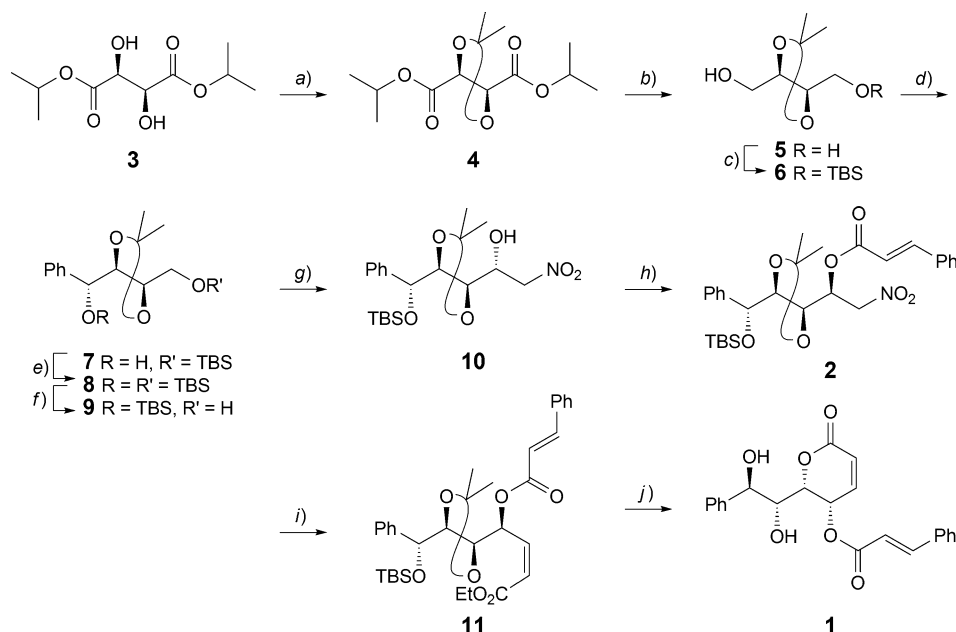
Results and Discussion. – In continuation of our works on the stereoselective construction of natural products [4], we have realized that crassalactone **1** can be synthesized from the protected tetrahydroxy compound **2** (Scheme 1), which can be derived from the commercially available (–)-diisopropyl D-tartrate (**3**).

Our synthesis (Scheme 2) was initiated by protection of two OH groups of **3** by treatment with 2,2-dimethoxypropane (DMP) in toluene in the presence of TsOH to

Scheme 1. Retrosynthetic Analysis of **1**



Scheme 2. Synthesis of **1**



a) 2,2-Dimethoxypropane (DMP), TsOH, toluene, r.t. to reflux, overnight; 92%. b) LiAlH_4 , dry THF, 0° to r.t., 4 h; 88%. c) $(\text{t-Bu})\text{Me}_2\text{SiCl}$ (TBSCl), 1*H*-imidazole, CH_2Cl_2 , 3 h; 93%. d) 1) 2-Iodoxybenzoic acid (IBX), DMSO, CH_2Cl_2 , 0° to r.t., 2 h; 94%. 2) PhMgBr , THF, 6 h; 70%. e) TBSCl, 1*H*-imidazole, CH_2Cl_2 , 4 h; 96%. f) Pyridine hydrofluoride ($\text{Py} \cdot \text{HF}$), THF, 0° , 2 h; 82%. g) 1) IBX, DMSO, CH_2Cl_2 , 0° to r.t., 2 h; 92%. 2) MeNO_2 , K_2CO_3 (aq.), THF, r.t., overnight; 88%. h) Diethyl azodicarboxylate (DEAD), Ph_3P , THF, 0° – reflux, 5 h; 79%. i) 1) K_2CO_3 , KMnO_4 (aq.), MgSO_4 , 0° , 1 h. 2) $(\text{F}_3\text{CCH}_2\text{O})_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$, NaH, dry THF, -78° , 1 h; 68% (over two steps). j) 3% MeOH/HCl , 0° to r.t., 5 h; 63%.

