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# Asymmetric Total Synthesis of Epolactaene. Part 2: Introduction of the Side Chain and Synthesis of (+)-Epolactaene and Its Enantiomer.<sup>†</sup>

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# Abstract

A total synthesis of the novel neuritogenic agent (+)-epolactaene ((+)-1) has been achieved via a convergent route that utilized epoxyamide 8, C7–C11 fragment 7, and C1–C6 Wittig reagent derived from phosphonium salt 19 followed by cyclization to form the lactam. The absolute configuration of natural epolactaene is definitively established as (13R, 14R). Synthesis of (-)-1, the enantiomer of this natural epolactaene, is also described. © 1999 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

# Introduction

In the preceding paper,<sup>1</sup> we discussed the enantioselective synthesis of the epoxy- $\gamma$ -lactam structure of epolactaene (1, Figure 1) with several key reactions. In this paper, we give full details of the completion of the total synthesis of epolactaene<sup>2</sup> including stereoselective synthesis of the side chain.



Figure 1

**Results and Discussion** 

On the basis of our results of the model compound of epolactaene, we planned to complete total synthesis via the convergent approach shown in Scheme 1. First we planned to obtain the epolactaene (1) by oxidation

<sup>\*</sup>With regard to this investigation, a patent application was filed before Japanese Patent Office on October 30, 1997 as a patent filing number of H09-297983.

of the alcohol I, as with the model compound. Next, we planned to divide the key intermediate I into the three component disconnection of the C11–C12 bond and C6–C7 bond: optically active epoxy- $\gamma$ -lactam precursor II, both enantiomers of which had been synthesized in the preceding paper; C7–C11 unit III; and Wittig reagent IV.



Scheme 1

Following this strategy, we initially synthesized vinylbromide 7, corresponding to the C7–C11 unit III using the method described in Scheme 2. (*E*)-3-Bromobut-2-en-1-ol (3),<sup>3</sup> which was obtained from (*E*)-crotyl alcohol (2) using Corey's protocol, was increased by two carbon units by mesylation with methanesulfonyl chloride and triethylamine in hexane followed by treatment with sodium hydride and diethyl malonate. Hydrolysis of 4 under basic conditions and decarboxylation of the resulting dicarboxylic acid in *N*, *N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) at 100 °C provided the corresponding carboxylic acid, and subsequent esterification to give 6 in 51% yield from 3. Reduction of 6 using lithium aluminum hydride in THF at -78 °C provided the desired C7–C11 unit 7 in 89% yield.



The epoxy- $\gamma$ -lactam precursor and the resulting C7–C11 unit 7 were coupled by the method shown in Scheme 3. Vinyllithium, generated from 7 and 2.9 eq. of *tert*-butyllithium in THF at -78 °C, was treated with *syn* Weinreb amide 8<sup>1</sup> to provide  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated ketone 9 in 83% yield. To introduce the C1–C6 unit by Wittig reaction (*vide infra*), the primary alcohol of 9 was converted to aldehyde 10 in 81% yield by Dess-Martin oxidation.<sup>4</sup>



Scheme 3





**Figure 2** 

We then attempted to synthesize the phosphonium salts 19a and 19b corresponding to the C1-C6 unit (Scheme 4). (E)-3-Iodo-2-methylprop-2-en-1-ol (12),<sup>5</sup> synthesized in 4 steps from diethyl methylmalonate following Baker's procedure, was silvlated with the *tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl (TBDPS) group to provide 13 in 96% yield. The vinyliodide 13 was converted to vinyllithium by halogen-lithium exchange with *tert*-

butyllithium in THF at -78 °C followed by treatment with trimethyltin chloride. The resulting vinylstannane 14 was subjected to Stille coupling<sup>6</sup> with methyl (Z)-2-bromobut-2-enoate (15),<sup>7</sup> derived from methyl (E)-crotonate in 2 steps, in the presence of the catalytic amount of tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium in toluene at reflux to provide diene 16 in 47% yield from 13 stereoselectively. The (E,E)-stereochemistry of 16 was determined from NOE experiments of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the diene 16 (Figure 2). Conversion from diene 16 to the desired phosphonium salt 19 was accomplished by the following 3 steps: deprotection of the silyl group with tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF) in THF to give primary alcohol 17 in 86% yield, transformation of 17 to bromide 18 using carbon tetrabromide and triphenylphosphine in 95% yield, and exposure of triphenylphosphine or tributylphosphine to 18 to provide phosphonium salt 19a (R=Ph) or 19b (R=Bu).

