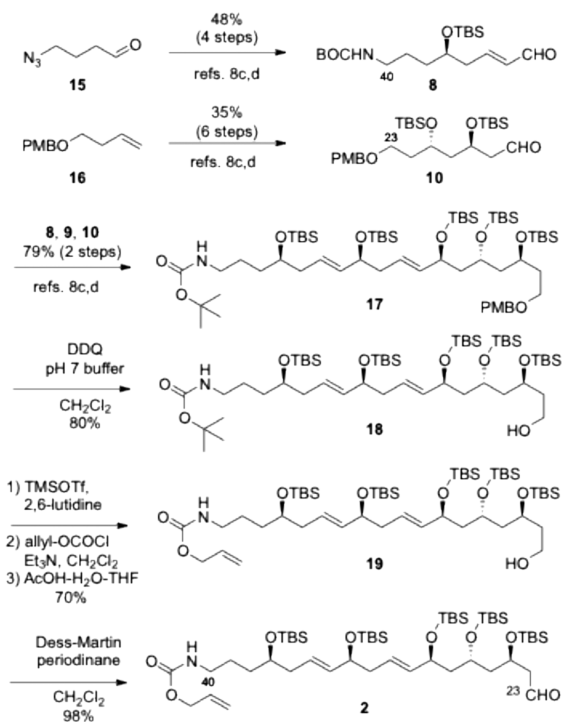


double allylboration reaction of aldehydes **8** and **10** and 1,3-bifunctional allylborane **9**.^{8c,d} Aldehyde fragment **7** would be derived from (*Z*)-1,5-diol **11** by an intramolecular hydrosilylation/Tamao–Fleming oxidation sequence.^{10,11} Finally, 1,5-diol **11** would be obtained from a third double allylboration reaction, in this case using 1,3-bifunctional allylborane **13**⁹ to couple aldehydes **12** and **14**.

The synthesis of aldehyde **2** proceeded from the previously synthesized carbamate intermediate **17**^{8c,d} (as briefly summarized at the beginning of Scheme 2). Deprotection of the *p*-

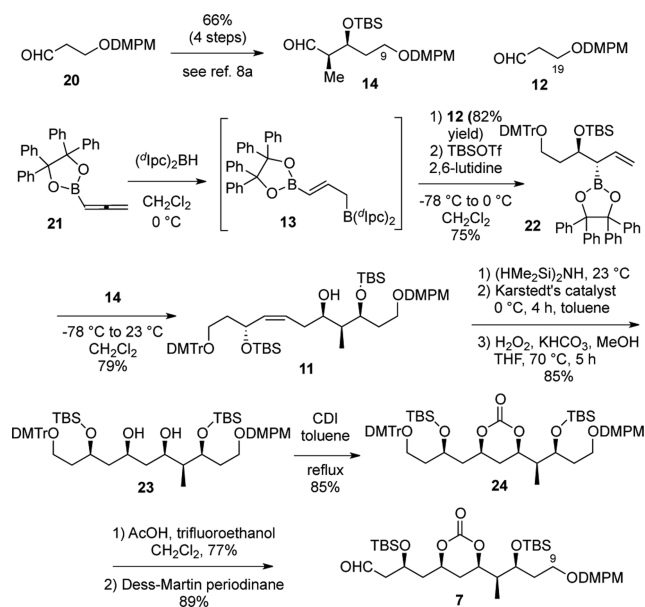
Scheme 2. Synthesis of C(23)–C(40) Aldehyde 2



methoxybenzyl (PMB) ether was accomplished by using 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyanobenzoquinone (DDQ), which provided **18** in 80% yield. The *tert*-butyl carbamate (Boc) unit was replaced by an allyl carbamate (Alloc) group to facilitate the deprotection chemistry at the end of the synthesis. Thus, treatment of **18** with trimethylsilyl triflate (TMSOTf) and 2,6-lutidine in CH_2Cl_2 resulted in protection of the primary alcohol as a TMS ether and cleavage of the Boc group. The primary amine was then protected by treatment with allyl chloroformate, and the TMS ether was removed in acidic media to give **19** in 70% yield over three steps. Finally oxidation of the primary alcohol with Dess–Martin periodinane¹² gave the targeted C(23)–C(40) aldehyde **2** in 98% yield (Scheme 2).