form the acetonide derivative **4** (Scheme 2). The two ester groups of **4** were reduced with LiAlH_4 to furnish the diol **5**. One of the OH groups of **5** was protected as the TBS ether **6** by reaction with $(t\text{-Bu})\text{Me}_2\text{SiCl}$ (TBSCl) and 1*H*-imidazole in CH_2Cl_2 . The free OH group of **6** was oxidized with 2-iodoxybenzoic acid (IBX), and the corresponding aldehyde was treated with PhMgBr to afford compound **7** (dr 95:5). The high selectivity of the reaction was a result of 1,2-chelation control [5]. The major diastereoisomer was separated, and its OH group was protected as the TBS ether to yield compound **8**, which, on treatment with pyridine hydrofluoride ($\text{Py} \cdot \text{HF}$), resulted in the selective removal of the TBS group of the primary OH moiety to afford the alcohol **9** [6]. The latter was oxidized with IBX, and the generated aldehyde was reacted with MeNO_2 to give the nitro compound **10** (dr 96:4). The conversion was performed in good yield and high *anti*-selectivity, following the reaction conditions reported earlier [7]. The major diastereoisomer was treated with cinnamic acid under *Mitsunobu* esterification conditions [8] to form the ester **2** with inversion of the configuration of the newly generated stereogenic center in **10**. The nitro alkane moiety of **2** was oxidized with alkaline KMnO_4 [7] to the corresponding aldehyde, which was utilized for *Wittig* olefination with $(\text{F}_3\text{CCH}_2\text{O})_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{COOMe}$ to furnish the (*Z*)-olefin **11** [9]. The structure and configuration of **11** were clearly established by its NMR spectra. Finally, the treatment of **11** with 3% MeOH/HCl resulted in the deprotection of both the TBS and acetonide groups, and the simultaneous cyclization, forming a lactone ring, afforded the target molecule **1**. The physical (optical rotation) and spectroscopic (^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR, and MS) properties of **1** were identical to those reported for the naturally occurring crassalactone **A** [2].

In conclusion, we have developed a simple and straightforward synthesis of crassalactone **A** (**1**), a natural cytotoxic styryl lactone, by using (–)-diisopropyl *D*-tartrate as the starting material. The stereoselective additions of a *Grignard* reagent and MeNO_2 to two chiral aldehyde intermediates are the key steps involved in the present synthesis.

The authors thank CSIR and UGC, New Delhi, for financial support.

Experimental Part

General. The solvents used were all of AR-grade. TLC: *Merck* silica gel 60 F_{254} plates. Column chromatography (CC): silica gel (SiO_2 , 60–120 mesh; *Qingdao Marine Chemical*, P. R. China). Optical rotations: *JASCO DIP 360* digital polarimeter. NMR Spectra: *Gemini* 500-MHz spectrometer; in CDCl_3 ; δ in ppm rel. to Me_4Si as internal standard, *J* in Hz. ESI-MS: *VG-Autospec* micromass instrument; in *m/z*.

*Bis(1-methylethyl) (4*S*,5*S*)-2,2-Dimethyl-1,3-dioxolane-4,5-dicarboxylate (4).* To a soln. of **3** (1.0 g, 4.27 mmol) and 2,2-dimethoxypropane (DMP; 0.627 ml, 5.12 mmol) in toluene (10 ml), TsOH (0.73 g, 4.27 mmol) was added, and the mixture was heated at reflux for overnight. The mixture was cooled and K_2CO_3 was added, excess K_2CO_3 was removed by filtration. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford crude product. Purification of the latter by CC afforded pure **4** (1.07 g, 92%). White solid. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = +39.6$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3). ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 5.16–5.10 (*m*, 2 H); 4.70 (*s*, 2 H); 1.50 (*s*, 6 H); 1.31 (*d*, $J = 7.0$, 12 H). ^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 169.2; 113.8; 77.3; 69.8; 26.2; 21.9. ESI-MS: 275 ($[M + \text{H}]^+$). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_6$ (274.32): C 56.92, H 8.08; found: C 56.81, H 8.04.