#### Table 1



<sup>a</sup> Ratios were determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR of the crude mixture.

In the next step, we examined the Wittig reaction using aldehyde 10 and phosphonium salt 19 (summarized in Table 1). An initial generation of ylide from triphenylphosphonium salt 19a using potassium *tert*-butoxide in THF at -78 °C followed by the addition of aldehyde 10 unfortunately yielded poor result (entry 1). Facilitating the formation of ylide by the addition of 18-crown-6/CH<sub>3</sub>CN at -46 °C resulted in a 27% yield of triene 20 as a 1:1 mixture of *E* and *Z* isomer (entry 2). Treatment of aldehyde 10 with 5 eq. of 19a to prevent lack of the ylide by decomposition in this condition increased the yield to 68% (entry 3). The *E*-selectivity was improved using tributylphosphonium salt<sup>8</sup> 19b to provide the desired triene 20 in 69% yield with 10:1 stereoselectivity (entry 4), and the 20 was separated from the minor *Z* isomer by silica gel flash column chromatography to give pure *E* isomer. The stereochemistry of the major product was confirmed by the large coupling constant ( $J_{6.7} =$ 15 Hz) observed in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum.



Scheme 5

The stage was now set for the construction of the epoxy- $\gamma$ -lactam ring and completion of this total synthesis outlined in Scheme 5. Removal of TBS group from 20 with triethylamine trihydrofluoride in DMF liberated the secondary alcohol 21 (96%). Finally, Dess-Martin oxidation of 21 in dichloromethane (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) gave the corresponding methyl ketone, and this was spontaneously cyclized to epoxy- $\gamma$ -lactam to provide (13*R*, 14*R*)-epolactaene (1) in 74% yield as an approximately 5:1 diastereomeric mixture at C15, as with the natural product. Synthetic epolactaene exhibited physical and spectroscopic data identical with those of the natural product (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and HRMS), including optical rotation ([ $\alpha$ ]<sup>22</sup><sub>D</sub> +37 (*c* 0.2, MeOH), lit.<sup>9</sup> [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>22</sup><sub>D</sub> +32 (*c* 0.1, MeOH)). According to these results, the absolute configuration of natural (+)-epolactaene was definitively established as (13*R*, 14*R*), as we expected.<sup>1</sup>



Since we were interested in the biological activity, <sup>10</sup> a sequence of reactions similar to the above was applied to the enantiomer of natural epolactaene starting from *anti* epoxide 22, which had been synthesized in the preceding paper.<sup>1</sup> Addition of the vinyllithium to Weinreb amide 22 gave  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated ketone 23 in 82% yield (Scheme 6). After Dess-Martin oxidation of 23 (81%), the resulting aldehyde 24 was subjected to *E*-selective Wittig reaction with tributylphosphonium salt 19b under the same condition as above to furnish triene 25 in 72% yield. In this case, the stereoselectivity was slightly increased to 20:1. The resulting triene 25 was subjected to silica gel flash column chromatography to provide the pure *E* isomer. Finally, deprotection of the silyl group with triethylamine trihydrofluoride in DMF (81%) followed by Dess-Martin oxidation provided (-)-epolactaene ((-)-1) in 69% yield. The physical and spectroscopic data on the synthetic (-)-epolactaene were of course, identical with those of the natural product and synthetic (+)-epolactaene ((+)-1) (<sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and HRMS), with the exception of the sign of the optical rotation ([ $\alpha$ ]<sup>22</sup><sub>p</sub> -30 (*c* 0.1, MeOH)).

# Conclusion

Total synthesis of neuritogenic compound, epolactaene, has been completed via a convergent route involving an *E*-selective Wittig reaction as a key step. The entire synthesis proceeds in 14 steps from known aldehyde. In addition, both (+)- and (-)-epolactaenes have been synthesized and the absolute configuration of the natural product has been confirmed to be (13R, 14R).

