Second-Generation Synthesis of (-)-Viriditoxin

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Abstract: Viriditoxin is a secondary metabolite isolated from *Aspergillus viridinutans* that has been shown to inhibit FtsZ, the bacterial homologue of eukaryotic tubulin. A streamlined, scalable, and highly diastereoselective synthesis of this complex natural product is described. Key advances include a more efficient synthesis of the requisite unsaturated pyranone, scalable assembly of the naphthopyranone monomer, and improved diastereoselectivity in the biaryl-coupling reaction. In addition, we disclose a serendipitous ruthenium-catalyzed anion dimerization resulting from trace metal left by an RCM reaction.

Key words: natural products, asymmetric synthesis, antibiotics, atropisomerism, biaryls

Introduction

The synthesis of natural products as a starting point for achieving a better understanding of their ability to modulate biological processes is an important goal for the discovery of new medicines. Among current health challenges, the ability of pathogenic bacteria to evade the activity of current antibiotics has prompted a need for new chemotypes and new protein targets in prokaryotes. Although there has been some progress in finding new drugs to inactivate established targets, there is a parallel effort to find new targets that are susceptible to modulation by small molecules. Bacterial cell division is modulated by a group of proteins for which inhibitors could represent starting points for drug discovery.¹ The central cell division protein, FtsZ, is a homologue of eukaryotic tubulin that plays a similarly critical role in the cytokinesis of bacterial cells.² This protein was first characterized in 1992 as a tubulin-like GTPase³ and in the ensuing decades, several inhibitors have been discovered from natural and synthetic sources.^{3d} Our group has developed a research program around the synthesis and study of natural products that inhibit bacterial cell division by targeting FtsZ with the long term goal of elucidating the molecular basis of inhibition.

Viriditoxin is a polyketide natural product first isolated at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory (NRRL, Peoria, IL, USA)^{4,5} and subsequently discovered to inhibit the function of FtsZ by researchers at Merck conducting a high-throughput screen of natural product extracts.⁶ This compound inhibited the GTPase activity of FtsZ in vitro and also exhibited broad activity against Gram-positive

SYNTHESIS 2012, 44, 362–371 Advanced online publication: 16.01.2012 DOI: 10.1055/s-0031-1289651; Art ID: Z105311SS © Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart · New York bacteria. Importantly, it is not cytotoxic to either yeast or human cells, suggesting that it has some level of target specificity. We initiated a project to synthesize viriditoxin so that we could study its interactions with FtsZ in detail and eventually identify the molecular interactions between this compound and FtsZ. Although the mammalian toxicity of this compound limits the extent to which it might be a starting point for drug discovery,⁷ detailed structural knowledge of how viriditoxin interacts with FtsZ would serve as a starting point for exploiting this protein as a target for new antibiotics.



6, vioxanthin (8,8'-binaphthopyran-2-one)

Figure 1 Structures of dimeric condensed polyketide natural products

Viriditoxin (1) is a 6,6'-binaphthopyran-2-one that probably arises from a biogenic oxidative dimerization (Figure 1). The few known related 6,6'-binaphthopyran-2-ones include the isomeric diacid asteromine $(2)^8$ as well as the methyl and propyl analogues pigmentosin A $(3)^9$ and talaroderxine A (4).¹⁰ All have the same relative stereochemical relationship between the axial chirality of the biaryl linkage and the substituent of the pyranone ring. The lone exception to this trend is talaroderxine B (not shown), which is the axial isomer of talaroderxine A and is isolated from the same organism. In addition to the 6,6'-binaphthopyran-2-ones, related natural products arising from the dimerization of condensed polyketides include 8,8'-binaphthopyran-2-ones (e.g. 6, vioxanthin¹¹) and 6,6'-binaphthopyran-4-ones such as cephalochromin (5).¹² Given the ease with which polyhydroxylated aromatic rings can undergo oxidative dimerization, many related dimeric and oligomeric natural products have been isolated, usually from fungi.13

At the outset of our studies, there had been no previous syntheses of 6,6'-binaphthopyranones. The assembly of axially chiral natural products has been a long-standing challenge in organic synthesis for which many elegant approaches have been developed.¹⁴ Although the focus of many synthetic efforts centers on the construction of the

stereoselective construction of biaryl linkage, the efficient preparation of the dimerization precursors is of equal importance to the overall synthetic efficiency. We recently completed a stereoselective synthesis of (–)-viriditoxin that confirmed its configuration and demonstrated the efficacy of vanadium-catalyzed phenolic coupling for enhancing or reversing remote diastereoselection in this reaction.¹⁵ Although this synthesis answered many important questions and has enabled subsequent biological investigations, we have explored several strategies for improving efficiency and scalability. Herein we describe studies that culminated in a 'second-generation' synthesis of (–)-viriditoxin with significant improvements to the substrate preparation, manipulation of protecting groups, and selectivity in the biaryl-coupling reaction.

Retrosynthetic Analysis of Viriditoxin

Two basic strategies were considered for constructing the biaryl core of viriditoxin. One approach is to use simplified phenyl precursors in an early state biaryl coupling and then construct the polycyclic systems in a bi-directional synthesis. This pathway was used to prepare vioxanthin¹⁶ and, more recently, to assemble a simplified model system representing the core of hibarimicin.¹⁷ In

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independent career in 2002 as an institute fellow at the Institute for Chemistry and Cell Biology (ICCB) at Harvard Medical School, which merged with several other research organizations to form the Broad Institute of try department at the University of Maryland (College Park, MD, 1993– 2004) before joining the department of Chemistry at UC Davis as departmental crystallographer in 2004.

