

Organic Process Research & Development

Subscriber access provided by - Access paid by the | UCSF Library

Full Paper

Route Optimization and Synthesis of Taxadienone

Sergiy Krasutsky, Sheila H Jacobo, Scott Tweedie, Ravi Krishnamoorthy, and Alexander Filatov

Org. Process Res. Dev., **Just Accepted Manuscript** • DOI: 10.1021/op500314c • Publication Date (Web): 15 Dec 2014

Downloaded from <http://pubs.acs.org> on December 16, 2014

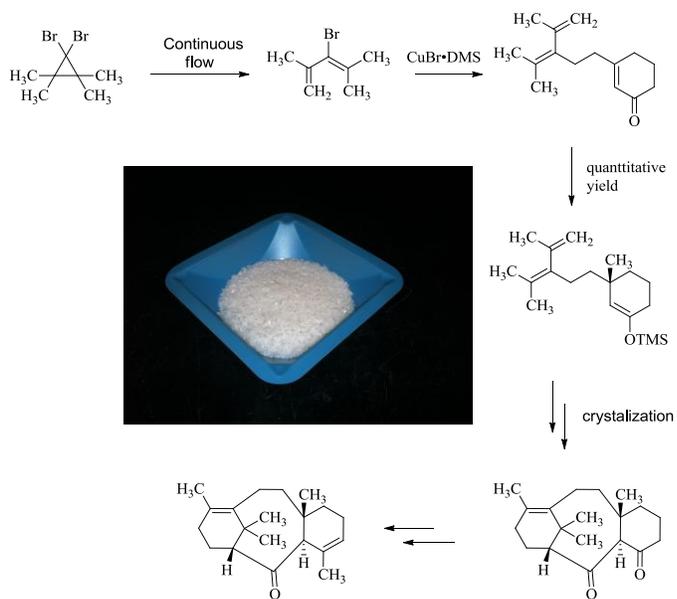
Just Accepted

“Just Accepted” manuscripts have been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication. They are posted online prior to technical editing, formatting for publication and author proofing. The American Chemical Society provides “Just Accepted” as a free service to the research community to expedite the dissemination of scientific material as soon as possible after acceptance. “Just Accepted” manuscripts appear in full in PDF format accompanied by an HTML abstract. “Just Accepted” manuscripts have been fully peer reviewed, but should not be considered the official version of record. They are accessible to all readers and citable by the Digital Object Identifier (DOI®). “Just Accepted” is an optional service offered to authors. Therefore, the “Just Accepted” Web site may not include all articles that will be published in the journal. After a manuscript is technically edited and formatted, it will be removed from the “Just Accepted” Web site and published as an ASAP article. Note that technical editing may introduce minor changes to the manuscript text and/or graphics which could affect content, and all legal disclaimers and ethical guidelines that apply to the journal pertain. ACS cannot be held responsible for errors or consequences arising from the use of information contained in these “Just Accepted” manuscripts.



ACS Publications
High quality. High impact.

Organic Process Research & Development is published by the American Chemical Society, 1155 Sixteenth Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036
Published by American Chemical Society. Copyright © American Chemical Society.
However, no copyright claim is made to original U.S. Government works, or works produced by employees of any Commonwealth realm Crown government in the course of their duties.



Route Optimization and Synthesis of Taxadienone.

Sergiy G. Krasutsky,^{,†} Sheila H. Jacobo,[†] Scott R. Tweedie,[†] Ravi Krishnamoorthy,[†] and Alexander S. Filatov[‡]*

[†]Chemical Development Department, AMRI, 21 Corporate Circle, Albany, New York 12203, United States

[‡]X-ray Facilities, Department of Chemistry, University at Albany, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York, 12222, United States

Keywords: Taxadienone, continuous flow reactor, copper catalyzed addition, Diels-Alder reaction, Negishi coupling.

Abstract

Early process development toward the scalable production of taxadienone on a decagram scale is described. A continuous flow reactor was employed to safely run a potentially hazardous cyclopropane ring opening. The route featured two copper mediated additions, a Diels-Alder reaction, and a palladium-catalyzed Negishi coupling to construct the final structure.

INTRODUCTION

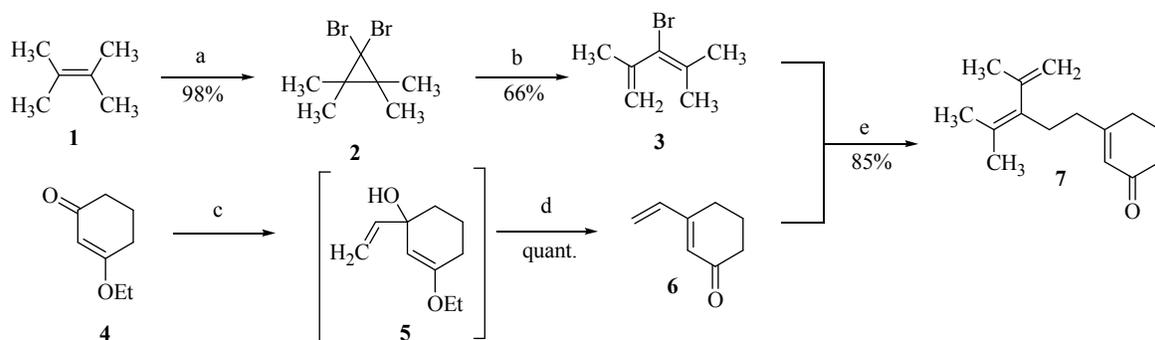
Paclitaxel is a promising anti-cancer drug with a broad range of therapeutic action.¹ The compound is produced semi-synthetically and its supply relies on cell culture production. Therefore, several synthetic routes were developed to meet the demand on scale as well as gain access to different analogues. Recently, a promising new strategy has been described in Baran's group.² The proposed route to synthetic paclitaxel relies on the stepwise oxidation of the C₂₀-