# **Experimental Section**

#### General

Unless otherwise noted, all reactions were carried out in oven-dried glassware under a nitrogen atmosphere. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was distilled from sodium metal/benzophenone ketyl. Dichloromethane (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) was distilled from calcium hydride. All other dry solvents were purchased from Aldrich in SureSeal<sup>TM</sup> containers. All other commercially obtained reagents were used as received. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL JNM-EX-270 spectrometer. The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quin = quintet, m = multiplet, br = broad. In NMR spectral lists, chemical shifts which are assigned to minor isomer, are marked with an asterisk. Infrared spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT-IR-8900 spectrometer. Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO P-1030 or DIP-370 polarimeter. Mass spectra were obtained on a JEOL HX-100, an SX-102A or a JMS-AX-505H mass spectrometer. Analytical TLC was performed on 0.25 mm pre-coated Merck silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> plates. Flash column chromatography was performed on Merck silica gel 60 (230–400 mesh).

#### Diethyl (E)-2-(3-bromobut-2-enyl)malonate (4):

Methanesulfonyl chloride (2.8 mL, 36 mmol) was added to a solution of (*E*)-3-bromobut-2-en-1-ol (3) (4.53 g, 30 mmol) and triethylamine (5.4 mL, 39 mmol) in THF (100 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at this temperature and then directly filtered. The filtrate was added dropwise at 0 °C to a solution of diethyl malonate (9.7 mL, 60 mmol) in THF (150 mL), pretreated with sodium hydride (55% in mineral oil, 2.62 g, 60 mmol) at 0 °C, and the stirring was continued for another 2 hours at this temperature. A saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution was added to the mixture, the organic material was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo* after filtration. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 5–10% ethyl acetate in hexane) to yield malonate ester 4 as a colorless oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.23-1.31 (m, 6H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 2.61 (dd, J = 7.6 Hz, 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 3.37 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.21 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 4 H), 5.81 (t, J = 8.3 Hz, 1 H).

#### (E)-2-(3-Bromobut-2-enyl)malonic acid (5):

A 1N aqueous solution of NaOH (80 mL) was added to the resulting solution of malonic ester 4 in ethanol (80 mL) at room temperature. After stirring for 10 hours, the reaction mixture was neutralized with a 1N aqueous solution of HCl and EtOH was removed *in vacuo*. Ethyl acetate was added, the organic material was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo* after filtration. The resulting dicarboxylic acid 5 was used in the next step without further purification: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.27 (s, 3H), 2.67 (dd, J = 7.8 Hz, 7.0 Hz, 2 H), 3.51 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.85 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.46 (br. s, 2H).

#### Methyl (E)-5-Bromohex-4-enoate (6):

A solution of the resulting crude dicarboxylic acid 5 in DMF (100 mL) was heated at 100 °C for 2 hours, and then cooled to room temperature. Potassium carbonate (6.22 g, 45 mmol) and iodomethane (2.4 mL, 39 mmol) were added to the reaction mixture and the stirring was continued for 1 hour at room temperature. Water was added, and the organic material was extracted with ether, the combined organic extracts were washed with water, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* after filtration. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 5–10% ethyl acetate in hexane) provided 3.14 g (51% from 3) of methyl ester 6 as a colorless oil: IR (film)  $v_{max}$  2953, 2922, 1740, 1653, 1437, 1366, 1202, 1170, 1098, 852, 633 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.24 (s, 3H), 2.29-2.43 (m, 4 H), 3.69 (s, 3 H), 5.82 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 1 H).

#### (E)-5-Bromohex-4-en-1-ol (7):

Lithium aluminum hydride (LiAlH<sub>4</sub>) (1.14 g, 30 mmol) was added to a solution of the methyl ester 6 (3.13 g, 15 mmol) in THF (50 mL) at -78 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at this temperature. Water (1.1 mL), a 4N aqueous solution of NaOH (1.1 mL), and water (3.4 mL) were added successively and the reac-

tion mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. After stirring for 30 min, the mixture was filtered using hyflo super-cell<sup>®</sup> and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 10–25 % ethyl acetate in hexane) to yield 2.40 g (89%) of alcohol 7 as a colorless oil: IR (film)  $v_{max}$  3332, 2938, 2870, 1651, 1430, 1379, 1104, 1054, 636 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.65 (quin, J = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 2.13 (q, J = 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 3.66 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2 H), 5.85 (td, J = 7.8 Hz, 1.2 Hz 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  23.1, 25.9, 31.8, 61.9, 119.8, 130.4; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>11</sub>OBr: C, 40.25; H, 6.19. Found: C, 40.05; H, 6.27.

