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Graphical Abstract

Formal Synthesis of Actinoranone Using a One-Pot Semipinacol Rearrangement/Wittig

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Formal Synthesis of Actinoranone Using a One-Pot Semipinacol Rearrangement/Wittig Reaction

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ABSTRACT

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Keywords: Actinoranone, Sclareolide Semipinacol Rearrangement Terpenes, Chiral Pool Here, we report a formal synthesis of the marine cytotoxic meroterpenoid actinoranone. Key steps include a semipinacol rearrangement/Wittig reaction sequence and a chiral pool approach for the syntheses of the tetralone and the ocatalin fragments, respectively. The presented route provides access to the natural product in 14 steps in the longest linear sequence.

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1. Introduction

The marine environment is becoming an increasingly important source for the discovery of new potentially bioactive molecules and drug leads.¹ While the diversity of life in the terrestrial habitat is extraordinary, the greatest biodiversity and chemical novelty occurs in the oceans.^{2,4} Marine actinomycetes are a prolific source of secondary metabolites. In general, the Actinobacteria subclass is comprising half of the discovered secondary metabolites, in particular, antibiotics,⁵ antitumor agents,⁶ immunosuppressive agents,⁷ and enzymes.⁸ A large number of terrestrial actinomycetes have been screened and isolated but their distribution in the sea is largely unexplored. The vast majority of the marine actinomycetes are derived from the genus *Streptomyces*. This is the largest genus of Actinobacteria and is widely spread in marine and terrestrial ecosystems.⁹ Interestingly, the genus *Streptomyces* alone accounts for the majority the antibiotics used today.¹⁰⁻¹¹

Studies of marine actinomycetes have yielded a large number of structurally diverse bioactive molecules.¹² In 2013, Fenical and co-workers isolated the cytotoxic meroterpenoid actinoranone (1) from the marine actinomycetes strain CNQ-027.¹³ This strain shares only 97.6% 16S rRNA gene sequence identity with the genus *Streptomyces marinus*, hence might represent new species adapted to live in the sea.¹⁴ Actinoranone constitutes of a tetralone fragment of polyketidic origin (C1'–C10') and a bicyclic diterpenoid fragment (C1–C20) connected by a C–C single bond between C15 and C8'. Its promising LD₅₀ value of 2.0 µg/mL against HCT-116 human colon carcinoma prompted the initiation of several synthesis programs.¹³ The first total synthesis of actinoranone was achieved by Ye¹⁵ in 2017 and led to a revision of the initially proposed configuration of **1** (Figure 1). Later that year a formal synthesis was realized by the group of Pastre.¹⁶⁻¹⁷



Figure 1: Originally proposed (left) and revised structure (right) of actinoranone 1.

Similar to the previously reported approaches, our retrosynthetic analysis exploits a polar disconnection between C14 and C15 leading to vinyl iodide **2** and the bicyclic aldehyde **3** as the key fragments (Scheme 1). Likewise, we envisioned that **2** could be obtained from the sesquiterpenoid sclareolide.¹⁸⁻²⁷ In contrast to Ye and Pastre, we anticipated aldehyde **3** to be accessible from ester **4**. For the synthesis of this intermediate, a semipinacol rearrangement/Wittig reaction sequence starting from silyl ether **6** was considered. Such a one-pot strategy avoids the isolation of the configurationally labile aldehyde **5**. The chiral silylated epoxyalcohol **6** can be obtained from 3,5-dimethoxybenzaldehyde **7** using standard transformations.



Scheme 1: Retrosynthetic analysis of actinoranone 1.

2. Results and Discussion

The synthesis of vinyl iodide **2** started with the preparation of trisubstituted $\Delta^{7,8}$ -alkene **8** from commercially available (+)-sclareolide (Scheme 2). Treatment with sulfuric acid in methanol resulted in a one-pot methanolysis of the lactone followed by elimination of the resulting tertiary alcohol at C8.²⁷⁻²⁸ Subsequently, the ratio of $\Delta^{7,8}$ -alkene, $\Delta^{8,9}$ -alkene, and exocyclic $\Delta^{8,19}$ -alkene was optimized by screening different reaction temperatures and times. After three days at 23 °C, a mixture of alkene-isomers ($\Delta^{7,8}, \Delta^{8,9}, \Delta^{8,19} = 1.0:0.2:0.7$) with $\Delta^{7,8}$ -alkene **8** as the major product was obtained. Heating the reaction mixture to reflux for 24 h afforded two endocyclic alkene isomers, i.e. the thermodynamically most stable tetrasubstituted $\Delta^{8,9}$ -alkene and the $\Delta^{7,8}$ -alkene in a 1:1 ratio. Reducing the reaction time to 3 h gave the best result for the desired $\Delta^{7,8}$ -alkene **8** (60% yield). Other acids such as HCl, AcOH, or H₃PO₄ led to no improvement. Nevertheless, the optimized selectivity and yield for **8** constitute an improvement over those reported literature.²⁸



Scheme 2: Synthesis of fragment 2.