structure of taxadienone which marks taxadienone as a center block intermediate in the production of paclitaxel and analogues.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present work describes early process development toward the production of taxadienone (+)-**16** (Schemes 1 and 2) using Baran's route as a point of inception. The commercially available olefin **1** served as a starting material in the preparation of bromodiene **3** via a two-step procedure (Scheme 1), in which dibromide **2** did not have to be isolated and the reaction was performed in a one-pot fashion.

Scheme 1. Preparation of **7**.



Reagents and Conditions: (a) CHBr_3 , tBuOK, heptanes, 0 °C, quant; (b) PhNMe_2 , 10 min, 150 °C; (c) 1 M vinylmagnesium bromide in THF, MTBE, 0 °C to room temperature, 1 h; (d) SiO_2 , DCM; (e) **3**, **6**, *sec*-BuLi, $\text{CuBr}\cdot\text{DMS}$, THF, -78 °C to -20 °C, 3 h.

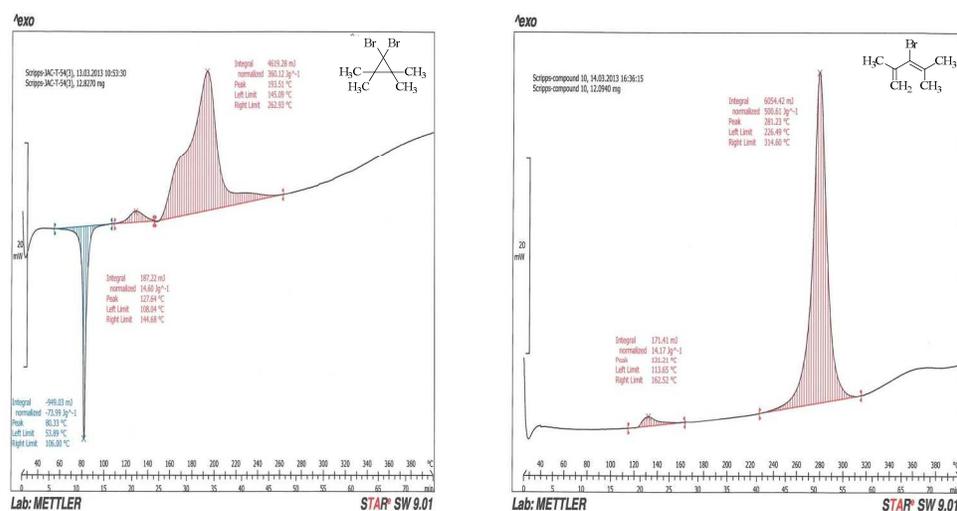
Initially, the same strategy was adopted in our studies. The reaction of a carbene with the olefin **1** was performed in heptanes at 0 °C with the olefin **1** taken in excess as reported.^{3,4} The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the mixture was heated to 150 °C for 1 h. The reaction output was improved as follows:

- the level of heptanes was decreased to 3 volumes;

- the volume of *N,N*-dimethylaniline was decreased to 1.5 volumes relative to bromoform;
- the amount of olefin was decreased **1** from 2.0 to 1.5 equivalents.

In order to continue with the reaction scale-up, a safety assessment of dibromide **2** and the bromodiene **3** was performed (see Figure 1). The DSC analysis revealed that the second part of the reaction is highly energetic. The dibromide **2** has an on-set temperature of 145 °C with energy of 360 J/g. The bromodiene **3** has an on-set temperature of 226 °C with energy 500 J/g. These results were against our standard process safety practice, which suggests at least 100 °C margin of safety (MOS) from the operating temperature of 150 °C for a safe chemical operation and therefore deemed unsafe for standard batch operations.⁵

Figure 1. DSC Data for compounds **2** and **3**.