Harvard and MIT in 2005. In July of 2007, Jared joined the faculty of UC Davis where his research interests focus on the development of new synthetic methods, the synthesis of natural products, and chemical biology. both cases, key steps involving condensation reactions to build polycyclic ring systems were modest-yielding. A second approach would involve construction of the condensed polycyclic monomers followed by late-stage biaryl coupling. This strategy has been successful in the syntheses of perylenequinone natural products¹⁸ and nigerone,¹⁹ which employ oxidative coupling of organometallic intermediates and phenols, respectively. We favored the latter strategy from the outset with the hope that installation of the axial chirality could be executed efficiently and with high diastereoselectivity. We first investigated dimerization of organometallic intermediates using both catalytic cross-coupling or oxidative homocoupling reactions with limited success. The advantage for this approach stems from installing a methyl group for P² which is part of the final target structure. In the end, a phenolic coupling was successful, necessitating a protecting group (P²) that was orthogonal to two additional phenolic protecting groups (P^3 and P^4) as well as the protecting group on the primary alcohol (P^1) .

Assembly of the tricyclic precursor 7 is achieved through a condensation reaction between a protected orsellinate ester 8 and a suitable unsaturated carbonyl compound 9 [Scheme 1 (A)]. The condensation reaction itself can be executed in either a one-step (Staunton–Weinreb) transformation or Michael–Dieckmann reaction followed by oxidation to the corresponding naphthol. Both manifolds were investigated and ultimately the latter proved to be more efficient. The Michael–Dieckmann pathway necessitated an efficient synthesis of pyranone 9, which was initially realized by an aldol addition and cyclization sequence [Scheme 1 (B)]. The requisite aldehyde was prepared with high enantioselectivity using an asymmetric allylation reaction employing allyltributyltin. Although this was adequate for our first-generation synthesis, we sought a route that would be more easily scaled and require fewer air-sensitive steps. As a result, we turned to ring-closing metathesis (RCM) for pyranone formation and replaced the allylation reaction with the opening of an epoxide derived from L-aspartic acid. This feature article details our development of a second-generation synthesis of (–)-viriditoxin in which nearly every step has been replaced and improved with respect to scalability and yield.

Synthesis of the Pyranone Substrate for the Michael– Dieckmann Reaction

One major goal for the second-generation synthesis of viriditoxin was to replace the use of allyltributyltin at the beginning of the synthesis [Scheme 2 (A)]. Although the allylation of aldehyde 14 proceeded with excellent enantioselectivity and acceptable yield, the toxicity of the allyltin reagent made scaleup of this reaction undesirable. An attractive alternative involved the opening of epoxide 15 in which the primary alcohol is protected with either a triisopropylsilyl tert-butyldiphenylsilyl (TIPS) or (TBDPS) group [Scheme 2 (B)]. The reason for the change from TIPS, which was adequate for the first-generation synthesis, to TBDPS is described later (vide infra). Based on the work of Volkmann,²⁰ aspartic acid was converted into the diazonium salt and displaced with bromide in a



Scheme 1 Retrosynthetic analysis of viriditoxin: (A) oxidative dimerization and assembly of naphthopyranone 7; (B) first- and second-generation assembly of pyranone 9

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stereospecific process with double inversion. This reaction was easily conducted on large (79 g) scale. The resultant diacid was then reduced to diol 16 and subsequently, in one pot, treated with base to form the epoxide and alkoxide anion that was trapped with a silyl chloride. Epoxides 15a²¹ and 15b²² were treated with vinylmagnesium chloride to form the homoallylic alcohols 13a and 13b that were then acylated with acryloyl chloride to 12a²³ and 12b,²⁴ respectively. Ring closing metathesis of dienes 12a and 12b with second-generation Grubbs catalyst proceeded smoothly to give pyranones 9a and 9b in high yields. In early studies, using progenitors to the G2 catalyst, we had attempted a similar ring closure and observed little or no conversion, which led us to initially avoid this route. In summary, pyranones 9a and 9b were made in a comparable number of transformations with improved overall yield of 26% and 49%, respectively. Importantly, this route can be safely and easily executed on multigram scale.



Scheme 2 (A) Summary of first-generation synthesis of pyranone 9a; (B) second-generation synthesis applied to TIPS derivative 9a and TBDPS derivative 9b

Naphthopyranone Assembly

We initially explored the one-step Staunton–Weinreb condensation²⁵ and observed unacceptably low yields. Concurrent with our studies, a synthesis of semi-viriditoxin was published using this approach with an optimized yield of 36%,²⁶ consistent with our findings. The two-step Michael–Dieckmann/oxidation approach to prepare the same intermediate (**20a**¹⁵) proceeds in 82% yield from **9a**



Scheme 3 (A) Optimization of Michael–Dieckmann reaction by removal of trace ruthenium; (B) oxidative dimerization pathway for 19; (C) optimized Michael–Dieckmann reaction in the preparation of 20a,b