The synthesis of the C(9)–C(19) aldehyde fragment **7** is presented in Scheme 3. Treatment of aldehyde **12** with bifunctional (*E*)-allylborane **13**, which was generated in situ via hydroboration of allene **21** with bis(*d*-isopinocampheyl)borane [(*d*Ipc)₂BH],⁹ afforded a β -hydroxyallylboronate intermediate, which was isolated and then protected by treatment with TBSOTf, thereby providing allylboronate **22** in 62% yield over two steps. Treatment of **22** with the partner aldehyde **14**^{8a} provided homoallylic alcohol **11** in 79% yield with 15:1 d.r. The latter intermediate was treated with 1,1,3,3-tetramethyldisilazane, and the crude alkoxyisilane was subjected to a hydrosilylation/Fleming–Tamao oxidation sequence^{10,11} using plat-

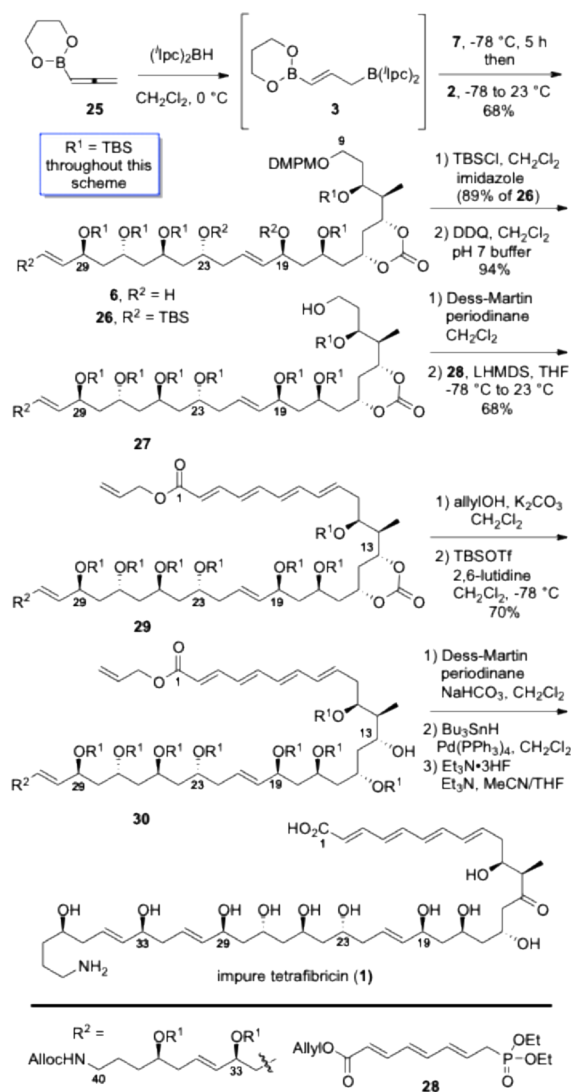
Scheme 3. Synthesis of C(9)–C(19) Aldehyde 7



inum(0)-1,3-divinyl-1,1,3,3-tetramethyldisiloxane (Karstedt's catalyst)¹³ for the hydrosilylation step. This two-pot sequence afforded alcohol **23** in 85% yield. Treatment of diol **23** with carbonyldiimidazole (CDI) afforded cyclic carbonate **24** in 85% yield. Finally, cleavage of the dimethoxytrityl (DMTr) ether under acidic conditions¹⁴ followed by oxidation of the primary alcohol with Dess–Martin periodinane¹² furnished aldehyde **7** in 69% yield. The absolute configuration of the C(13) hydroxyl group of **11** was assigned by using the Mosher ester method.¹⁵ The absolute and relative configurations of the C(17) hydroxyl group were deduced by analogy to the previously reported C(19) TBDPS ether.^{8a,b} The 1,3-*syn* stereochemistry of diol **23** was assigned by using Rychnovsky's acetone analysis.¹⁶