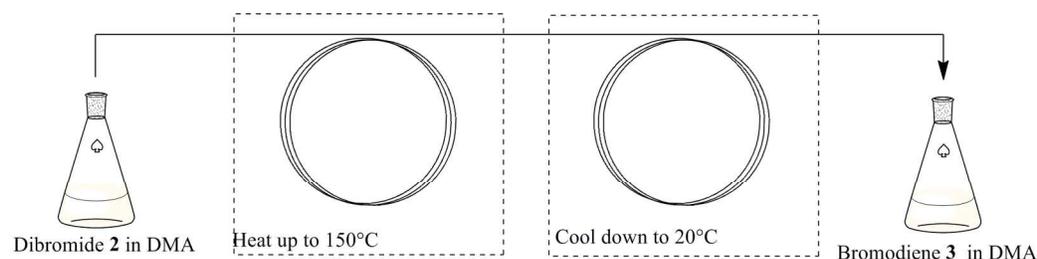
Based on these observations, we decided to isolate dibromide **2** and perform the second part (conversion of **2** to **3**) as a separate stage. Upon scale-up, the exotherm was controlled by the

1
2
3 slow addition of bromoform (over 4 h) to a slurry of olefin **1** and potassium *tert*-butoxide
4 (*t*BuOK) at -9 to 0 °C. Reaction between the olefin and carbene is instantaneous, so the *in situ*
5
6 generated carbene was expected not to accumulate. The excess of olefin **1** was further reduced
7
8 to 10 mol %. An attempt to remove the side product, potassium bromide, by filtration was
9
10 unsuccessful even when filtration aids were employed. Hence, the salts were removed by
11
12 aqueous wash. Dibromide **2** was found to be sensitive to water at high pH. Thus, aqueous
13
14 workup conditions which properly buffer against *t*BuOK are important to prevent discoloration
15
16 and preserve yield.
17
18
19
20
21

22 After successful scale-up of **2**, efforts were concentrated on a safe procedure to produce **3** due
23
24 to the high energy exhibited by DSC analysis. The conversion of **2** to **3** at a lower temperature
25
26 (100 °C) took 30 h to reach completion. A screening of reaction time (10, 20, 40 min) and the
27
28 required volume of *N,N*-dimethylaniline (1, 2 and 3 volumes) showed that efficient conversion of
29
30 **2** to **3** can be achieved in 10 min at 150 °C, and the optimum amount of *N,N*-dimethylaniline is
31
32 2 volumes. These conditions should be amendable to the use of continuous processing.
33
34 Therefore, we employed a continuous flow reactor (CFR), which is a common solution for fast
35
36 and potentially hazardous reactions (Figure 2). The reaction occurred inside Hastelloy tubing,
37
38 which was placed in an oven. The pump speed was correlated with the reactor tube dimensions
39
40 to permit a desired residence time for the starting material inside the tube. The reaction mixture
41
42 upon leaving the oven was cooled in a separate heat exchange loop. The reaction was performed
43
44 on 490 g scale of dibromide **2** using a 125 mL reaction tube, which allowed increasing the flow
45
46 up to 10 mL/min. Processing was complete in 3.5 h. The engagement of the CFR in the
47
48 production of compound (+)-**16** effectively addressed our safety concerns and minimized the
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 reaction time for this step. The required time from start to finish was 5 h, whereas in the batch
4
5 mode the reaction would require more than two days.
6
7
8
9

10 **Figure 2.** The Flow Chemistry Setup.



23 The preparation of conjugated ketone **6**⁶ from commercially available compound **4** is shown in
24
25 Scheme 1. The first part is a Grignard reaction to form **5**, which is followed by elimination of a
26
27 molecule of EtOH on a silica gel plug to form **6**. The reaction solvent, diethyl ether, was
28
29 replaced with MTBE without any issues. The reaction time was decreased from the reported 14
30
31 h to 1 h with a quantitative yield.
32
33

34
35 Preparation of **7** (Scheme 1) in diethyl ether proceeded with 50% yield only if freshly prepared
36
37 CuBr•DMS complex was used.⁷ Literature suggests that THF is a good solvent for copper
38
39 mediated additions as well.^{8,9} Thus, when diethyl ether was replaced by THF, the reaction was
40
41 complete in 2 h. Moreover, running the reaction in THF made it possible to use commercially
42
43 available CuBr•DMS complex, which had failed earlier in our studies.
44
45

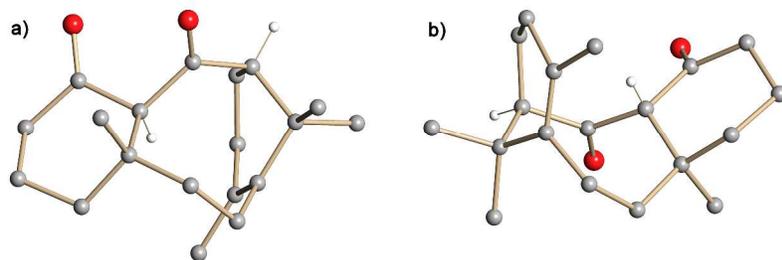
46
47 Preparation of (-)-**9** is shown in Scheme 2. Although successful on small scale, the literature
48
49 conditions¹⁰ failed upon attempted scale-up. It was speculated that the likely cause of this
50
51 problem was brief exposure of the highly acidic reaction mixture to atmospheric moisture during
52
53 the quench. Implementation of a reverse quench allowed the reaction to be scaled up with a
54
55 consistently quantitative yield. When the reaction was performed in an alternative solvent, such
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 as THF, conversion was poor. The enantiomeric (*ee*) purity of compound (-)-**9** was determined
4
5
6 by hydrolysis of the TMS ether to ketone **10** using 2 N HCl and analysis by chiral HPLC. The
7
8 observed *ee* varied from 92.9 to 94.2 %.