We encountered an unforeseen difficulty in the Michael-Dieckmann reaction of pyranones produced using the RCM route [Scheme 3 (B)]. While using this method to prepare substrates for a study of catalyst scope, we examined the condensation reaction of pyranone 17, which is derived from (R)-glycidol. Treatment of 17 with the anion derived from orsellinate 8 resulted in little or no product formation [Scheme 3 (A)]. It was noticed that, after column chromatography, batches of 17 had a slightly brown tinge to them, suggestive of trace ruthenium byproducts carried over from the RCM step. Although it seemed implausible that trace quantities of any impurity would interfere significantly with the reaction of stoichiometric quantities of an anion, methods for removing trace metals were investigated. Thorough pre-treatment with activated charcoal resulted in 44% yield in the annulation reaction and washing with a methanolic solution of tris(hydroxymethyl)phosphine²⁷ completely restored the yield we had

seen previously. In the failed reaction mixtures, complete consumption of the starting materials was observed and, after careful chromatography, orsellinate dimer 19 was isolated [Scheme 3 (B)]. The structure of 19 was deduced based on ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy and confirmed by X-ray crystallography.²⁸ Control experiments revealed that pure pyranone 17 could be spiked with Grubbs catalyst to divert the reaction toward production of 19. Furthermore, 19 is not formed when pyranone 17 is excluded, even in the presence of ambient oxygen. We are not inclined to speculate on the exact catalytic mechanism of this reaction, but all available data suggest that this homodimerization is catalyzed by ruthenium and that pyranone 17 is the terminal oxidant that enables catalyst turnover. Although similar reactivity has been observed in related anion dimerizations, this is one of the few examples involving metal catalysis and a mild oxidant.

Biaryl Bond Construction and Completion of Viriditoxin

Early studies in our laboratory focused on possible crossor homo-coupling reactions. To this end, we employed model system 21, which is derived from commercially available 2*H*-pyran-2-one. This naphthopyranone underwent regioselective iodination when treated with N-iodosuccinimide in acetonitrile (Scheme 4). Attempts to use this substrate for magnesium-halogen exchange were thwarted by the unexpected displacement of the methoxy group next to the carbonyl of the pyranone ring. In fact, only the product of displacement 24 and displacement and exchange 25 were observed, i.e. no products derived from the quenching of the expected organomagnesium halide intermediate 23 were isolated. This result demonstrates that the displacement occurs at a rate similar to that of exchange. We recently published an account of our observations on the scope of this reaction.²⁹ Use of a 4-toluenesulfonyl protecting group in place of the methyl allowed us to more fully explore exchange reactions.

Unfortunately, little or no product was observed when we attempted to prepare aryltin or arylboronates to be employed in Stille or Suzuki reactions, respectively. Moreover, attempts to prepare arylithium or arylmagnesium halide intermediates to be used in oxidative homocoupling reactions proceeded in low yields.

We next turned our attention to the use of phenolic coupling reactions. This route would necessitate a protecting group on the orsellinate fragment (P^2) that was orthogonal to the other three hydroxy protecting groups. We initially explored the use of benzyl or 4-methoxybenzyl, but found that the Michael–Dieckmann process was low-yielding (not shown). Ultimately use of the ethoxymethyl (EOM) group proved suitable for the Michael–Dieckmann reaction and this group could, in theory, be cleaved in the presence of the TIPS group (P^1). Use of various acidic conditions were always accompanied by TIPS cleavage. Thermal conditions reported by Miyake proved useful for



Scheme 4 Attempted metal-halogen exchange and coupling reactions of model naphthopyranone 26

cleaving the EOM group under neutral conditions.³⁰ On some runs, yields of **29a** as high as 70% were observed (Scheme 5). Unfortunately, slight variations in the temperature or the reaction time were deleterious to this reaction and resulted in either recovery or complete decomposition of the starting material. Although we used this method successfully for the first-generation synthesis, we sought an alternative that would be more reliable. TBDPS ethers of primary alcohols have similar steric de-



Scheme 5 EOM group removal under thermal (TIPS) or acidic (TBDPS) conditions

mand when compared to TIPS and significantly higher acid stability. Given the ease with which phenolic MOM or EOM ethers can be cleaved, we felt that the TBDPS might be sufficiently more stable so as to permit acid hydrolysis. Exposure of **7b** to zinc bromide and propane-thiol³¹ resulted in rapid EOM removal to produce **29b** with no appreciable silyl group cleavage. This reaction could be scaled up easily and showed little run-to-run variation in efficiency.

The vanadium-catalyzed coupling of 29b exhibited significant differences when compared to the TIPS analogue. In our initial exploration of this reaction using Gongtype³² catalysts derived from (S)-BINOL and L-valine 31a, TIPS-protected 29a underwent phenolic coupling with 89:11 dr. This same catalyst converted 29b into biaryl intermediate 30 in 65% yield and >95:5 diastereoselectivity [Scheme 6 (A)]. Examination of two new catalyst structures **31b**, c derived from *tert*-leucine and isoleucine, respectively, proceeded in 85% and 80% yields with similarly high diastereoselectivity. Finally, Treatment of 30 with potassium carbonate and dimethyl sulfate followed by tetrabutylammonium fluoride furnished 33, which intercepted the first-generation synthetic route [Scheme 6 (B)]. This intermediate was carried on to (–)-viriditoxin in four steps in an optimized overall yield of 42%, which was a noticeable improvement from our original report.