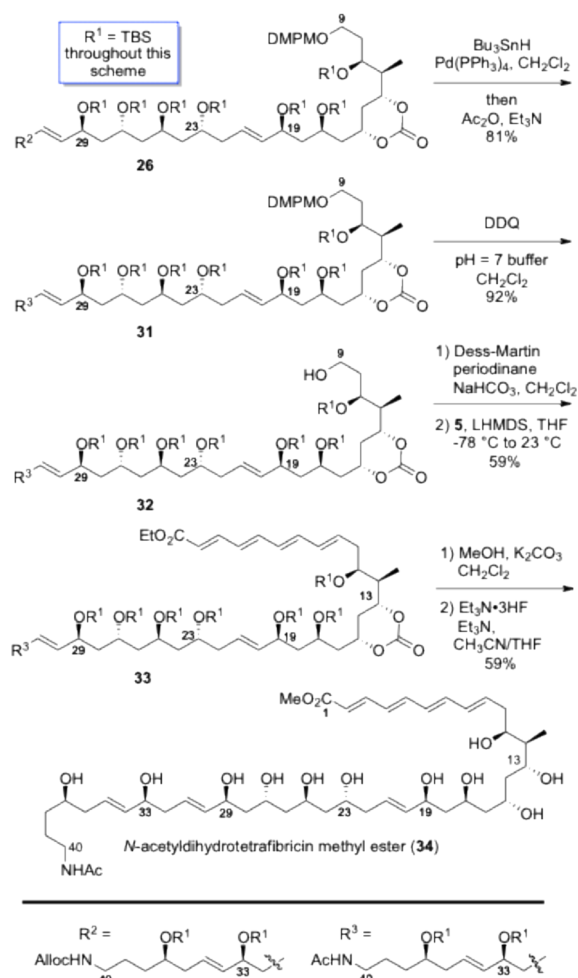
Sequential treatment of 1,3-bifunctional allylborane **3**, which was generated in situ from hydroboration of allenylboronate **25** with (*t*Ipc)₂BH,^{9a} with aldehydes **7** (0.54 equiv) and **2** (1.0 equiv) provided C(9)–C(40) fragment **6** in 68% yield with exceptional diastereoselectivity (>20:1) and *E/Z* ratio (>20:1) (Scheme 4). Protection of the 1,5-diol unit using TBSCl and imidazole followed by oxidative cleavage¹⁷ of the 3,4-dimethoxybenzyl ether gave primary alcohol **27** in 83% yield over two steps. Oxidation of the primary alcohol using Dess–Martin periodinane¹² followed by Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons olefination of the resulting aldehyde with phosphonate **28** yielded C(1)–C(40) fragment **29** in 68% yield over the two steps. Cleavage of the cyclic carbonate (allyl alcohol, K₂CO₃) followed by selective monoprotection of the C(15) alcohol using TBSOTf gave secondary alcohol **30** in 70% yield. Finally, Dess–Martin oxidation of **30**, removal of both the allyl ester and Alloc groups,¹⁸ and global cleavage of the TBS ethers provided a small sample of impure material that we tentatively identified as tetrafibricin (**1**) on the basis of LC–MS and ¹H NMR data.

The ¹H NMR data that we obtained for the impure sample of synthetic **1** were consistent with the data for the natural product published in the isolation paper,^{1a} but all attempts to purify the sample led to decomposition. Tetrafibricin is reported to be highly unstable in the isolation paper,¹ and comments about its instability also appear in Kishi's structure elucidation report.³ Therefore, our attention shifted to the

Scheme 4. Attempted Synthesis of **1** (R^1 = TBS)

synthesis of the more stable *N*-acetyl dihydrotetrafrabrin methyl ester (**34**),^{1b} which served as the focus of Kishi's stereochemistry assignment because of the instability of the natural product.³

The synthesis of **34** proceeded from C(9)–C(40) fragment **26** as follows (Scheme 5). Replacement of the *N*-Alloc group by an *N*-acetyl group was accomplished in a one-pot operation (81% yield) by treatment of **26** with Bu_3SnH and $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ followed by addition of acetic anhydride and Et_3N .¹⁸ The 3,4-dimethoxybenzyl (DMPM) ether unit of **31** was cleaved by treatment with DDQ¹⁷ to give primary alcohol **32** in 92% yield. Oxidation of **32** using Dess–Martin periodinane¹² followed by Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons olefination of the aldehyde with phosphonate **5**⁹ provided the advanced C(1)–C(40) intermediate **33** in 59% yield over two steps. Finally, cleavage of the carbonate unit (MeOH, K_2CO_3), with concomitant transesterification of the ester, followed by deprotection of the nine TBS ethers with excess $\text{Et}_3\text{N}\cdot 3\text{HF}$ provided **34** in 59% yield over the final two steps. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data obtained for **34** were in complete agreement with published data and with NMR spectra of a mixture of **34** and the C(13) epimer provided by Prof. Kishi.

Scheme 5. Synthesis of *N*-Acetyldihydrotetrafrabrin Methyl Ester (**34**)

In conclusion, attempts to complete the total synthesis of tetrafrabrin (**1**) were compromised by the instability of the natural product, which prompted us to synthesize the more stable analogue *N*-acetyl dihydrotetrafrabrin methyl ester (**34**). The longest linear sequence in the synthesis is 21 steps from 4-azidobutanol (**15**), and the synthesis proceeds with an overall yield of 2%. This work validates Kishi's stereochemical assignment of **1** and illustrates the utility of the double allylboration reaction technology developed in our group for use in the highly stereocontrolled and convergent synthesis of stereochemically complex natural products.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

Experimental procedures and spectroscopic data for all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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