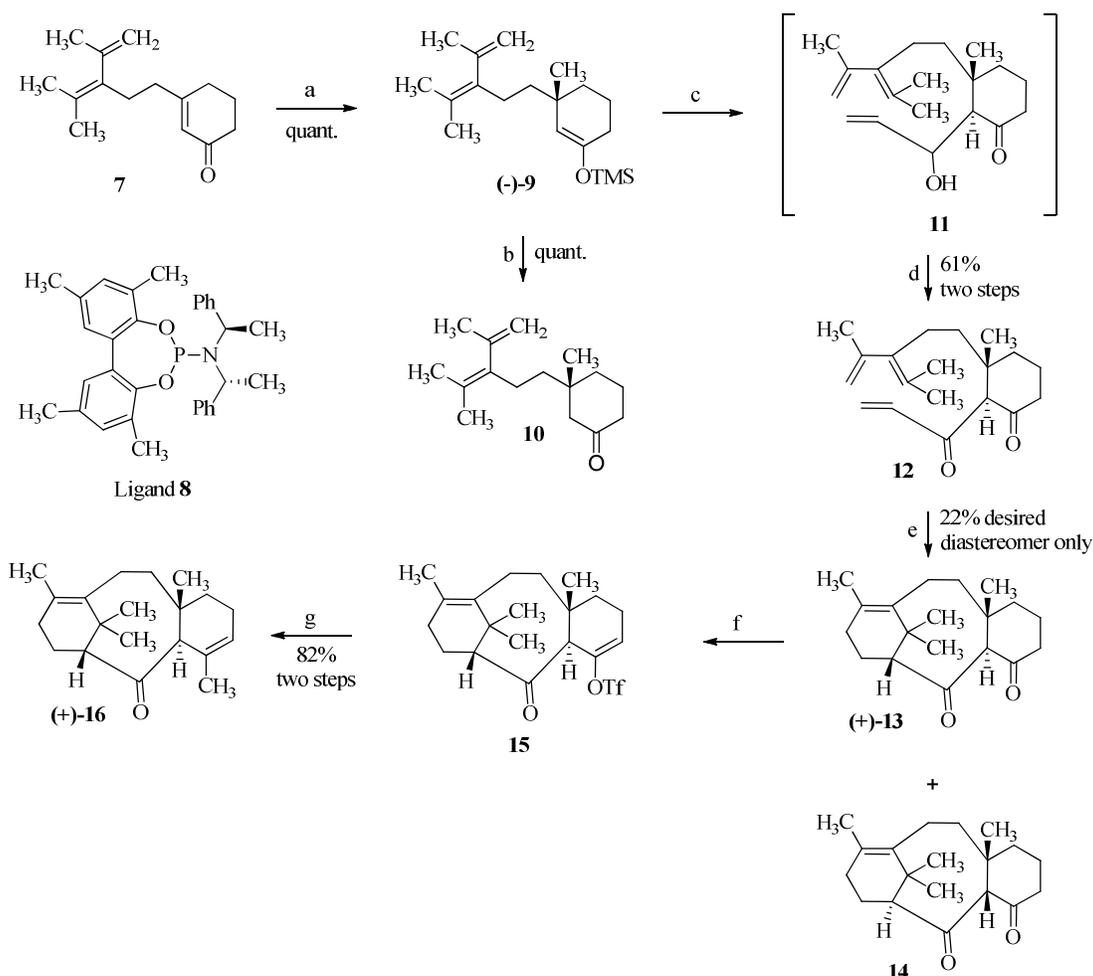
9
10 Preparation of **12** (Scheme 2) was repeated as described² with the following modifications to
11
12 meet the scale requirements. Overall, the reaction is a two-step procedure consisting of an aldol
13
14 reaction between (-)-**9** and acrolein catalyzed by gadolinium(III) triflate¹¹ to form **11** followed
15
16 by Jones' oxidation of the alcohol to the diketone **12** affording overall 61% yield for two steps.
17
18 In order to avoid the retro aldol reaction of **11** during the workup, the reaction was quickly
19
20 concentrated in portions, which were diluted with acetone and taken into the next oxidation step.
21
22 It is worth noting that acrolein diethoxy acetal can also be used and can be hydrolyzed in water
23
24 using camphorsulfonic acid. The product, acrolein, is distilled from the reaction as a mixture in
25
26 ethanol and water, which are the solvents used in the aldol reaction.
27
28
29
30

31
32 Modifications in the purification of (+)-**13**, the Diels-Alder reaction product,¹² were critical to
33
34 obtain high quality material. The crude material after silica plug purification was contaminated
35
36 with several co-eluting impurities, which would not purge in the next step and were difficult to
37
38 remove by silica column chromatography. To our delight, we found that the desired product (+)-
39
40
41 **13** can successfully be crystallized from heptanes.
42
43
44
45

46 **Figure 3.** Ball-and-stick views of (+)-**13**.¹³



Scheme 2. Preparation of taxadienone.