Synthetic (-)-viriditoxin is identical to naturally derived material in all respects. At the time of our first synthesis, we observed ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra that compared favorably with reported values. In addition, Dr. Sheo Singh, who conducted the isolation at Merck, provided us with a copy of the original ¹H NMR spectrum that he recorded. The only discrepancy was in our observed optical rotation of -118, which was significantly lower in magnitude than that reported (-202).⁴ We observed the same value in both our initial synthesis and the route disclosed here. Furthermore, we confirmed high isomeric purity, as judged by HPLC at several stages of the synthesis (compounds 30, 32, and 33). In order to confirm our results, we requested a sample of Aspergillus viridinutans from NRRL that was cultured and extracted as described by Lillehoj. Natural viriditoxin was purified by preparative HPLC and the optical rotation was measured as $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ –125, comparable to the value we obtained for the synthetic sample. Both natural and synthetic (-)-viriditoxin yielded identical NMR spectra (¹H and ¹³C) when analyzed separately. We conclude that experimental differences between the original measurement of the optical rotation and our measurements account for the observed difference.

Conclusion

Our second-generation synthesis of (–)-viriditoxin has allowed us to access larger quantities with greater efficiency. Synthesis of the key unsaturated lactone was achieved without the use of toxic alkyltin reagents. In addition, the use of RCM avoided the large-scale use of ozonolysis and



Scheme 6 (A) Vanadium-catalyzed oxidative dimerization of **29b**; (B) conversion of **30** into (–)-viriditoxin

a lithium enolate intermediate. Use of a TBDPS protecting group as a replacement for TIPS protection of the primary alcohol resulted in two important improvements: (1) greater stability toward phenolic EOM group removal during naphthopyranone assembly and (2) enhanced the diastereoselection of the biaryl bond forming step. Finally, we have addressed the discrepancy between the optical rotation values of synthetic and natural samples of viriditoxin. The results published here show significant improvements to our previous synthesis and will allow access to similar biaryl natural products and in-depth studies of their biological activity.

All reactions were carried out under a argon atmosphere in flamedried glassware with magnetic stirring. THF, Et₂O, CH₂Cl₂ were run through a pad of basic alumina prior to use. Reagents were purified immediately before use and following the guidelines of Perrin and Armarego.³³ Purification of products were carried out by flash chromatography unless otherwise stated using Silica gel 400 mesh obtained from EM science. Analytical TLC was performed on silica-gel UV²⁵⁴ precoated glass backbone. Visualization was accomplished with UV light and KMnO₄. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded

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on a Varian Unity Inova NMR spectrometers (300 MHz, 400 MHz or 600 MHz) using solvent as internal standard (CDCl₃ δ = 7.26 ppm). Proton-decoupled ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Unity Inova NMR spectrometers (75 MHz, 100 MHz or 150 MHz) using solvent as internal standard (CDCl₃ δ = 77.0 ppm). Infrared spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 FT-IR spectrophotometer equipped with a DTGS detector and Smart Orbit bounce diamond ATR accessory. Mass spectra were obtained on a Thermo Fischer LTQ-Orbitrap mass spectrometer.

(S)-1-(Triisopropylsiloxy)hex-5-en-3-yl Acrylate (12a)

To a soln of **13a** (5.0 g, 18.3 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (120 mL) and acryloyl chloride (2.9 mL, 36.7 mmol) at 0 °C was added Et₃N (5.6 mL, 40.3 mmol) dropwise. The mixture was allowed to warm to r.t. over 2 h (TLC monitoring) and quenched with sat. NaHCO₃ (100 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give **12a** (4.0 g, 12.25 mmol, 66%) as a colorless oil; $[\alpha]_{D}^{22}$ +30.8 (*c* 0.57, CHCl₃); *R_f* = 0.65 (hexane–EtOAc, 9:1).

IR (film): 2944, 2867, 1724, 1406, 1190 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 1.06$ (s, 20 H), 1.84 (q, J = 6.5 Hz, 2 H), 2.40 (m, 2 H), 3.73 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2 H), 5.10 (m, 4 H), 5.77 (m, 2 H), 6.09 (m, 1 H), 6.37 (m, 1 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 12.1, 18.2, 36.8, 38.9, 59.9, 71.2, 118.0, 129.0, 130.5, 133.7, 165.9.

HRMS (ESI): $m/z [M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{18}H_{35}O_3Si$: 327.2277; found: 327.2354.

(S)-1-(tert-Butyldiphenylsiloxy)hex-5-en-3-yl Acrylate (12b)

To a soln of **13b** (6.35 g, 17.9 mmol) and acryloyl chloride (1.6 mL, 19.7 mmol) in THF (33 mL) at 0 °C was added Et₃N (5.0 mL, 35.8 mmol) dropwise with vigorous stirring. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C then warmed to r.t. and stirred for an additional 1.5 h. The Et₃N·HCl was filtered off and washed with THF (3 × 20 mL). The filtrate was dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated in vacuo, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give the corresponding olefin (6.5 g, 15.9 mmol, 89%) as a pale-yellow oil; $[\alpha]_{D}^{22}$ +17.09 (*c* 0.772, CHCl₃); *R*_f = 0.83 (hexane–EtOAc, 8:2).