Next, ester **8** was reduced to primary alcohol **9** using LiAlH₄ followed by the conversion into iodide **10** under Appel conditions. The subsequent two-carbon extension to alkyne **4** required some optimization. Using lithium acetylide ethylenediamine complex (LAEDA) in DMSO²⁹⁻³⁰ at ambient temperature gave the desired product **11** in only moderate yield of 42% (Table 1, entry 1). Changing the solvent to DMF (entry 2) slightly increased the yield of **11**, whereas using HMPA³¹ lowered the yield to 7% (entry 3). Other methods such as the

reaction with *in situ* generated lithium trimethylsilylacetylide³² or Sonogashira coupling³³ with trimethylsilylacetylene did not provide any of the desired product (not displayed). Treatment of **10** with sodium acetylide³⁴ in DMF slightly improved the yield to 58% (entry 4). Finally, treatment of iodide **10** with LAEDA in a 1:1 solvent mixture of DMSO/Et₂O gave alkyne **11** in 87% (entry 5).

Table 1: Two-carbon homologation of **10**.



Entry	Conditions	Solvent	t(h)	$11 (\%)^{a}$
1	LAEDA (2.0 equiv) at 23 °C	DMSO	72	42
2	LAEDA (3.0 equiv) at 50 °C	DMF	16	45
3	LAEDA (2.0 equiv) at 23 °C	HMPA	18	7
4	Na $=$ (2.0 equiv) at 0 °C	DMF	2	58
5	LAEDA (3.0 equiv) at 23 °C	DMSO/Et ₂ O ^b	3	87

^a Isolated yield. ^b 1:1 v/v was used.

With alkyne **11** in hand, we turned our focus to Negishi's³⁵⁻³⁶ zirconium-catalyzed carboalumination-iodination sequence.³⁷⁻³⁸ Application of Wipf's protocol³⁹ afforded *E*-vinyl iodide **2** in 94% yield. Precise temperature control and slow addition of the reactants were crucial to avoid premature proto-demetallation, as reported by Ye and co-workers.¹⁵ In summary, intermediate **2** was obtained from (+)-sclareolide in five steps and 47% overall yield (Figure 2). While our approach shares some of the synthetic transformations used by Ye (15 steps) and Pastre (9 steps), we have been able to shorten the previous sequences to just 5 steps and raise the overall yield fragment **2** to 47%. This optimized route should also be useful for future SAR studies.¹⁶



Figure 2: Comparison of the synthetic approaches to fragment 2.

Our route to the tetralone fragment was based on the chirality transfer from epoxyalcohol 6 to the stereogenic center in the benzyl position of aldehyde 5. Such transformation belongs to the semipinacol rearrangements (type III: epoxides).40-41 It is also known under the name Meinwald rearrangement⁴² and Yamamoto epoxide rearrangement. The required silylated epoxyalcohol was prepared starting from the readily available allylic alcohol 12 (Scheme 3). 43 A catalytic Sharpless epoxidation⁴⁴ followed by treatment with TBSOTf permitted stereoselective preparation of the epoxy silyl ether required for the rearrangement in good yield and excellent enantiomeric excess (10, Scheme 3). At this point, we investigated the antiperiplanar migration of the vicinal C-C bond to benzylic position using a Yamamoto rearrangement.⁴⁴⁻⁴⁷ Therefore, we applied the original reaction conditions using stoichiometric amounts of the in situ formed aluminum-based Lewis acid bis-(4-bromo-2,6-di-tert-MABR (methylaluminum butylphenoxide)).⁴⁸⁻⁵² The originally described work-up with NaF·H₂O gave aldehyde 11 in 33% yield and a decreased enantiomeric excess (ee) of 60% (Table 1, entry 1). Therefore, we investigated various work-up methods that were aimed to avoid undesired racemization (entries 2-6). Pouring the crude reaction mixture into diluted aqueous hydrochloric acid enhanced the yield to 65% yet with a strongly reduced enantiomeric excess of 33% (entry 2). Addition of saturated aqueous NH₄Cl or H₂O did not give better results in terms of yield and enantioselectivity (entries 3 and 4). Removal of the reaction solvent yielded 36% of 5 (57% ee, entry 5). As the newly formed stereogenic center in the benzylic position and α to the aldehyde **5** proved to be very sensitive to the applied work-up conditions, we decided to directly submit the reaction mixture to the subsequent Wittig olefination. Direct addition of freshly prepared Wittig reagent gave a poor 3% yield of 4 (entry 6). Thus, the reaction mixture was concentrated and re-dissolved in THF prior to the ylide addition. To our delight, unsaturated ester 4 was obtained in 44% yield whilst completely suppressing the undesired racemization (entry 7). After extensive screening, we found out that addition of THF followed by careful removal of CH₂Cl₂ gave the best result. Under these conditions, ester 4 was finally obtained in 71% yield and 96% ee (entry 8).