*[(4*R*,5*R*)-2,2-Dimethyl-1,3-dioxolane-4,5-diyl]dimethanol (5).* To LiAlH_4 (0.416 g, 10.94 mmol) at 0°, dry THF (10 ml) was added slowly, and then a soln. of **4** (1.0 g, 3.64 mmol) in dry THF (5 ml) was added dropwise at 0° under N_2 . The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 4 h. After completion of the reaction

(TLC), the mixture was cooled to 0°, the reaction was quenched with aq. Na₂SO₄ paste, and the mixture was allowed to stir at r.t. Then, it was filtered through a pad of *Celite*, and washed with hot AcOEt (20 ml). The filtrate was washed with brine (2 × 10 ml), dried (Na₂SO₄), and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product, on purification by CC, afforded pure **5** (0.520 g, 88%). Viscous yellow oil. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -2.4$ ($c = 1.4$, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.04–3.97 (*m*, 2 H); 3.81–3.64 (*m*, 4 H); 1.42 (*s*, 6 H); ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 109.4; 78.3; 62.2; 27.0. ESI-MS: 163 ($[M + H]^+$). Anal. calc. for C₇H₁₄O₄ (162.08): C 51.84, H 8.70; found: C 51.72, H 8.75.

[(4*R*,5*R*)-5-((*tert*-Butyl(dimethyl)silyl)oxy)methyl]-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl]methanol (**6**). To a soln. of **5** (0.500 g, 3.08 mmol) in 10 ml of dry CH₂Cl₂, 1*H*-imidazole (0.209 g, 3.08 mmol) and TBSCl (0.466 g, 3.08 mmol) were added sequentially at 0°. After stirring for 5 min, 4-(dimethylamino)-pyridine (DMAP; cat. amount) was added to the mixture, and stirring was continued for 3 h at r.t. After completion of the reaction (TLC), the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 5 ml). The combined org. extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product, on purification by CC, afforded pure **6** (0.792 g, 93%). Yellowish oil. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -15.6$ ($c = 1.5$, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.02–3.94 (*m*, 1 H); 3.99–3.85 (*m*, 2 H); 3.78–3.71 (*m*, 2 H); 3.67 (*dd*, $J = 12.0, 10.0$, 1 H); 2.45 (*br. s*, 1 H); 1.42 (*s*, 3 H); 1.40 (*s*, 3 H); 0.89 (*s*, 9 H); 0.09 (*s*, 6 H). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 109.2; 80.2; 78.1; 63.8; 62.8; 27.0; 26.9; 26.0; 18.4; –5.3. ESI-MS: 277 ($[M + H]^+$). Anal. calc. for C₁₃H₂₈O₄Si (276.45): C 56.48, H 10.21; found: C 56.37, H 10.17.

(*R*)-[(4*R*,5*R*)-5-((*tert*-Butyl(dimethyl)silyl)oxy)methyl]-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl](phenyl)methanol (**7**). To an ice-cold soln. of 2-iodoxybenzoic acid (IBX; 1.52 g, 5.43 mmol) in DMSO (3 ml) was added a soln. of **6** (0.750 g, 2.71 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂, and the mixture was stirred at r.t. for 2 h. The reaction was quenched with sat. NaHCO₃ soln. The mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (5 ml), filtered through a *Celite* pad, and the pad was washed with CH₂Cl₂. The combined filtrates were washed with H₂O (10 ml), dried (Na₂SO₄), and the residue was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the aldehyde (0.699 g, 94%), which was used directly after flash chromatography for the next reaction.

The above aldehyde in dry THF (10 ml) was added slowly over 30 min to a stirred soln. of *in situ* prepared PhMgBr (2.89 ml, 2.89 mmol) in THF at 0° under N₂ and stirred at the same temp. After completion of the reaction (TLC), the reaction was quenched with aq. NH₄Cl, and then the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 10 ml). The combined org. extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product, on purification by CC, afforded pure **7** (0.597 g, 70%). Viscous gel. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +1.8$ ($c = 1.5$, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.51–7.40 (*m*, 5 H); 4.82 (*br. d*, $J = 7.0$, 1 H); 4.29 (*dd*, $J = 9.0, 7.0$, 1 H); 4.01–3.98 (*m*, 1 H); 3.52 (*dd*, $J = 12.0, 6.0$, 1 H); 3.34 (*dd*, $J = 12.0, 5.0$, 1 H); 3.19 (*br. s*, 1 H); 1.52 (*s*, 6 H); 0.97 (*s*, 9 H); 0.10 (*s*, 3 H); 0.07 (*s*, 3 H). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 140.0; 128.9; 128.8; 127.0; 109.9; 81.5; 78.1; 74.9; 63.1; 27.4; 27.3; 25.9; 19.2; –5.4. ESI-MS: 353 ($[M + H]^+$). Anal. calc. for C₁₉H₃₂O₄Si (352.55): C 64.73, H 9.15; found: C 64.88, H 9.11.