IR (film): 3070, 2935, 2855, 1721, 1404 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.07 (s, 9 H), 1.82–1.95 (m, 2 H), 2.40 (s, 2 H), 3.72 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2 H), 5.07 (d, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 2 H), 5.19–5.32 (m, 1 H), 5.68–5.88 (m, 2 H), 6.08 (m, 1 H), 6.31–6.44 (m, 1 H), 7.41 (m, 6 H), 7.67 (m, 4 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 19.3, 27.0, 36.4, 38.8, 60.3, 71.0, 118.0, 127.8, 129.0, 129.8, 130.5, 133.7, 135.8, 165.8.

HRMS (ESI): $m/z [M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{25}H_{33}O_3Si$: 409.2121; found: 409.2194.

(6S)-6-[2-(Triisopropylsiloxy)ethyl]-5,6-dihydro-2*H*-pyran-2-one (9a)

To a soln of **12a** (4.0 g, 12.25 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (700 mL) under argon was added dropwise a soln of Grubbs II catalyst (0.21 g, 0.24 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (8 mL), and the mixture was refluxed for 15 h. The mixture was cooled to r.t. and tris(hydroxymethyl)phosphine (0.04 g, 0.37 mmol) was added followed by Et₃N (0.30 mL, 2.9 mmol) and the mixture was stirred vigorously for 15 h. Deionized H₂O (500 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred vigorously for 30 min. The layers were separated and the organic layer was washed with deionized H₂O (300 mL) followed by H₂O-brine (1:1, 250 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give **9a** (3.5 g, 11.7 mmol, 97%) as a colorless oil. Spectroscopic data were identical to those reported in the literature.¹⁵

(6*S*)-6-[2-(*tert*-Butyldiphenylsiloxy)ethyl]-5,6-dihydro-2*H*-pyran-2-one (9b)

To a soln of **12b** (1.2 g, 2.94 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL) under argon was added dropwise a soln of Grubbs II catalyst (0.05 g, 0.058 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL), and the mixture was refluxed for 15 h. The mixture was cooled to r.t. and tris(hydroxymethyl)phosphine (0.01 g, 0.09 mmol) was added followed by Et₃N (0.016 mL, 0.12 mmol) and the mixture was stirred vigorously for 15 h. Deionized H₂O (200 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred vigorously for 30 min. The layers were separated and the organic layer was washed with deionized H₂O (150 mL) followed by H₂O-brine (1:1, 100 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give **9b** (1.0 g, 2.62 mmol, 89%) as a light-yellow oil; $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ -32.59 (*c* 0.316, CHCl₃); *R_f* = 0.33 (hexanes–EtOAc, 8:2).

IR (film): 2932, 2851, 1718, 1425, 1378, 1240 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.06 (s, 9 H), 1.90 (m, 1 H), 2.03 (s, 1 H), 2.29–2.39 (m, 2 H), 3.81 (m, 1 H), 3.91 (m, 1 H), 4.63–4.75 (m, 1 H), 6.02 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.81–6.93 (m, 1 H), 7.41 (m, 6 H), 7.66 (m, 4 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 19.4, 27.1, 29.7, 37.8, 59.6, 75.3, 121.6, 128.0, 130.0, 133.7, 135.7, 145.4, 164.6.

HRMS (ESI): $m/z [M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{23}H_{29}O_3Si$: 381.1881; found: 381.1878.

Dimethyl 2,2'-Ethylenebis[4-(ethoxymethoxy)-6-isopropoxybenzoate] (19)

To a soln of *i*-Pr₂NH (0.21 mL, 1.52 mmol) in THF (3.6 mL) at 0 °C was added 2.5 M BuLi in hexane (0.58 mL, 1.46 mmol). The mixture was allowed to warm to r.t. and stirred for 30 min. After cooling to -78 °C, a soln of **8** (0.17 g, 0.61 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) was added dropwise and stirring was continued for 30 min at -78 °C. DMPU (0.14 mL, 1.22 mmol) was added dropwise and the soln was stirred for 20 min. A soln of **17** (0.20 g, 1.05 mmol) in THF (1.0 mL) was added dropwise into the soln and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at -78 °C. Then, the resultant soln was allowed to warm slowly to r.t. and stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched with sat. NH₄Cl and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 5 mL). The combine organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The coupled dimer was purified (silica gel) and isolated (0.056 g, 0.10 mmol, 33% yield) as an orange solid.

IR (film): 2866, 1714, 1600, 1277 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3 H), 1.30 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 6 H), 2.76 (s, 2 H), 3.70 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 3.89 (s, 3 H), 4.40–4.55 (m, 1 H), 5.18 (s, 2 H), 6.47 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 10.4 Hz, 2 H).

 ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 12.1, 15.3, 18.2, 22.2, 35.9, 52.2, 64.4, 71.6, 93.2, 100.8, 118.9, 141.5, 156.5, 159.2, 168.9.

HRMS (ESI): m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for $C_{30}H_{42}NaO_{10}$: 585.2670; found: 585.2663.