Entry	Conditions Work-up ^a	Product	Yield ^b (%)	ee (%)
1	NaF (6.0 equiv), H ₂ O (8.0 equiv) addition, stirring at 23 °C for 30 min, filtration over Celite®	5	33	60
2	Poured into diluted HCl solution, extraction with CH ₂ Cl ₂	5	65	33
3	Addition of saturated NH ₄ Cl solution, extraction with CH ₂ Cl ₂	5	38	7
4	Addition of H ₂ O (excess), extraction with CH ₂ Cl ₂	5	61	14
5	Removal of CH ₂ Cl ₂ under HV	5	36	57
6 ^c	Addition to Wittig reagent	4	3	_
7	Removal of CH ₂ Cl ₂ under HV, redissolved in THF and addition to Wittig reagent	4	44	96
8	Addition of THF, removal of CH ₂ Cl ₂ under HV, addition to Wittig reagent	4	71	96

^a After the described work-up, flash column chromatography (10:1 = pentane: Et₂O) was performed. ^bIsolated yield. ^cee was not measured.

The route toward aldehyde fragment **3** (and its stable alcohol precursor **15**) continued with the hydrogenation of the double bond of **4** using Pd/C (10 w%) under H₂-atmosphere. Using MeOH as solvent led to an undesired cleavage of the silyl group.⁵³ This problem was solved by changing the solvent to MeCN which afforded ester **13** in 93% yield. Ester **13** was then transformed into aldehyde **14** in 83% yield *via* DIBAL-H reduction. At this point, our synthesis towards the bicyclic alcohol **3** converged into Pastre's and Ye's route.¹⁶ Following their conditions, acid catalyzed cyclization and silyl ether cleavage using *p*-TsOH was followed by hydrogenation

employing Pd/C in MeOH (10 w%, slightly acidic) Pto give M using Ja streamlined synthesis involving a two-carbon homobicyclic alcohol 15 in 66% yield. Is a subsequent zirconium-catalyzed carboalumination. The polyketide fragment **3** was obtained in give store with 17%



Scheme 3: Synthesis of fragment 15.

Finally, the coupling of fragments 2 and 3 was carried out following Ye's¹⁵ and Pastre's¹⁶ procedure. The aldehyde fragment was prepared by Dess-Martin oxidation of 15 to give 3, which was directly added to a solution of *in situ* lithiated vinyl iodide 2. The allylic alcohol 16 was obtained in 70% yield thereby completing the formal synthesis of actinoranone (Figure 4).



Scheme 4: Completion of the formal synthesis of actinoranone **1**.¹⁵

According to Xu's and Ye's work,¹⁵ actinoranone 1 can be obtained from 16 in three additional steps inverting the configuration at C-15 under Mitsunobu conditions followed by benzylic C–H oxidation using DDQ, and basic hydrolysis of the Mitsunobu ester.

3. Conclusion

In summary, we have achieved a formal synthesis of actinoranone starting from commercially available (+)-sclareolide and 3,5-dimethoxybenzaldehyde. The synthesis of the terpenoid fragment **2** was completed in 5 steps and 47% yield

logation and a subsequent zirconium-catalyzed carboalumination. The polyketide fragment **3** was obtained in nine steps with 17% overall yield from 3,5-dimethoxybenzaldehyde. Complementary to the previously reported syntheses, the single stereogenic center in **3** was generated from silylated epoxyalcohol **6** using a semipinacol rearrangement.

4. Experimental section

4.1 General procedures

All reactions sensitive to moisture and/or air were performed under an argon atmosphere using Schlenk techniques. Reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial sources and used as received unless otherwise noted. Anhydrous solvents (THF, CH₂Cl₂, Et₂O, PhMe) were purified using the solvent purification system MB-SPS-800 (Braun). The solvents (EtOAc, Et₂O, npentane) used for column chromatography and work up were purified from commercially available technical grade solvents by distillation under reduced pressure. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR) were recorded at the following frequencies: ¹H NMR at 400, 500, and 700 MHz, ¹³C NMR at 100, 125, and 175 MHz with solvent resonance as the internal standard (¹H NMR: CDCl₃ at 7.26 ppm, ¹³C NMR: CDCl₃ at 77.0 ppm). ¹H NMR data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, brs = broad singlet, d = doublet, dd =doublet of doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet), coupling constant (Hz), and integration. High resolution mass spectra were measured with a TOF mass spectrometer. TLC visualization was accomplished using UV light and/or staining in a Cer(IV)-sulfate solution (5.0 g phosphomolybdic acid, 16 mL conc. H_2SO_4 , 200 mL H₂O, 4.0 g cerium(IV) sulfate) or acidic *p*-anisaldehyde solution (450 mL EtOH, 25 mL anisaldehyde, 25 mL conc. H₂SO₄, 8 mL AcOH) and subsequent charring. Yields refer to isolated yields after flash column chromatography.