# (2R, 3S)-3-[(R)-1-[(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]ethyl]-2-[(E)-6-hydroxy-2-methylhex-2enoyl)]oxirane-2-carboxamide (9):

*tert*-Butyllithium (1.64 M in THF, 2.5 mL, 4.2 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of **7** (269 mg, 1.5 mmol) in THF (5 mL) at -78 °C, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 20 min at this temperature. A solution of **TBS** ether **8** (99 mg, 0.3 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added to the mixture dropwise at -78 °C and the stirring was continued for another 1 hour at this temperature. A saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution was added, and the organic material was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic extracts were washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo* after filtration. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 40–70% ethyl acetate in hexane) provided 91.5 mg (83%) of alcohol **9** as a colorless foam: IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$  3414, 3170, 2955, 2931, 2860, 1681, 1640, 1603, 1394, 1313, 1259, 1111, 1007, 926, 839, 778 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$  -56.7 (*c* 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.08 (s, 3 H), 0.11 (s, 3 H), 0.90 (s, 9 H), 1.29 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3 H), 1.73-1.84 (m, 2 H), 1.82 (s, 3 H), 2.43 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2 H), 3.27 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.66-3.73 (m, 3 H), 5.84 (br s, 1 H), 6.47 (br s, 1 H), 7.00 (td, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 1 H); <sup>1.3</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -4.7, -4.5, 11.2, 18.0, 20.4, 25.7 (x 3), 26.0, 31.2, 62.1, 65.2, 66.9, 67.6, 135.3, 149.4, 167.1, 192.7; HRMS, calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>34</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Si (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 372.2206, found 372.2205.

## (2R, 3S)-3-[(R)-1-[(tert-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]ethyl]-2-[(E)-2-methyl-6-oxohex-2enoyl]oxirane-2-carboxamide (10):

Dess-Martin periodinane (178 mg, 0.42 mmol) was added to a solution of alcohol 9 (51.1 mg, 0.14 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1.5 mL) at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 20 min at this temperature. A 1 M solution of Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and a saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution were added, the organic material was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic extracts were washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo* after filtration. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 30–50% ethyl acetate in hexane) gave 41.0 mg (81%) of aldehyde 10 as a colorless foam: IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$  3418, 3336, 3225, 2956, 2931, 2859, 1683, 1589, 1391, 1259, 1006, 924, 837, 779 cm<sup>-1</sup>; [α]<sup>22</sup><sub>D</sub> -69.2 (*c* 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 0.08 (s, 3 H), 0.10 (s, 3 H), 0.90 (s, 9 H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3 H), 1.83 (s, 3 H), 2.59-2.73 (m, 4 H), 3.25 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.67 (dq, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.16 (br s, 1 H), 6.49 (br s, 1 H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 9.82 (s, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -4.8, -4.5, 11.3, 18.0, 20.3, 21.8, 25.7 (x 3), 42.2, 65.1, 66.7, 67.5, 135.7, 146.8, 167.1, 192.6, 200.3; HRMS, calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>32</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Si (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 370.2050, found 370.2068.

#### (E)-3-(tert-Butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy-1-iodo-2-methylpropene (13):

TBDPSCl (10 mL, 39 mmol) was added to a solution of (*E*)-3-iodo-2-methylprop-2-en-1-ol (**12**) (7.00 g, 36 mmol) and imidazole (7.28 g, 107 mmol) in DMF (100 mL) at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour at this temperature. A saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution was added, the organic material was extracted with ether, and the combined organic extracts were washed with water, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo* after filtration. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 3 % ethyl acetate in hexane) furnished 14.9 g (96%) of TBDPS ether **13** as a colorless oil: IR (film)  $v_{max}$  3071, 3050, 2959, 2931, 2857, 1471, 1428, 1368, 1281, 1112, 826, 740, 702, 614, 505 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.06 (s, 9 H),

1.75 (s, 3 H), 4.11 (s, 2 H), 6.29 (s, 1 H), 7.35-7.44 (m, 6 H), 7.63-7.66 (m, 4 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  19.3, 21.2, 26.8 (x 3), 67.6, 76.0, 127.8 (x 4), 129.8 (x 2), 133.1 (x 2), 135.5 (x 4), 146.4; HRMS, calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>OISi (M – H)<sup>+</sup> 435.0641, found 435.0651. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>25</sub>OISi: C, 55.05; H, 5.77. Found: C, 54.97; H, 5.82.