Reagents and Conditions: (a) (i) copper (I) 2-thiophenecarboxylate (CuTC), ligand **8**, 2 M Me₃Al in heptane, diethyl ether, 14 h, -30 °C; (ii) TEA, TMSCl, 3 h; (b) THF, 2 N HCl; (c) acrolein, Gd(OTf)₃, water, ethanol, toluene; (d) Jones reagent, acetone, 0 °C; (e) BF₃•OEt₂, DCM, 0 °C; (f) PhNTf₂, KHMDS, THF, 0 °C; (g) Me₂Zn, Pd(PPh₃)₄, 0 °C to room temperature.

This crystallization step was essential to obtain taxadienone **(+)-16** in high quality. Single crystal X-ray data analysis confirmed the structure and the absolute stereochemistry of **(+)-13** (Figure 3). Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity except two most stereochemically important ones.

A Negishi coupling was employed to prepare of **(+)-16** via a two step procedure.² The triflate **15** was prepared using *N*-phenyl-bis(trifluoromethanesulfonylimide) and potassium bis(trimethyl-

1
2
3 silyl)amide in a quantitative yield. Azeotropic drying by distillation while adding fresh THF was
4 done to ensure moisture would not interfere with the next step. The Negishi reaction between
5 triflate **15** and dimethylzinc using tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) as a catalyst¹⁴
6 afforded the product (+)-**16** in 82% yield after crystallization from methanol.
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14

15 CONCLUSIONS

16
17 The reported route² to taxadienone (+)-**16** was successfully optimized and scaled-up to
18 decagram quantity. Thermal hazards associated with the production of bromodiene **3** were
19 addressed by employing a continuous flow reactor. Two cuprate additions to form a desired
20 enantiomer of (-)-**9** were executed in good yield. The crystallization of (+)-**13** at the penultimate
21 step proved to be a decisive factor for obtaining taxadienone (+)-**16** of high quality.
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

32 EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

33
34 Chiral analysis of ketone **8** was performed on Waters 2695 system equipped with a Daicel Chiral
35 OJ-H, 4.6×250 mm, 5µm column at 25 °C with hexanes as mobile phase with the flow rate 0.5
36 mL/min using Waters 2487 dual wavelength detector at 220 nm.
37
38
39

40
41 *1,1-Dibromo-2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropane* (**2**). A mixture of butene **1** (147 g, 1.75 mol,
42 1.10 equiv), heptanes (1.2 L), and potassium tert-butoxide (196.0 g, 1.75 mol, 1.10 equiv) at -9
43 °C was treated with bromoform (401 g, 1.59 mol, 1.00 equiv) over 2 h at -9 to 2 °C range. The
44 addition funnel was rinsed with heptanes (10 mL), and the mixture was stirred at room
45 temperature for 2 h. After this time, 50% saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (500 mL) was
46 added. The mechanical stirrer was stopped and phase separation occurred. The aqueous layer
47 was separated and extracted with heptanes (2 × 250 mL). The organic layers were combined and
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 concentrated under reduced pressure to afford dibromide **2** (440 g, 98% yield) as a yellow solid.

4
5 ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 1.26 (s).

6
7
8
9 *3-Bromo-2,4-dimethylpenta-1,3-diene* (**3**). Continuous flow reactor (CFR) setup is shown on
10 Figure 1. A GC oven was equipped with a 5/16" Hastelloy tube (total volume 125 mL). A
11 mixture of dibromide **2** (440 g, 1.72 mol, 1.00 equiv) and *N,N*-dimethylaniline (0.9 L) was
12 pumped into CFR using an HPLC pump. [The flow rate was set to 10 mL/min to achieve 12.5
13 min residence time in the reactor at 150 °C.] Upon exiting the CFR, the mixture was cooled to
14 20 °C, diluted with MTBE (2 L), and treated with HCl (4 N, 2 × 2 L). The organic layer was
15 separated and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford **3** (200 g, 66% yield) as a yellow oil.
16 The material was stored over sodium hydroxide pellets. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 5.04 (m,
17 1H), 4.91 (m, 1H), 1.89 (m, 6H), 1.81 (s, 3H).
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