4.2 Synthesis of Methyl 2-((1S,4aS,8aS)-2,5,5,8a-tetramethyl-1,4,4a,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalen-1-yl)acetate (8)^{28, 54}

(3a*R*)-(+)-Sclareolide (1.00 g, 4.00 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (19 mL) and then treated with conc. H₂SO₄ (0.7 mL). After refluxing for 3 h, MeOH was distilled off and the residue dissolved in Et₂O (100 mL), washed with H₂O (2 x 50 mL), saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (2 x 50 mL), and brine (20 mL). The organic phase was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude alkenes were separated by column chromatography (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 120:1 to 80:1) giving $\Delta^{7,8}$ -8 (636 mg, 2.4 mmol, 60%) and $\Delta^{8,9}$ (424 mg, 1.60 mmol, 40%) alkenes as colorless oils.

8: $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.46$ (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 40:1); ¹H (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 5.47 - 5.39 (m, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 2.49 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.42 - 2.35 (m, 1H), 2.17 (dd, J = 16.5, 9.7 Hz, 1H), 2.04 - 1.95 (m, 1H), 1.84 (dddt, J = 17.5, 12.0, 4.5, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 1.75 - 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.56 - 1.53 (m, 3H), 1.53 - 1.37 (m, 3H), 1.28 (dd, J = 12.2, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 1.18 (td, J = 13.1, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.09 (td, J = 13.0, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 0.88 (s, 3H), 0.86 (s, 3H), 0.75 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 175.5, 133.8, 122.9, 51.9, 50.7, 49.9, 42.2, 39.2, 36.1 33.3, 33.1, 23.8, 22.0, 21.5, 18.9, 14.1 (2C) ppm. The analytical data were identical with those published.²⁸

4.3 Synthesis of 2-((1S,4aS,8aS)-2,5,5,8a-tetramethyl-1,4,4a,5,6, 7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalen-1-yl)ethan-1-ol (9)

anhydrous Et₂O (20 mL), a solution of ester **8** (1.07 g, 4.04 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous Et₂O (40 mL) was added slowly at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 1 h before it was quenched by the addition of aqueous HCl (1M; 50 mL). Afterwards, the mixture was extracted with Et₂O (4 x 50 mL) and the combined organic layers were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (50 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. After purification by column chromatography (*n*-pentane/EtOAc = 5:1), alcohol **9** (0.954 g, 4.04 mmol, >99%) was obtained as colorless oil.

9: $\mathbf{R}_{f} = 0.39$ (*n*-pentane/EtOAc = 5:1); ¹H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 5.41$ (brs, 1H), 3.78 (dt, J = 9.5, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.66–3.47 (m, 1H), 2.04–1.91 (m, 1H), 1.92–1.78 (m, 1H), 1.72 (dd, J = 14.2, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.66–1.64 (m, 1H), 1.57–1.45 (m, 4H), 1.40 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 1.18 (dd, J = 11.9, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 1.13 (dd, J = 13.1, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 0.95 (dt, J = 13.1, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.85 (s, 3H), 0.76 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 134.7, 122.8, 64.5, 50.8, 50.2, 42.4, 39.3, 36.6, 32.3, 33.1, 30.6, 23.9, 22.2, 22.0, 18.9, 13.7 ppm.$

4.4 Synthesis of (4aS,5S,8aS)-5-(2-iodoethyl)-1,1,4a,6-tetramethyl-1,2,3,4,4a,5,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene (**10**)

To a solution of alcohol **9** (500 mg, 2.12 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (35 mL), PPh₃ (666 mg, 2.54 mmol, 1.2 equiv), imidazole (288 mg, 4.23 mmol, 2.0 equiv), and I₂ (644 mg, 2.54 mmol, 1.2 equiv) were subsequently added and the mixture was stirred for 2 h at 23 °C. The reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated aqueous $Na_2S_2O_3$ (50 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (*n*pentane) giving alkyl iodide **10** (693 mg, 2.00 mmol, 95%) as colorless oil.