#### Methyl (E)-5-[(tert-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy]-2-[(E)-ethylidene]-4-methylpent-3-enoate (16):

*tert*-Butyllithium (1.64 M in THF, 7.6 mL, 12.5 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of TBDPS ether **13** (2.18 g, 5.0 mmol) in THF (50 mL) at -78 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min at this temperature. A solution of trimethyltin chloride (1.0 M in THF, 10 mL, 10 mmol) was added dropwise at -78 °C and the stirring was continued for another 20 min at this temperature. A saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution was added and the organic material was extracted with ethyl acetate, the combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* after filtration to yield vinylstannane **14**. Methyl (Z)-2-bromobut-2-enoate (**15**) (895 mg, 5.0 mmol) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (578 mg, 0.50 mmol) were added to a solution of the crude **14** in toluene (50 mL) and the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 12 hours. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 3-5% ethyl acetate in hexane) to give 961 mg (47%) of diene **16** as a colorless oil: IR (film)  $v_{max}$  2952, 2933, 2858, 1720, 1429, 1250, 1194, 1112, 825, 741, 703, 615, 505 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.08 (s, 9 H), 1.48 (s, 3 H), 1.73 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 4.19 (s, 2 H), 6.17 (br s, 1 H), 6.93 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.34-7.46 (m, 6 H), 7.69-7.74 (m, 4 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  15.2, 15.5, 19.3, 26.8 (x 3), 51.7, 68.1, 117.0, 127.6 (x 4), 129.6 (x 2), 130.4, 133.7 (x 2), 135.5 (x 4), 139.0, 139.5, 168.1; HRMS, calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>33</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Si (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 409.2199, found 409.2175. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Si: C, 73.49; H, 7.89. Found: C, 73.66; H, 7.82.

#### Methyl (E)-2-[(E)-ethylidene]-5-hydroxy-4-methylpent-3-enoate (17):

TBAF (1.0 M in THF, 3.6 mL, 3.6 mmol) was added to a solution of diene **16** (1.33g, 3.2 mmol) in THF (20 mL) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature and stirred for 3 hours. Water was added, the organic material was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic extracts were washed with water, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo* after filtration. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 15–30% ethyl acetate in hexane) afforded 473 mg (86%) of alcohol **17** as a colorless oil: IR (film)  $v_{max}$  3430, 2951, 2915, 2857, 1718, 1634, 1436, 1265, 1197, 1136, 1043, 1020, 759, 732 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.56 (s, 3 H), 1.63 (br s, 1 H), 1.74 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 4.16 (s, 2 H), 6.04 (s, 1 H), 6.95 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  15.3, 15.6, 51.8, 67.8, 117.9, 130.0, 139.6, 140.5, 167.9; HRMS, calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub> M<sup>+</sup> 170.0943, found 170.0941. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 63.51; H, 8.29. Found: C, 63.18; H, 8.00.

#### Methyl (E)-5-bromo-2-[(E)-ethylidene]-4-methylpent-3-enoate (18):

Carbon tetrabromide (1.03 g, 3.1 mmol) was added to a solution of the alcohol **17** (264 mg, 1.6 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (813 mg, 3.1 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at 0 °C and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at this temperature. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0–3% ethyl acetate in hexane) to give 343 mg (95%) of bromide **18** as a colorless oil: IR (film)  $v_{max}$  2950, 1720, 1635, 1435, 1255, 1218, 1195, 1127, 1059, 1026, 1000, 760, 731, 615 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.69 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3 H), 1.75 (dd, J = 7.3 Hz, 1.3 Hz, 3 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 4.07 (s, 2 H), 6.17 (br s, 1 H), 6.99 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  15.5, 16.6, 39.8, 51.9, 123.4, 129.6, 137.2, 140.8, 167.3; HRMS, calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Br M<sup>+</sup> 232.0099, found 232.0093.