(*tert*-Butyl)[(*R*)-[(4*S*,5*R*)-5-((*tert*-butyl(dimethyl)silyl)oxy)methyl]-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl](phenyl)methoxydimethylsilane (**8**). To a soln. of **7** (0.600 g, 1.69 mmol) in 10 ml of dry CH₂Cl₂, 1*H*-imidazole (0.138 g, 2.03 mmol) and TBSCl (0.307 g, 2.03 mmol) were added sequentially at 0°. After stirring for 5 min, DMAP (cat. amount) was added to the mixture, and stirring was continued for 4 h at r.t. After completion of the reaction (TLC), the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 10 ml). The combined org. extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product, on purification by CC, afforded pure **8** (0.762 g, 96%). Oil. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +2.2$ ($c = 2.5$, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 7.41–7.31 (*m*, 5 H); 4.88 (*d*, $J = 7.0$, 1 H); 4.12 (*dd*, $J = 9.0, 7.0$, 1 H); 3.88–3.92 (*m*, 1 H); 3.61 (*dd*, $J = 12.0, 5.0$, 1 H); 3.40 (*dd*, $J = 12.0, 6.0$, 1 H); 1.45 (*s*, 3 H); 1.31 (*s*, 3 H); 0.96 (*s*, 9 H); 0.95 (*s*, 9 H); 0.11 (*s*, 6 H); 0.08 (*s*, 6 H). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 140.9; 128.1; 128.0; 127.9; 109.1; 81.0; 78.1; 75.8; 64.0; 27.6; 26.1; 18.2; –4.8. ESI-MS: 467 ($[M + H]^+$). Anal. calc. for C₂₅H₄₆O₄Si₂ (466.81): C 64.32, H 9.93; found: C 64.48, H 9.90.

[(4*R*,5*S*)-5-[(*R*)-[(*tert*-Butyl(dimethyl)silyl)oxy](phenyl)methyl]-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl]methanol (**9**). To a soln. of **8** (0.700 g, 1.49 mmol) in dry THF was added Py · HF (0.008 ml, 0.449 mmol) at 0°, and the mixture was stirred at the same temp. for 2 h. Reaction was monitored frequently, and, after completion, it was quenched with sat. NaHCO₃. The mixture was extracted with AcOEt, and combined org. extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product, on purification by CC, afforded pure **9** (0.433 g, 82%). Oil. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -19.2$ ($c = 1.5$, CHCl₃). ¹H-NMR

(500 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.42–7.33 (*m*, 5 H); 4.88 (*d*, $J = 7.0$, 1 H); 4.13 (*dd*, $J = 9.0$, 7.0, 1 H); 3.94–3.90 (*m*, 1 H); 3.62 (*dd*, $J = 12.0$, 4.0, 1 H); 3.40 (*dd*, $J = 12.0$, 6.0, 1 H); 1.47 (*s*, 3 H); 1.30 (*s*, 3 H); 0.94 (*s*, 9 H); 0.08 (*s*, 3 H); 0.05 (*s*, 3 H). ^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 140.9; 128.0; 127.9; 127.8; 109.0; 80.9; 78.0; 75.6; 63.8; 27.8; 26.0; 18.2; –4.9. ESI-MS: 353 ($[M + \text{H}]^+$). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_4\text{Si}$ (352.55): C 64.73, H 9.15; found: C 64.64, H 9.19.

(1*R*)-1-[(4*R*,5*S*)-5-[(*R*)-[(*tert*-Butyl)(dimethyl)silyl]oxy](phenyl)methyl]-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl]-2-nitroethanol (**10**). To an ice-cold soln. of IBX (0.634 g, 2.26 mmol) in DMSO (2 ml), was added a soln. of **9** (0.400 g, 1.13 mmol) in 4 ml of dry CH_2Cl_2 , and the mixture was stirred at r.t. for 2 h. Then, the reaction was quenched with sat. NaHCO_3 soln., and the mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (5 ml), filtered through a *Celite* pad, and the pad was washed with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined filtrates were washed with H_2O (5 ml), dried (Na_2SO_4), and the residue was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the aldehyde (0.365 g, 92%), which was used directly after flash chromatography for the next reaction.