10: $R_f = 0.98$ (*n*-pentane); ¹H (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 5.42$ (brs, 1H), 3.38 (ddd, J = 10.3, 9.4, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (td, J = 9.4, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (dddd, J = 14.7, 10.3, 7.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 2.01 – 1.94 (m, 1H), 1.89 – 1.72 (m, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.65 – 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.56 – 1.51 (m, 1H), 1.47 (tq, J = 10.2, 3.4 Hz, 1H), 1.41 (dtd, J = 13.1, 3.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 1.19 (dd, J = 12.0, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 1.15 (dd, J = 13.2, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 1.04 (td, J = 13.1, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.85 (s, 3H), 0.74 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 133.7$, 123.4, 56.6, 50.1, 42.3, 39.3, 36.8, 33.3, 33.1, 32.7, 23.9, 22.2, 22.0, 18.8, 13.9, 8.5 ppm.

4.5 Synthesis of (4aS,5S,8aS)-5-(but-3-yn-1-yl)-1,1,4a,6-tetramethyl-1,2,3,4,4a,5,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene (11)

To a suspension of LAEDA (40.0 mg, 0.434 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in anhydrous DMSO/Et₂O (1:1 v/v; 0.6 mL), was added a solution of iodide **10** (100 mg, 0.289 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous Et₂O (0.3 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction was stirred for 1 h and then another portion of LAEDA (40.0 mg, 0.434 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added. After 3 h the reaction was quenched by the addition of H₂O (2.0 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with H₂O (2 x 10 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (*n*-pentane) giving the alkyne **11** (61.7 mmol, 0.252 mmol, 87%) as colorless oil.

11: $R_f = 0.76$ (*n*-pentane); ¹H (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 5.41$ (brs, 1H), 2.37 (dddd, J = 16.7, 9.1, 5.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (dtd, J = 16.7, 8.3, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.02 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.96 (t, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 1.89 – 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.76 – 1.70 (m, 2H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.59 – 1.48 (m, 1H), 1.48 – 1.37 (m, 3H), 1.22 – 1.17 (m, 1H), 1.15

(dd, J = 13.1, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.01 (td, J = 13.1, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.85 (s, 3H), 0.75 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 134.7, 122.9, 85.0, 68.4, 53.8, 50.2, 42.4, 39.2, 36.7, 33.3, 33.2, 26.4, 23.9, 22.3, 22.0, 20.5, 18.9, 13.8 ppm.$

4.6 Synthesis of (4aS,5S,8aS)-5-((E)-4-iodo-3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)-1,1,4a,6-tetramethyl-1,2,3,4,4a,5,8,8a-octahydronaphthalene $(2)^{38}$

To a solution of Cp₂ZrCl₂ (24.0 mg, 0.0820 mmol, 0.5 equiv) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (6.0 mL), Me₃Al (2 M in PhMe; 0.24 mL, 0.489 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was added slowly at -30 °C. The paleyellow mixture was stirred for 30 min at 23 °C and cooled to -30 °C again. At this point, H₂O (4.40 µL, 0.245 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added and the mixture stirred for additional 30 min, and then a solution of alkyne 11 (40.0 mg, 0.163 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (0.30 mL) was added. After 1 h, I₂ (54.0 mg, 2.12 mmol, 1.3 equiv) dissolved in anhydrous THF (0.60 mL) was added and the yellow solution was stirred for 4 h at 0 °C. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (10 mL) followed by extraction with *n*-pentane (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (20 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (n-pentane) yielding vinyl iodide 2 (44.0 mg, 0.154 mmol, 94%) as colorless solid.

2: $R_f = 0.94$ (*n*-pentane); ¹H (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 5.89$ (q, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (brs, 1H), 2.46 – 2.33 (m, 1H), 2.16 (dddd, J = 13.7, 10.3, 6.2, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.00 – 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.89 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.85 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 3H), 1.83 – 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.68 (brs, 3H), 1.62 – 1.47 (m, 3H), 1.47 – 1.38 (m, 2H), 1.34 – 1.26 (m, 1H), 1.20 – 1.12 (m, 2H), 0.93 (td, J = 13.1, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.85 (s, 3H), 0.75 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 148.7, 135.0, 122.8, 75.0, 54.4, 50.3, 42.4, 42.2, 39.3, 36.9, 33.3, 33.1, 25.7, 24.2, 24.0, 22.3, 22.0, 18.9, 13.7 ppm.$

4.7 Synthesis of (E)-3-(3',5'-dimethoxyphenyl)prop-2-en-1-ol $(12)^{43,55}$

Triethyl phosphonoacetate (6.05 mL, 14.1 mmol, 1.8 equiv) was added to a suspension of NaH (60 w% mineral oil; 0.580 g, 24.0 mmol, 1.8 equiv) in anhydrous THF (71 mL) at 0 °C. The suspension cleared after stirring for 30 min, and then a solution of the 3,5-dimethoxybenzaldehyde (7, 2.00 g, 12.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous THF (4.0 mL) was added. Stirring was continued for additional 16 h during gradual warming to 23 °C. The mixture was then quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (20 mL) and extracted with Et₂O (4 x 50 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous MgSO4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained crude ester was dissolved in anhydrous CH2Cl2 (50 mL) and DIBAL-H (1M in CH₂Cl₂; 36.0 mL, 36.1 mmol, 3.0 equiv) was slowly added at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h and then quenched by careful addition of aqueous HCl (1M; 30 mL). The mixture was stirred for 30 min and then extracted with Et₂O (4 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (Et₂O/n- pentane = 2:1) giving allylic alcohol **12** (2.01 g, 10.4 mmol, 86%) as colorless oil.