# Triphenyl-[(2E, 4E)-4-methoxycarbonyl-2-methylhexa-2,4-dienyl]phosphonium bromide (19a): Triphenylphosphine (21.0 mg, 0.08 mmol) was added to a solution of the bromide 18 (16.3 mg, 0.07 mmol) in acetonitrile (3 mL) and the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 3 hours. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting residue was recrystalized with acetonitrile and ethyl acetate to afford 31.6 mg (91%) of

phosphonium salt **19a** as colorless prisms: mp 199-201 °C; IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$  3407, 3054, 3005, 2844, 2775, 1711, 1588, 1485, 1437, 1265, 1112, 1025, 996, 751, 719, 692, 506, 497 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.40 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 3 H), 1.68 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3 H), 3.65 (s, 3 H), 4.88 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 2 H), 5.98 (br s, 1 H), 6.89 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.65-7.73 (m, 6 H), 7.77-7.85 (m, 3 H), 7.90-7.98 (m, 6 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  15.8, 20.6, 33.8 (d, J = 47.1 Hz), 51.7, 118.4 (d, J = 85.2 Hz) (x 3), 128.3, 128.4, 128.6, 130.1 (x 6), 134.2 (x 6), 134.9 (x 3), 141.7, 166.7; HRMS, calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>2</sub>P (M - Br)<sup>+</sup> 415.1827, found 415.1836. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>2</sub>BrP: C, 65.46; H, 5.70; P, 6.25. Found: C, 65.43; H, 5.73; P, 6.23.

## Tributyl-[(2E, 4E)-4-methoxycarbonyl-2-methylhexa-2,4-dienyl]phosphonium bromide (19b):

Tributylphosphine (0.18 mL, 0.74 mmol) was added to a solution of the bromide **18** (132 mg, 0.57 mmol) in acetonitrile (4 mL) and the reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 20 min. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0-2% methanol in chloroform) to yield 249 mg (quantitative) of phosphonium salt **21b** as a colorless oil: IR (film)  $v_{max}$  3401, 2960, 2934, 2874,

1714, 1464, 1436, 1252 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.99 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 9 H), 1.50-1.68 (m, 12 H), 1.71-1.78 (m, 3 H), 1.76 (s, 3 H), 2.45-2.56 (m, 6 H), 3.69 (d, *J* = 15.8 Hz, 2 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 6.06 (br d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.10 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1 H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  13.4 (x 3), 15.8, 19.2 (d, *J* = 46.2 Hz) (x 3), 20.4, 23.9 (x 3), 24.1 (x 3), 29.3 (d, *J* = 44.6 Hz), 51.9, 126.8, 127.0, 129.0, 141.3, 166.7; HRMS calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>40</sub>O<sub>2</sub>P (M – Br)<sup>+</sup> 355.2766, found 355.2776.

# Methyl (3E, 5E, 9E)-11-[(2R, 3S)-3-[(R)-1-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]ethyl]-2-

# (carbamoyl)oxiranyl]-4,10-dimethyl-2-[(E)-ethylidene]-11-oxoundeca-3,5,9-trienoate (20):

Potassium tert-butoxide (1.0 M in THF, 0.33 mL, 0.33 mmol) was added to a solution of the phosphonium salt 19b (179 mg, 0.41 mmol) and 18-crown-6/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (125 mg, 0.41 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to -46 °C and stirred for 15 min. A solution of aldehyde 10 (30.1 mg, 0.081 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added to the reaction mixture at -46 °C and the stirring was continued for another 10 min at this temperature. A saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution was added, the organic material was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO4, and concentrated in vacuo after filtration. Flash chromatography (SiO2, 10-25% ethyl acetate in hexane) afforded 28.6 mg (69%) of triene (E:Z=10:1). This mixture was then separated by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 8% ethyl acetate in benzene) to obtain 16.8 mg of E isomer 20 as a colorless oil: IR (film)  $v_{mx}$  3476, 3334 2953, 2931, 2858, 1714, 1695, 1436, 1259, 1111, 1006, 836, 779 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $[\alpha]^{22}$  -58.4 (c 0.50, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.08 (s, 3 H), 0.10 (s, 3 H), 0.89 (s, 9 H), 1.27 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.63 (s, 3 H), 1.73 (dd, J = 7.2 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 3 H), 1.81 (s, 3 H), 2.34-2.50 (m, 4 H), 3.29 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.68-3.77 (m, 1 H), 3.73 (s, 3 H), 5.72 (dt, J = 15.4 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.90 (br s, 1 H), 5.96 (br s, 1 H), 6.25 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.90 (br s, 1 H), 5.96 (br s, 1 H), 6.25 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.90 (br s, 1 H), 5.96 (br s, 1 H), 6.25 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.90 (br s, 1 H), 5.96 (br s, 1 H), 6.25 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.90 (br s, 1 H), 5.96 (br s, 1 H), 6.25 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.90 (br s, 1 H), 5.96 (br s, 1 H), 6.25 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.90 (br s, 1 H), 5.96 (br s, 1 H), 6.25 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.90 (br s, 1 H), 5.96 (br s, 1 H), 5.15.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.28 (br s, 1 H), 6.91-6.99 (m, 2 H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl,)  $\delta$  -4.7, -4.5, 11.3, 14.3, 15.8, 18.0, 20.4, 25.7 (x 3), 28.8, 31.4, 51.9, 65.1, 66.8, 67.5, 122.9, 128.4, 130.4, 135.2, 135.5, 138.1, 139.8, 148.3, 167.0, 167.8, 192.6; HRMS, calcd for  $C_{27}H_{43}NO_6SiNa$  (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 528.2757, found 528.2754.