31 *3-Vinylcyclohex-2-enone* (**6**). A mixture of **4** (75 g, 0.53 mol, 1.00 equiv) and MTBE (0.5 L)
32 at 0 °C was treated with vinylmagnesium bromide (1 M, 0.59 L, 0.59 mol, 1.10 equiv) over 40
33 min at 0 °C to 10 °C range. The addition funnel was rinsed with MTBE (10 mL) and the mixture
34 was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. After this time, the mixture was cooled to 0 °C and
35 saturated ammonium chloride solution (0.2 L) was added. The mechanical stirrer was stopped
36 and phase separation occurred. The aqueous layer was separated, extracted with MTBE (2 × 0.1
37 L). The organic layers were combined, concentrated under reduced pressure, and passed through
38 a silica plug (500 g, eluent: dichloromethane). The fractions containing product were
39 concentrated under reduced pressure to afford **6** (65.3 g, quantitative yield) as a yellow oil. ^1H
40 NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): 6.50 (dd, $J = 17.5, 10.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 5.69 (d, $J = 17.5$ Hz),
41 5.47 (d, $J = 10.5$ Hz), 5.30 (s, 1H), 2.47 (m, 1H), 2.43 (m, 2H), 2.06 (m, 2H).
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 *Preparation of CuBr•DMS complex.* A suspension of Cu(0) metal powder (40 g, 0.63 mol,
4 1.00 equiv) and DMSO (0.6 L) at 100 °C was treated with benzyl bromide (215 g, 1.26 mol, 2.00
5 equiv) over 1 h at 90 to 100 °C range. The addition funnel was rinsed with DMSO (10 mL) and
6 the mixture was stirred at 120 °C for 5 h. After this time, the mixture was cooled to 0 °C and
7 water (1.2 L) was added. The suspension was stirred for 30 min and precipitate was allowed to
8 settle. The aqueous layer was decanted and acetone (0.6 L) was added. The suspension was
9 stirred for 30 min at room temperature. The precipitate was removed by filtration and dried in a
10 vacuum oven at room temperature to afford CuBr•DMS complex (67.3 g, 52% yield) as a white
11 solid.
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

24
25 *3-(4-Methyl-3-(prop-1-en-2-yl)pent-3-en-1-yl)cyclohex-2-enone (7).* A mixture of bromide **3**
26 (127 g, 0.72 mol, 1.55 equiv) and THF (2.0 L) at –70 °C was treated with *sec*-butyllithium (1.4
27 M in cyclohexane, 500 mL, 0.70 mol, 1.50 equiv) over 40 min at –63 °C to –70 °C range. The
28 reaction was stirred for 0.5 h and was treated with CuBr•DMS complex (105 g, 0.51 mol, 1.1
29 equiv) over 20 min at –61 °C to –70 °C range. The reaction was stirred for 0.5 h and treated with
30 trimethylsilyl chloride (101 g, 0.93 mol, 2.00 equiv) over 15 min at –65 °C to –70 °C range. The
31 reaction was stirred for 0.5 h and was treated with a mixture of **6** (57.0 g, 0.47 mol, 1.00 equiv)
32 in THF (40 mL) over 15 min at –65 °C to –70 °C range. The reaction was stirred for 2 h and was
33 deemed complete by TLC (heptanes/ethyl acetate 3:1 (v/v)). The reaction was quenched by slow
34 addition of acetic acid (60 mL) followed by water (12 mL). The contents of the flask were
35 transferred to a 5-L beaker, containing saturated sodium carbonate (2 L), and stirred for 0.5 h.
36 After this time, the mixture was filtered and the mother liquor was allowed to phase separate.
37 The aqueous layer was separated, extracted with MTBE (2 × 0.1 L). The organic layers were
38 combined, concentrated under reduced pressure, and passed through a silica column (570 g, 0 to
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 20% ethyl acetate in hexanes). The fractions containing product were concentrated under
4 reduced pressure to afford **7** (85.2 g, 85% yield) a yellow oil. [Care should be taken during
5 solvent evaporation, since **7** is volatile.] ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 5.88 (t, *J* = 1 Hz, 1H),
6 4.96 (dd, *J* = 2.5, 1 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (m, 1H), 2.35 (m, 2H), 2.30-2.23 (m, 6H), 1.98 (m, 2H), 1.76
7 (t, *J* = 1 Hz, 3H), 1.67 (s, 6H).

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16 *(S)*-Trimethyl((3-methyl-3-(4-methyl-3-(prop-1-en-2-yl)pent-3-en-1-yl)cyclohex-1-en-1-
17 yl)oxy)silane ((-)-**9**). A mixture of copper(I)-thiophene-2-carboxylate (1.31 g, 6.9 mmol, 0.05
18 equiv), ligand **8** (6.81 g, 13.7 mmol, 0.1 equiv), **7** (30.0 g, 137 mmol, 1.00 equiv), and diethyl
19 ether (0.6 L) at -40 °C was treated with trimethylaluminum (2 M in hexanes, 96 mL, 0.19 mol,
20 1.40 equiv) over 40 min at -35 °C to -40 °C range and stirred for 14 h. After this time, THF (0.6
21 L) was added over 20 min at -35 °C to -40 °C range. The reaction was stirred for 0.5 h and was
22 treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (25.7 g, 0.24 mol, 1.72 equiv) over 15 min at -35 °C to -40
23 °C range. The reaction was stirred for 0.5 h and was treated with triethylamine (57.2 g, 0.57
24 mol, 4.12 equiv) over 15 min at -35 °C to -40 °C range. The reaction was stirred for 2 h
25 allowing the temperature to rise to room temperature and was deemed complete by TLC
26 (heptanes/ethyl acetate 3:1 (v/v)). The reaction was concentrated to 1/3 volume, poured into a
27 suspension of florisil (150 g) and heptanes (1.5 L), stirred for 0.5 h and filtered. The filtrate was
28 concentrated under reduced pressure and passed through a florisil plug (450 g, eluent: heptanes).
29 The fractions containing product were concentrated under reduced pressure to afford (-)-**7** (85.2
30 g, quantitative yield) as a yellow oil. The product was used without additional purification.