12: $R_f = 0.66$ (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 1:3); ¹H (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 6.56 - 6.55$ (m, 1H), 6.54 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.53 - 6.51 (m, 1H), 6.38 - 6.36 (m, 1H), 6.34 (dd, J = 15.9, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (brs, 1H), 4.31 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 6H) ppm; ¹³C (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 161.0$ (2C), 138.9, 131.1, 129.2, 104.7 (2C), 100.0, 63.7, 55.4 (2C) ppm.

4.8 Synthesis of tert-butyl(((2R,3R)-3-(3',5'-dimethoxyphenyl) oxiran-2-yl)methoxy)dimethylsilane (6)⁴⁴

To a suspension of (+)-DET (0.240 mL, 1.41 mmol, 0.18 equiv) and powdered (or grinded) 4 Å MS in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL), Ti(O'Pr)₄ (0.350 mL, 1.17 mmol, 0.15 equiv) was added at -20 °C. The mixture was stirred for 30 min and then ^tBuOOH (5.5M in decane; 2.85 mL, 15.7 mmol, 2.0 equiv,) was added. After stirring for additional 30 min at -20 °C, a solution of allylic alcohol 12 (1.52 g, 7.83 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (3.5 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at -20 °C and then quenched by the addition of aqueous NaOH (10% w/w; 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and the filtrate was then extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained crude epoxide was dissolved in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (77 mL) and treated with 2,6-lutidine (1.09 mL, 9.40 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and TBSOTf (1.98 mL, 8.61 mmol, 1.1 equiv) at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 2 h at this temperature before quenching with saturated aqueous NaHCO3 (30 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic phases were dried with anhydrous MgSO4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. After purification by column chromatography (*n*-pentane/ $Et_2O = 11:1$), TBS-protected epoxide 6 (2.03 g, 6.26 mmol, 80%, 96% ee) was obtained as colorless oil.

6: $\mathbf{R}_f = 0.74$ (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 8:1); $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -28.7$ (CHCl₃, c = 1.0); IR: $\tilde{\nu} = 833$, 1152, 1252, 1347, 1461, 1470, 1597, 2360, 1856, 2929, 2953 cm⁻¹; ¹H (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 6.44$ (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 6.39 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.96 (dd, J = 12.1, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.83 – 3.79 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.76 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.12 – 3.07 (m, 1H), 0.92 (s, 9H), 0.11 (s, 3H), 0.10 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 161.2$ (2C), 140.0, 103.5 (2C), 100.5, 63.0, 62.7, 56.0, 55.5 (2C), 26.0 (3C), 18.6, -5.1 (2C) ppm; HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calculated for C₁₇H₂₈O₄SiNa⁺: 347.1649, found: 347.1640; [M+K]⁺ calculated for C₁₇H₂₈O₄SiK⁺: 363.1389, found: 363.1391.

4.9 Synthesis of ethyl (S,E)-5-((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-4-(3',5'-dimethoxyphenyl)pent-2-enoate $(4)^{44}$

4-Bromo-2,6-di-tert-butylphenol (703 mg, 2.46 mmol, 4.0 equiv) was dissolved in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (14 mL) and the vellow solution was degassed (freeze-pump-thaw; three cycles). Subsequent addition of Me₃Al (2M in PhMe; 0.62 mL, 1.23 mmol, 2.0 equiv,) gave a colorless solution. Stirring was continued for 1 h till the gas development has ceased. After cooling to -78 °C, a solution of epoxide 6 (200 mg, 0.616 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (1.5 mL) was added to give a bright yellow solution. After 15 min stirring, anhydrous THF (3.0 mL) was added to the mixture and CH2Cl2 was carefully removed HV with the help of a cooling trap during warming to 23 °C (distillation was stopped after visual reduction of the 15.5 mL of CH₂Cl₂ and visual slowed or stopped distillation process). The resulting solution was then added to a suspension of the Wittig reagent (845 mg, 1.85 mmol, 3.0 equiv) and KO'Bu (200 mg, 1.79 mmol, 2.9 equiv) in anhydrous THF (8.0 mL), which was previously reacted for 30 min at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for additional 4 h at 0 °C and quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (20 mL). The mixture was extracted with Et₂O (4 x 50 mL), the combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous MgSO4, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (n-pentane/Et₂O = 11:1) yielding ester 4 as pale-yellow oil (173 mg, 0.437 mmol, 71%, 96% ee).