To a stirred soln. of the above aldehyde and MeNO_2 (0.14 ml, 2.70 mmol) in THF (5 ml) was added aq. K_2CO_3 (0.193 g, 1.40 mmol) at r.t. The mixture was stirred overnight at r.t. and then treated with H_2O . The mixture was extracted with AcOEt, and the combined org. extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na_2SO_4), and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product, on purification by CC, afforded pure **10** (0.377 g, 88%). Pale-yellow liquid. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -9.9$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3). ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.40–7.32 (*m*, 5 H); 5.15 (*d*, $J = 7.0$, 1 H); 4.61 (*br. d*, $J = 12.0$, 1 H); 4.48–4.40 (*m*, 2 H); 4.32 (*br. t*, $J = 6.0$, 1 H); 4.10 (*dd*, $J = 12.0$, 6.0, 1 H); 3.55 (*dd*, $J = 12.0$, 10.0, 1 H); 1.40 (*s*, 3 H); 1.29 (*s*, 3 H); 0.92 (*s*, 9 H); 0.11 (*s*, 3 H); 0.04 (*s*, 3 H). ^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 138.0; 128.0; 127.9; 127.8; 109.9; 83.8; 78.9; 76.1; 73.9; 70.3; 26.2; 25.9; 18.2; –5.1. ESI-MS: 412 ($[M + \text{H}]^+$). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{33}\text{NO}_6\text{Si}$ (411.57): C 58.37, H 8.08; found: C 58.45, H 8.03.

(1*S*)-1-[(4*R*,5*S*)-5-[(*R*)-[(*tert*-Butyl)(dimethyl)silyl]oxy](phenyl)methyl]-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl]-2-nitroethyl (2*E*)-3-Phenylprop-2-enoate (**2**). To a soln. of **10** (0.300 g, 0.728 mmol), cinnamic acid (0.140 g, 0.946 mmol), and Ph_3P (0.381 g, 1.45 mmol) in dry THF (5 ml) was added DEAD (0.20 ml, 1.31 mmol) dropwise during 5 min. The soln. was stirred at 0° for 1 h, and then at reflux for 4 h. After completion (TLC), the reaction was quenched with sat. NaHCO_3 , and the reaction was extracted with AcOEt (2 $\times$ 10 ml). The combined extracts were dried and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product, on purification by CC, afforded pure **2** (0.311 g, 79%). Pale-yellow liquid. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +20.7$ ($c = 1.5$, CHCl_3). ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.40–7.35 (*m*, 10 H); 7.34 (*d*, $J = 16.0$, 1 H); 6.95 (*d*, $J = 16.0$, 1 H); 5.39–5.35 (*m*, 1 H); 4.97 (*d*, $J = 7.0$, 1 H); 4.37–4.31 (*m*, 2 H); 4.01 (*dd*, $J = 12.0$, 8.0, 2 H); 1.28 (*s*, 6 H); 0.92 (*s*, 9 H); 0.10 (*s*, 3 H); 0.01 (*s*, 3 H). ^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 163.9; 144.1; 139.0; 128.5; 128.4; 128.3; 127.1; 127.0; 115.9; 110.5; 84.1; 78.2; 74.9; 73.2; 68.8; 29.9; 25.9; 18.2; –5.0. ESI-MS: 542 ($[M + \text{H}]^+$). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{39}\text{NO}_7\text{Si}$ (541.72): C 64.30, H 7.26; found: C 64.39, H 7.22.

Ethyl (2*Z*,4*S*)-4-[(4*R*,5*S*)-5-[(*R*)-[(*tert*-Butyl)(dimethyl)silyl]oxy](phenyl)methyl]-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl]-4-[(2*E*)-3-phenylprop-2-enoyl]oxybut-2-enoate (**11**). To the soln. of **2** (0.250 g, 0.461 mmol) in MeOH (3 ml) cooled to 0° was added dropwise a freshly prepared MeOH soln. of K_2CO_3 (0.095 g, 0.691 mmol) under inert atmosphere. After stirring for 1 h, a freshly prepared aq. KMnO_4 (0.051 g, 0.322 mmol) and MgSO_4 (0.041 g, 0.345 mmol) were added dropwise, maintaining the temp. at 0° . The entire mixture was stirred for 1 h at the same temp. and filtered through a pad of silica gel, followed by washing with AcOEt. The combined org. extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na_2SO_4), and concentrated *in vacuo*. This residue was used as such for the next step without further purification.