31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52 *Determination of enantiomeric purity of (-)-9*. A mixture of (-)-**9** (100 mg) and THF (4 mL)
53 was treated with 3 N HCl (2 mL) over 15 min at room temperature. The reaction was deemed
54 complete by TLC (heptanes/ethyl acetate 3:1 (v/v)) and ketone **10** was formed. The reaction
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 mixture was portioned between ethyl acetate (20 mL) and water (2 mL). The organic layer was
4
5 separated, dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue
6
7 was analyzed by chiral HPLC.
8
9

10
11 *(2S,3S)-2-Acryloyl-3-methyl-3-(4-methyl-3-(prop-1-en-2-yl)pent-3-en-1-yl)cyclohexanone (12).*

12
13 *Preparation of acrolein solution in ethanol/water.* A mixture of acrolein diethyl acetal (168 g,
14
15 1.29 mol), water (48 mL), and camphorsulfonic acid (10 g) was charged to a distillation flask,
16
17 stirred for 30 min to form a homogenous solution, and was distilled under atmospheric pressure
18
19 at 65 to 70 °C. The receiving flask was charged with 60 mg of hydroquinone. The NMR assay
20
21 showed that the mixture contained 77.8 g of acrolein. The acrolein mixture at 0 °C was treated
22
23 with a solution of (-)-**9** (25 g, 82 mmol, 1 equiv) in toluene (65 mL) followed by gadolinium(III)
24
25 triflate (9.86 g, 16.3 mmol, 0.2 equiv). The reaction was stirred for five days at 0 °C. After this
26
27 time, the reaction was concentrated down to 60 mL and diluted with acetone (600 mL). Jones'
28
29 reagent (100 mL, 2.1 M; made from 26.7 g CrO₃, 23 mL conc. H₂SO₄ and 100 mL H₂O) at 0 °C
30
31 was treated with the above mentioned acetone solution at 0 °C to 15 °C range. The excess of
32
33 Jones' reagent was quenched with isopropanol (~10 mL). The flask contents were diluted with
34
35 water (100 mL) to obtain a homogenous solution and acetone was removed under reduced
36
37 pressure. (CAUTION: Acrolein is present). The product was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 ×
38
39 300 mL). The organic layers were combined, concentrated under reduced pressure, and passed
40
41 through a silica column (500 g, 0 to 20% ethyl acetate in heptanes). The fractions containing
42
43 product were concentrated under reduced pressure to afford **12** (19.0 g, 61% yield) as a yellow
44
45 oil. The material is an inseparable mixture of two diastereomers of **12** and ketone **10**.
46
47
48
49
50
51
52

53
54
55 *(4aS,6R,12aS)-9,12a,13,13-Tetramethyl-1,2,3,7,8,11,12,12a-octahydro-6,10-methanobenzo-*
56
57 *[10]annulene-4,5(4aH,6H)-dione ((+)-13).* A mixture of boron trifluoride etherate (34.9 g, 0.25
58
59
60

1
2
3 mmol, 3.65 equiv) and dichloromethane (3 L) at 0 °C was treated with a solution of **12** (19.4 g,
4 67.3 mmol, 1.00 equiv) in dichloromethane (2 L) over 1.5 h using an FMI pump at 0 to 5 °C
5
6 range. The reaction was stirred for 4.5 h at 0 °C, quenched with saturated sodium carbonate
7
8 solution (1 L), and stirred for 0.5 h. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was
9
10 extracted with dichloromethane (2 × 300 mL). The organic layers were combined, concentrated
11
12 under reduced pressure and passed through a silica column (500 g, 0 to 20% ethyl acetate in
13
14 heptanes). The product containing fractions were concentrated under reduced pressure. The
15
16 material was crystallized from heptanes to afford (+)-**13** (4.3 g, 22% yield) as a white solid. ¹H
17
18 NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 4.22 (s, 1H), 2.89 (m, 1H), 2.52 (m, 1H), 2.45 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H),
19
20 2.34 (m, 1H), 2.22 (m, 2H), 2.04–1.90 (m, 8H), 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.44 (m, 1H),
21
22 1.35(m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): 209.9, 206.8, 137.1, 131.5, 64.0, 61.9, 44.0, 39.5,
23
24 39.4, 38.4, 37.5, 29.4, 28.8, 25.4, 24.9, 24.0, 22.2, 21.0, 17.8.
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