A 4: $\mathbf{R}_{f} \in 0.45$ (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 8:1); $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} = +12.8$ (CHCl₃, c = 1.4); IR: $\tilde{\nu} = 833$, 1152, 1428, 1461, 1594, 1717, 2856, 2929, 2953 cm⁻¹; ¹H (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.15$ (dd, J = 15.8, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.39 – 6.26 (m, 3H), 5.85 (dd, J = 15.8, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.54 (q, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.86 (s, 9H), 0.01 (s, 3H), -0.01 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 166.4, 160.8$ (2C), 148.4, 142.0, 122.5, 106.4 (2C), 98.7, 66.2, 60.1, 55.2 (2C), 51.2, 25.7 (3C), 18.1, 14.1, -5.6 (2C) ppm; HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₂₁H₃₄O₅SiH⁺: 395.2249, found: 395.2230; [M+Na]⁺ calculated for C₂₁H₃₄O₅SiNa⁺: 417.2068, found: 417.2082.

4.10 Synthesis of ethyl (S)-5-((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-4-(3',5'-dimethoxyphenyl)pentanoate (13)

A mixture of alkene **4** (173 mg, 0.437 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd/C (17.5 mg, 40 mg/mmol, 10% w/w) in MeCN (2.0 mL) was stirred under H₂ atmosphere for 16 h at 23 °C. The mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite® and the filter cake washed with EtOAc. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue purified by column chromatography (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 9:1) giving ester **13** (161 mg, 0.406, 93%) as pale-yellow oil.

13: R_f = 0.44 (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 8:1); $[α]_D^{26}$ = +8.15 (CHCl₃, c = 0.75); IR: \tilde{v} = 835, 1154, 1204, 1429, 1462, 1595, 1733, 2856, 2930, 2953 cm⁻¹; ¹H (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 6.34 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 2H), 6.32 (t, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (qd, *J* = 7.1, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (s, 6H), 3.73 – 3.63 (m, 2H), 2.71 – 2.62 (m, 1H), 2.24 – 2.15 (m, 3H), 1.87 – 1.79 (m, 1H), 1.22 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.86 (s, 9H), – 0.01 (s, 3H), -0.03 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 173.8, 160.9 (2C), 144.8, 106.4 (2C), 98.5, 67.9, 60.3, 55.4 (2C), 48.5, 32.5, 27.3, 26.0 (3C), 18.4, 14.4, -5.3 (2C) ppm; HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calculated for C₂₁H₃₆O₅SiNa⁺: 419.2224, found: 419.2218; [M+K]⁺ calculated for C₂₁H₃₆O₅SiK⁺: 435.1964, found: 435.1949.

4.11 Synthesis of (S)-5-((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-4-(3',5'dimethoxyphenyl)pentanal (14)

To a solution of ester **13** (73.0 mg, 0.184 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (1.8 mL), was added DIBAL-H (1.0M in CH_2Cl_2 ; 0.20 mL, 0.202 mmol, 1.1 equiv) at -78 °C. After stirring for 1 h, the reaction was quenched by the addition of saturated aqueous potassium sodium tartrate (5.0 mL), stirred for 30 min and extracted with EtOAc (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. After purification of the crude by column chromatography (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 5:1), aldehyde **14** (53.8 mg, 0.153 mmol, 83%) was obtained as colorless oil.

14: $R_f = 0.42$ (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 6:1); $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +11.0$ (CHCl₃, c = 1.05); IR: $\tilde{v} = 835$, 1110, 1152, 1204, 1252, 1428, 1461, 1594, 1724, 2856, 2929, 2952 cm⁻¹; ¹H (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 9.70$ (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.50 - 6.17 (m, 3H), 3.77 (s, 6H), 3.72 (dd, *J* = 9.9, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (ddt, *J* = 10.2, 7.4, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 2.29 - 2.07 (m, 1H), 1.91 - 1.74 (m, 1H), 0.87 (s, 9H), -0.01 (s, 3H), -0.02 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 202.5$, 161.0 (2C), 144.6, 106.4 (2C), 98.6, 67.9, 55.4 (2C), 48.4, 42.2, 26.0 (3C), 24.5, 18.4, -5.3 (2C) ppm; HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₁₉H₃₂O₅SiH⁺: 353.2143, found: 353.2161.