(3*S*)-3-[2-(*tert*-Butyldiphenylsiloxy)ethyl]-7-(ethoxymethoxy)-10-hydroxy-9-isopropoxy-3,4-dihydro-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*c*]pyran-1-one (20b)

To a soln of *i*-Pr₂NH (0.32 mL, 2.28 mmol) in THF (5 mL) at 0 °C was added 2.5 M BuLi in hexane (0.87 mL, 2.19 mmol). The mixture was allowed to warm to r.t. and stirred for 30 min. After cooling to -78 °C, a soln of ester **8** (0.26 g, 0.91 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added dropwise and stirring was continued for 30 min at -78 °C. DMPU (0.22 mL, 1.82 mmol) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 20 min. A soln of lactone **9b** (0.38 g, 1.00 mmol) in

THF (1 mL) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at -78 °C. Then, the resultant soln was allowed to warm slowly to r.t. and stirred for 15 h. The reaction was quenched with sat. NH₄Cl (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 5 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was filtered through a silica gel plug (hexane–EtOAc, 8:2) and used immediately in the next step.

To a soln of the tricycle (0.3 g, 0.47 mmol) in benzene (8 mL) was added a soln of DDQ (0.17 g, 0.76 mmol) in benzene (4 mL) dropwise at r.t. After stirring for 4 h, the reaction was quenched with sat. NaHCO₃ (30 mL) and then it was stirred vigorously for 1 h. The mixture was extracted with Et₂O (3 × 15 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (30 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give **20b** (0.3 g, 0.47 mmol, 53%, two steps) as a clear oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ +31.3 (*c* 0.16, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.46$ (hexane–EtOAc, 8:2).

IR (film): 3062, 2954, 1738, 1600, 1370 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.07 (s, 9 H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3 H), 1.49 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6 H), 2.05 (s, 2 H), 2.99 (s, 2 H), 3.78 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 3.87 (m, 1 H), 3.96 (m, 1 H), 4.62–4.75 (m, 1 H), 4.80 (m, 1 H), 5.33 (s, 2 H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.79–6.90 (m, 2 H), 7.42 (m, 6 H), 7.68 (m, 4 H), 12.85 (s, 1 H).

 ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 15.4, 19.4, 22.1, 27.1, 33.9, 37.8, 59.7, 64.8, 72.5, 76.5, 93.2, 101.4, 102.1, 102.7, 112.3, 115.6, 128.0, 130.0, 133.5, 133.7, 135.7, 141.4, 159.1, 159.4, 164.3, 170.5.

HRMS (ESI): $m/z [M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{37}H_{45}O_7Si$: 629.2856; found: 629.2934.

(3*S*)-3-[2-(*tert*-Butyldiphenylsiloxy)ethyl]-7-(ethoxymethoxy)-9-isopropoxy-10-methoxy-3,4-dihydro-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*c*]pyran-1-one (7b)

To a soln of **20b** (0.43 g, 0.68 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (0.26 g, 2.05 mmol) in acetone (10 mL) was added dimethyl sulfate (0.19 mL, 2.05 mmol) and the resulting mixture was heated at 60 °C for 15 h. After the soln was cooled to r.t., the soln was filtered and the filter cake was washed with EtOAc (30 mL). Solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give **7b** (0.33 g, 0.51 mmol, 75%) as a pale-yellow oil; $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ –31.4 (*c* 0.70, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.30$ (hexane–EtOAc, 8:2).

IR (film): 2935, 2851, 1714, 1613, 1563 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.03 (s, 9 H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3 H), 1.46 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 6 H), 1.93 (m, 1 H), 2.07 (m, 1 H), 2.93–3.03 (m, 2 H), 3.76 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 3.82–3.87 (m, 1 H), 3.93 (s, 3 H), 3.95 (m, 1 H), 4.70 (m, 2 H), 5.32 (s, 2 H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1 H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.18 (s, 1 H), 7.33–7.46 (m, 6 H), 7.65 (m, 4 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 15.3, 19.4, 21.8, 27.1, 35.0, 37.8, 58.8, 59.9, 63.6, 64.8, 71.0, 75.1, 93.2, 101.8, 113.7, 117.1, 120.9, 127.9, 129.9, 133.6, 133.7, 140.7, 157.4, 158.4, 162.5, 163.0.

HRMS (ESI): $m/z [M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{38}H_{47}O_7Si$: 643.3013; found: 643.3087.

(3*S*)-3-[2-(*tert*-Butyldiphenylsiloxy)ethyl]-7-hydroxy-9-isopropoxy-10-methoxy-3,4-dihydro-1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*c*]pyran-1-one (29b)

To a soln of **7b** (0.1 g, 0.15 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added ZnBr (0.03 g, 0.15 mmol) (Note: ZnBr₂ must be dry) followed by *n*-PrSH (0.03 mL, 0.31 mmol) at r.t. under argon. The mixture was stirred (TLC monitoring), after the starting material was consumed, the mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) brought down to 0 °C,

quenched with sat. NaHCO₃ (15 mL), and filtered through Celite. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×5 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give **29b** (0.086 g, 0.147 mmol, 95%) as a colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ –57.0 (*c* 0.71, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.5 (hexane–EtOAc, 6:4).

IR (film): 2935, 2857, 1688, 1610, 1562 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.02 (s, 9 H), 1.44 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 6 H), 1.83–1.98 (m, 1 H), 2.05 (m, 1 H), 2.96 (m, 2 H), 3.75–3.88 (m, 1 H), 3.97 (s, 4 H), 4.68 (m, 2 H), 6.51 (s, 1 H), 6.65 (s, 1 H), 7.06 (s, 1 H), 7.38 (m, 6 H), 7.65 (m, 4 H).

 ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 19.4, 21.9, 27.0, 34.8, 37.7, 59.8, 63.5, 71.0, 75.4, 101.3, 102.3, 112.4, 116.1, 120.3, 127.9, 129.9, 133.8, 135.7, 141.3, 156.4, 157.8, 158.3, 162.8, 164.2.

HRMS (ESI): $m/z [M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{35}H_{41}O_6Si$: 585.2594; found: 585.2667.

$(R_a, 3S, 3'S)-3, 3'-Bis[2-(tert-butyldiphenylsiloxy)ethyl]-7, 7'-dihydroxy-9, 9'-diisopropoxy-10, 10'-dimethoxy-3, 3', 4, 4'-tetrahydro-6, 6'-bi[1H-naphtho[2, 3-c]pyran]-1, 1'-dione (30)$

To a soln of **29b** (0.086 g, 0.147 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) was added (S_a ,R)-**31a** (0.02 g, 0.029 mmol, 20 mol%); the flask was kept under an O₂ atmosphere and stirred at r.t. for 15 h. The crude mixture was flushed through a silica gel plug before purification by flash column chromatography to give **30** (0.05 g, 0.043 mmol, 65%) as a colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{22}$ -33.0 (*c* 0.024, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.56 (benzene–acetone 8:2).

IR (film): 3370, 2930, 2856, 2371, 1716, 1613 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$): $\delta = 0.98$ (s, 9 H), 1.56 (dd, J = 6.0, 9.7 Hz, 6 H), 1.83 (m, 1 H), 2.00 (m, 1 H), 2.74 (m, 2 H), 3.69–3.77 (m, 1 H), 3.92 (m, 1 H), 4.06 (s, 3 H), 4.60 (m, 1 H), 4.78–4.88 (m, 1 H), 5.40 (s, 1 H), 6.60 (s, 1 H), 6.77 (s, 1 H), 7.28–7.45 (m, 6 H), 7.60 (m, 4 H).

 ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 19.3, 22.0, 27.1, 35.2, 37.8, 59.6, 63.7, 71.2, 75.0, 99.3, 102.3, 114.0, 117.5, 127.9, 128.0, 128.5, 133.5, 138.3, 140.0, 156.8, 159.3, 162.9, 163.2.

HRMS (ESI): m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for $C_{70}H_{79}O_{12}Si_2$: 1167.5032; found: 1167.5124.

$(S_a, 3S, 3'S)-3, 3'-Bis[2-(tert-butyldiphenylsiloxy)ethyl]-7, 7'-dihydroxy-9, 9'-diisopropoxy-10, 10'-dimethoxy-3, 3', 4, 4'-tetrahydro-6, 6'-bi[1H-naphtho[2, 3-c]pyran]-1, 1'-dione (30')$

To a soln of **29b** (0.05 g, 0.085 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) was added (S_a ,S)-**31a** (0.01 g, 0.017 mmol, 20 mol%); the flask was kept under an O₂ atmosphere and stirred at r.t. for 15 h. The crude mixture was flushed through a silica gel plug before purification by flash column chromatography to give **30'** (0.045 g, 0.038 mmol, 90%) as a colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{24}$ -41.0 (*c* 0.16, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.2$ (benzene–acetone 8:2).

IR (film): 3345, 2933, 2859, 2361, 1716, 1614 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.92, (s, 18 H), 1.56 (dd, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 7.6, 12 H), 1.82 (m, 2 H), 2.00 (m, 2 H), 2.79 (m, 4 H), 3.69–3.75 (m, 2 H), 3.84 (m, 2 H), 4.05 (s, 6 H), 4.52 (m, 2 H), 4.84 (m, 2 H), 5.21 (s, 2 H), 6.67 (s, 2 H), 6.74 (s, 2 H), 7.22–7.39 (m, 16 H), 7.56 (m, 4 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 19.0, 21.6, 21.9, 26.7, 34.8, 37.5, 59.5, 63.5, 71.0, 74.6, 99.2, 101.7, 113.7, 116.9, 117.2, 127.6, 129.6, 133.2, 138.1, 139.5, 156.9, 159.1, 162.5, 163.1.

HRMS (ESI): m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for $C_{70}H_{79}O_{12}Si_2$: 1167.5105; found: 1167.5125.

$(R_a, 3S, 3'S)$ -3,3'-Bis[2-(*tert*-butyldiphenylsiloxy)ethyl]-9,9'-diisopropoxy-7,7',10,10'-tetramethoxy-3,3',4,4'-tetrahydro-6,6'bi[1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*c*]pyran]-1,1'-dione (32)

To a soln of **30** (0.06 g, 0.05 mmol) in acetone (2 mL) was added K₂CO₃ (0.05 g, 0.40 mmol) followed by dimethyl sulfate (0.04 mL, 0.40 mmol); the reaction was stirred at r.t. for 15 h. The mixture was filtered and the filter cake was washed with acetone (3 × 5 mL). The residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give **32** (0.04 g, 0.033 mmol, 65%) as a colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ –36.4 (*c* 0.022, CHCl₃); *R_f* = 0.37 (hexane–EtOAc, 6:4).