32
33 *(4aS,6R,12aS)-9,12a,13,13-Tetramethyl-5-oxo-1,2,4a,5,6,7,8,11,12,12a-decahydro-6,10-*
34
35 *methanobenzo[10]annulen-4-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (15)*. A mixture of (+)-**13** (4.80 g,
36 16.6 mmol, 1.00 equiv), *N*-phenylbis(trifluoromethanesulfonimide) (11.9 g, 33.3 mmol, 2.00
37
38 equiv), and THF (380 mL) at 0 °C was treated with 1 M solution of KHMDS in THF (25.0 mL,
39
40 25.0 mmol, 1.50 equiv) over 15 min at 0 to 5 °C range. The reaction was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C
41
42 and was quenched with saturated sodium carbonate solution (200 mL). The flask contents were
43
44 transferred into a separatory funnel containing heptanes (400 mL). The layers were separated
45
46 and the organic layer was washed with potassium hydroxide (3 N, 2 × 200 mL). The organic
47
48 layer was separated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residual water was removed
49
50 by azeotropic co-distillation with THF (2 × 200 mL). The crude material was used in the next
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60 step.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

(4*aS*,6*R*,12*aS*)-4,9,12*a*,13,13-Pentamethyl-1,4*a*,6,7,8,11,12,12*a*-octahydro-6,10-methano-*benzo*[10]*annulen*-5(2*H*)-one ((+)-**16**). A mixture of the crude triflate **15**, tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (1.92 g, 1.66 mmol, 0.1 equiv) at 0 °C was treated with 1.2 M solution of dimethylzinc in toluene (99.9 mL, 83.2 mmol, 5.00 equiv) over 15 min at 0 to 5 °C range. The reaction was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C and was warm up to room temperature. The reaction was stirred for 3 days. After this time, the reaction was quenched by carefully pouring the contents of the reaction flask to a separatory funnel containing 1 M HCl (100 mL). (CAUTION: GAS EVOLUTION!). The product was extracted with heptanes (2 × 200 mL). The organic layers were combined, concentrated under reduced pressure, and passed through a silica column (120 g, 0 to 20% ethyl acetate in heptanes). The fractions containing product were concentrated under reduced pressure. The material was crystallized from methanol to afford (+)-**16** (3.94 g, 82% yield) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 5.55 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (d, *J* = 0.5 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (m, 1H), 2.51 (m, 2H), 2.26 (m, 1H), 2.10 (m, 2H), 2.00 (m, 2H), 1.81 (m, 5H), 1.48 (m, 3H), 1.32 (m, 2H), 1.21 (m, 4H), 1.09 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 218.0, 136.8, 133.35, 130.6, 124.8, 64.9, 55.9, 43.5, 40.7, 38.5, 37.3, 28.9, 28.3, 27.6, 23.7, 23.6, 22.1, 21.8, 20.6, 18.7; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C₂₀H₃₁O⁺ [M+H]⁺ 286.2375, found 287.2375; [α]_D²⁵ = + 70 ° (*c* 0.27, CHCl₃).

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information.

The NMR spectra of corresponding compounds **2–7**, **9–16**, and X-ray data for **13**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

*email: *Sergiy.Krasutsky@amriglobal.com*

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are thankful to Mr. N. C. Wilde, Dr. Yoshiro Ishihara and Prof. P. S. Baran for insightful discussions.

REFERENCES

-
- ¹ Itokawa, H; Lee, K.-H. *Taxus: The Genus Taxus*; Taylor & Francis: London and New York, 2003.
- ² Mendoza, A.; Ishihara, Y.; Baran, P. S. *Nature Chem.* **2012**, *4*, 21.
- ³ Magnus, P.; Westwood, N.; Spyvee, M.; Frost, C.; Linnane, P.; Tavares, F.; Lynch, V. *Tetrahedron* **1999**, *55*, 6435.
- ⁴ Laurent, A.; Villava-Serin, N. P.; Forgiione, P.; Wilson, P. D.; Smil, D. V.; Fallis, A. G. Fallis et al., *Can J. Chem.* **2004**, *82*, 215.
- ⁵ Barnhart, R.; Ironside, M. D.; Vogt, P. F. *Org. Process Res. Dev.* **2011**, *15*, 1407.
- ⁶ Petersson, M. J.; Marchal, C.; Loughlin, W. A.; Jenkins, I. D.; Healy, P. C.; Almesaker, A. *Tetrahedron* **2007**, *63*, 1395.
- ⁷ Park, I-H; So, M. S.; Park, K. H. *Bull. Korean Chem. Soc.* **2007**, *28*, 1515.
- ⁸ Corey, E. J.; Boaz, N. W. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1985**, *26*, 6019.
- ⁹ Lipshutz, B. H.; Dimock, S. H.; James, B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, *115*, 9283.
- ¹⁰ Vuagnoux-d'Augustin, M.; Alexakis, A. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2007**, *13*, 9647.
- ¹¹ Kobayashi, S.; Hachiya, I.; Yamanoi, Y. *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **1994**, *67*, 2342.
- ¹² Funel, J. A.; Abele, S. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 3822.
- ¹³ Color scheme: C grey, O red, H white. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity except two most stereochemically important ones.
- ¹⁴ Reeder, M. R.; Gleaves, H. E.; Hoover, S. A.; Imbordino, R. J.; Pangborn, J. J. *Org. Process Res. Dev.* **2003**, *7*, 696.