4.12 Synthesis of (S)-(5,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-yl)methanol (15) **R**_f = 0.78 (*n*-pentane/Et₂O = 5:1); $[a]_D^{25}$ = +1.77 (CHCl₃, c = 0.93); IR: \tilde{v} = 833, 1092, 1148, 1207, 1319, 1425, 1463, 1576, 1603, 2856, 2928, 2952 cm⁻¹; ¹H (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 6.71 (dd, *J* = 9.8, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 5.73 (ddd, *J* = 9.5, 5.9, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.65 – 3.44 (m, 2H), 2.89 – 2.82 (m, 1H), 2.51 (ddd, *J* = 17.4, 6.0, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.42 – 2.29 (m, 1H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.00 (s, 6H) ppm; ¹³C (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 159.5, 156.0, 138.5, 122.7, 120.7, 116.2, 105.8, 97.0, 64.5, 55.7, 55.5, 41.0, 26.1 (3C), 24.3, 18.5, -5.2, -5.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calculated for C₁₉H₃₀O₃SiH⁺: 335.2037, found: 335.2054; [M+Na]⁺ calculated for C₁₉H₃₀O₃SiNa⁺: 357.1856, found: 357.1869.

A mixture of the intermediate alkene (45.1 mg, 0.135 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and Pd/C (5.40 mg, 40 mg/mmol, 10% w/w) in MeOH (1.0 mL) was stirred under H₂ atmosphere for 16 h at 23 °C. To the mixture EtOAc (80 mL) was added and the suspension filtered through a pad of Celite®. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue purified by column chromatography (*n*-pentane/EtOAc = 3:1) giving alcohol **15** (22.5 mg, 0.101 mmol, 75%) as colorless oil.

15: $R_f = 0.28$ (*n*-pentane/EtOAc = 3:1); $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -2.2$ (CHCl₃, c = 1.0); ¹H (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 6.39$ (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 2.92 (p, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (dt, J = 16.9, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 2.53 – 2.42 (m, 1H), 1.95 – 1.86 (m, 1H), 1.81 (dd, J = 10.5, 3.6 Hz, 2H), 1.75 – 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.47 (brs, 1H) ppm; ¹³C (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 158.3$, 158.3, 138.4, 119.4, 104.2, 96.3, 67.0, 55.4, 55.3, 40.8, 24.9, 22.6, 19.1 ppm.

4.13 Synthesis of (S,E)-1-((S)-5,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-yl)-3-methyl-5-((1S,4aS,8aS)-2,5,5,8a-tetramethyl-1,4,4a,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalen-1-yl)pent-2-en-1-ol $(16)^{16}$

To a solution of alcohol **15** (23.0 mg, 0.103 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (1.0 mL), NaHCO₃ (13.0 mg, 0.152 mmol, 2.2 equiv) and DMP (44.0 mg, 0.104 mmol, 1.5 equiv) were added at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred for 1 h and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The obtained residue was purified by column chromatography (*n*-pentane/EtOAc = 3:1; R_f = 0.75 (*n*-pentane/EtOAc = 3:1)) to give aldehyde **3** which was immediately used in the following step.

^{*n*}BuLi (2.5M in hexane; 60 µL, 0.138 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added to a solution of vinyl iodide 2 (27.0 mg, 0.0690 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in anhydrous Et₂O (1.2 mL) at -78 °C. After 1 h, the freshly prepared aldehyde 3 in Et_2O (1.2 mL) was added and the reaction was stirred for 16 h at the same temperature. The mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (5.0 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (4 x 15 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous MgSO4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. After purification by column chromatography (nallylic 16 pentane/EtOAc =10:1), alcohol (23.2 mg, 0.0483 mmol, 70%) was obtained as colorless oil.

16: $R_f = 0.24$ (*n*-pentane/EtOAc = 9:1); $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +20.6$ (CHCl₃, c = 1.60); ¹H (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 6.48$ (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (brs, 1H), 5.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (ddd, J = 7.8, 4.7, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s,

3H), 2.88 + 2.79 (m, 1H), 2.62 (dt, J = 16.7, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.51 (dt, J = 17.0, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (td, J = 13.2, 12.6, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.02 – 1.74 (m, 8H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.66 – 1.60 (m, 2H), 1.58 (s, 3H), 1.49 – 1.30 (m, 4H), 1.29 – 1.12 (m, 3H), 0.97 – 0.92 (m, 1H), 0.88 (s, 3H), 0.85 (s, 3H), 0.75 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 158.5$ (2C), 139.3, 138.9, 135.7, 126.2, 122.7, 120.7, 105.0, 96.4, 72.0, 55.7 (2C), 55.0, 50.6, 44.6, 42.7, 42.6, 39.6, 37.2, 33.6, 33.4, 26.1, 24.2, 23.8, 23.0, 22.6, 22.3, 20.6, 19.2, 17.2, 13.9 ppm.

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Supplementary Information

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at

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Tetrahedron

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