To NaH (0.011 g, 0.422 mmol), 2 ml of dry THF was added at 0° , under N_2 . After 5 min, bis(2,2,2-trifluoromethyl) [(methoxycarbonyl)methyl]phosphonate (0.161 g, 0.507 mmol) in 2 ml of dry THF was added dropwise at 0° , and the mixture was stirred for 30 min. The mixture was cooled to -78° , and the above aldehyde in dry THF (3 ml) was added dropwise, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h at the same temp. After completion (TLC), the reaction was quenched with sat. NH_4Cl (2 ml), and the product was extracted with AcOEt (2 $\times$ 5 ml), dried (Na_2SO_4), and evaporated *in vacuo*, and the crude product, on purification by CC, afforded pure **11** (0.182 g, 68%). Yellow liquid. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +16$ ($c = 0.9$, CHCl_3). ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.75 (*d*, $J = 16.0$, 1 H); 7.54–7.28 (*m*, 10 H); 6.53 (*d*, $J = 16.0$, 1 H); 6.22 (*dd*, $J = 10.0$, 2.0, 1 H); 6.01 (*d*, $J = 10.0$, 1 H); 5.01 (*dd*, $J = 2.5$, 2.0, 1 H); 4.85 (*d*, $J = 2.5$, 1 H); 4.46–4.41 (*m*, 1 H); 4.32–4.21 (*m*, 2 H); 4.18–4.13 (*m*, 1 H); 1.62–1.49 (*m*, 9 H); 1.10 (*s*, 9 H); 0.27 (*s*, 3 H);

0.20 (s, 3 H). ^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 165.1; 164.2; 149.7; 145.0; 140.1; 134.9; 130.1; 129.0; 128.8; 128.6; 125.2; 121.0; 117.8; 110.1; 75.2; 74.8; 70.2; 65.7; 61.2; 29.8; 25.6; 18.4; 16.6; – 4.6; – 4.5. ESI-MS: 581 ($[M + H]^+$). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{44}\text{O}_7\text{Si}$ (580.79): C 68.24, H 7.64; found: C 68.39, H 7.68.

(2S,3S)-2-[(1R,2R)-1,2-Dihydroxy-2-phenylethyl]-6-oxo-3,6-dihydro-2H-pyran-3-yl (2E)-3-Phenylprop-2-enoate (**1**). To compound **11** (150 mg, 0.258 mmol) at 0° was added 3% HCl in MeOH (2 ml), and the mixture was stirred at r.t. for 5 h. After completion of the reaction (TLC), the mixture was diluted with AcOEt and washed with H_2O and brine, dried (Na_2SO_4), and concentrated *in vacuo* to give crude product. The crude product, on purification by CC, afforded pure *crassalactone A* (**1**; 61 mg, 63%). White solid. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +320$ ($c = 1.5$, CHCl_3). ^1H -NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 7.63 (d, $J = 16.0$, 1 H); 7.51–7.28 (m, 10 H); 7.01 (dd, $J = 10.0$, 6.0, 1 H); 6.35 (d, $J = 16.0$, 1 H); 6.20 (d, $J = 10.0$, 1 H); 5.28 (dd, $J = 6.0$, 2.5, 1 H); 4.90 (d, $J = 6.0$, 1 H); 4.75 (dd, $J = 6.0$, 2.5, 1 H); 4.25 (m, 1 H); 2.00 (br. s, 2 H). ^{13}C -NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): 165.6; 162.4; 146.5; 140.5; 139.8; 133.5; 130.8; 128.8; 128.6; 128.3; 128.2; 126.4; 123.8; 116.4; 77.5; 73.5; 73.2; 62.6. ESI-MS: 381 ($[M + H]^+$). Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_6$ (380.40): C 69.46, H 5.30; found: C 69.34, H 5.35.

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Received July 15, 2014