IR (film): 2928, 2855, 1720, 1613 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.97$ (s, 18 H), 1.58 (dd, J = 3.8, 5.9 Hz, 12 H), 1.74–1.91 (m, 2 H), 2.05 (m, 2 H), 2.69 (m, 4 H), 3.73 (m, 2 H), 3.81 (s, 6 H), 3.85–3.96 (m, 2 H), 4.06 (s, 6 H), 4.51–4.63 (m, 2 H), 4.87 (m, 2 H), 6.57 (s, 2 H), 6.83 (s, 2 H), 7.33 (m, 12 H), 7.59 (m, 8 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 19.3, 22.3, 27.0, 35.3, 37.8, 56.7, 59.7, 63.6, 71.5, 75.0, 97.7, 110.9, 113.2, 116.9, 118.4, 127.8, 127.9, 129.9, 133.5, 135.6, 139.8, 157.9, 158.5, 162.9, 163.3.

HRMS (ESI): m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for $C_{72}H_{83}O_{12}Si_2$: 1195.5345; found: 1195.5435.

$(S_a,3S,3'S)-3,3'-Bis[2-(tert-butyldiphenylsiloxy)ethyl]-9,9'-diiso-propoxy-7,7',10,10'-tetramethoxy-3,3',4,4'-tetrahydro-6,6'-bi[1H-naphtho[2,3-c]pyran]-1,1'-dione (32')$

To a soln of **30**' (0.045 g, 0.038 mmol) in acetone (2 mL) was added K_2CO_3 (0.04 g, 0.30 mmol) followed by dimethyl sulfate (0.03 mL, 0.30 mmol), the reaction was stirred at r.t. for 15 h. The mixture was filtered and the filter cake was washed with acetone (3 × 5 mL). The residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give **32**' (0.04 g, 0.033 mmol, 87%) as a pale-yellow oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ –27.8 (*c* 0.334, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.23$ (hexane–EtOAc, 6:4).

IR (film): 2927, 2854, 1731, 1617, 1568, 1331 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.92 (s, 18 H), 1.56 (m, 12 H), 1.82 (m, 2 H), 1.99 (m, 2 H), 2.76 (m, 4 H), 3.73 (s, 8 H), 3.85 (m, 2 H), 4.06 (s, 6 H), 4.50 (m, 2 H), 4.85 (m, 2 H), 6.65 (s, 2 H), 6.79 (s, 2 H), 7.28 (m, 12 H), 7.56 (m, 8 H).

¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 19.0, 21.8, 21.8, 22.1, 26.7, 29.6, 34.9, 37.5, 56.3, 59.5, 63.4, 71.2, 74.7, 97.5, 110.7, 112.9, 116.7, 118.1, 127.6, 129.6, 133.2, 135.3, 139.7, 157.6, 158.1, 162.7.

HRMS (ESI): m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for $C_{72}H_{82}O_{12}Si_2$: 1195.5418; found: 1195.5443.

(*R*_a,3*S*,3'*S*)-3,3'-Bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-9,9'-diisopropoxy-7,7',10,10'-tetramethoxy-3,3',4,4'-tetrahydro-6,6'-bi[1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*c*]pyran]-1,1'-dione (33)

To a soln of **32** (0.04 g, 0.033 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added TBAF (1.67 mL, 1.67 mmol) at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to r.t. and stirred for 2 h. The mixture was quenched with sat. NH₄Cl soln (1 mL) and diluted with EtOAc (5 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was washed with EtOAc (3 × 2 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H₂O (5 mL) and brine, and dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent removed in vacuo, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give **33** (0.02 g, 0.027 mmol, 83%) as a white solid; $R_f = 0.2$ (EtOAc 100%). Spectroscopic data were identical to those reported in the literature.¹⁵

(*S*_a,3*S*,3'S)-3,3'-Bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-9,9'-diisopropoxy-7,7',10,10'-tetramethoxy-3,3',4,4'-tetrahydro-6,6'-bi[1*H*-naphtho[2,3-*c*]pyran]-1,1'-dione (33')

To a soln of 32' (0.04 g, 0.033 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added TBAF (1.67 mL, 1.67 mmol) at 0 °C; the mixture was allowed to warm to r.t. and stirred for 2 h. The mixture was quenched with sat.

NH₄Cl soln (1 mL) and diluted with EtOAc (5 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was washed with EtOAc (3 × 2 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H₂O (5 mL) and brine, and dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent removed in vacuo, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography to give **33'** (0.02 g, 0.027 mmol, 83%) as a white solid; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ –22 (*c* 0.05, CHCl₃); *R_f* = 0.2 (EtOAc 100%).

IR (film): 3403, 2927, 2852, 2361, 2346, 1720 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 1.56$ (dd, J = 2.5, 6.0 Hz, 12 H), 1.84 (m, 2 H), 2.00 (m, 2 H), 2.76 (m, 4 H), 3.76 (s, 6 H), 3.80 (m, 2 H), 3.89 (m, 2 H), 4.06 (s, 6 H), 4.52 (m, 2 H), 4.85 (m, 2 H), 6.57 (s, 2 H), 6.79 (s, 2 H).

 ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 21.8, 22.1, 35.0, 37.2, 56.3, 58.7, 63.4, 71.2, 75.2, 97.5, 110.6, 112.8, 116.6, 118.1, 136.0, 139.6, 157.63, 158.2, 162.7, 162.8.

HRMS (ESI): $m/z [M + H]^+$ calcd for $C_{40}H_{47}O_{12}$: 719.3062; found: 719.3072.

Primary Data for this article are available online at http://www.thieme-connect.com/ejournals/toc/synthesis and can be cited using the following DOI: 10.4125/pd0024th.

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