# $\begin{array}{l} Methyl (3E, 5E, 9E) - 11 - [(2R, 3S) - 2 - carbamoyl - 3 - [(R) - 1 - hydroxyethyl] oxiranyl] - 4, 10 - dimethyl - 2 - [(E) - ethylidene] - 11 - oxoundeca - 3, 5, 9 - trienoate (21): \\ \end{array}$

Triethylamine trihydrofluoride (50 µL) was added to a solution of triene **20** (3.6 mg, 0.007 mmol) in DMF (0.5 mL) at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 day. The solvent was concentrated, and the resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 50–80% ethyl acetate in hexane) to give 2.7 mg (96%) of alcohol **21** as a colorless oil: IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>)  $v_{max}$  3693, 3606, 3510, 3494, 2984, 2953, 1702, 1602, 1438, 1275, 1138, 1056, 966 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$  –64.3 (*c* 0.30, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.34 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3 H), 1.63 (s, 3 H), 1.75 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H), 1.81 (s, 3 H), 2.33-2.50 (m, 4 H), 3.29 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 3.77-3.84 (m, 1 H), 5.70 (dt, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.93 (br s, 1 H), 5.97 (s, 1 H),

6.25 (d, J = 15.3 Hz, 1 H), 6.45 (br s, 1 H), 6.91-6.99 (m, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.3, 14.3, 15.8, 19.3, 28.5, 31.3, 52.0, 65.6, 65.8, 66.2, 123.0, 128.2, 130.3, 135.0, 135.8, 138.2, 140.0, 148.5, 166.9, 168.0, 192.7; HRMS, calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na (M + Na)<sup>+</sup> 414.1893, found 414.1887.

### Methyl (3E, 5E, 9E)-4,10-dimethyl-2-[(E)-ethylidene]-11-[(1R, 5R)-4-hydroxy-4-methyl-2oxo-6-oxa-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1-yl]-11-oxo-3,5,9-undecatrienoate ((+)-epolactaene, (+)-1):

Dess-Martin periodinane (66 mg, 0.078 mmol) was added to a solution of alcohol **21** (6.1 mg, 0.016 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (0.5 mL) at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour at this temperature. A 1 M solution of  $Na_2S_2O_3$  and a saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution were added, the organic material was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic extracts were washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo* after filtration. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 40–60% ethyl acetate in hex-

ane) furnished 4.5 mg (74%) of (+)-epolactaene ((+)-1) as a colorless oil: IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>)  $v_{max}$  3693, 3423, 2954,

1731, 1689, 1603, 1438, 1280, 1140, 1064, 967, 952 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$  +37.0 (c 0.20, MeOH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz,

CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  1.52 and 1.56\* (each s, 3 H), 1.62 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 3 H), 1.72 (dd, J = 7.1 Hz, 1.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.83 (s, 3 H), 2.33-2.38 (m, 2 H), 2.43-2.52 (m, 2 H), 3.72 (s, 3 H), 3.98 and 4.06\* (each s, 1 H), 5.78 (dt, J = 15.5 Hz, 7.1 Hz, 1 H), 5.94 (br s, 1 H), 6.28 and 6.26\* (each d, J = 15.5 Hz, J \*= 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.93 (qd, J = 7.2 Hz, 0.9 Hz, 1 H), 7.02 and 6.74\* (td and br t\* J = 6.9 Hz, 1.2 Hz, J \*= 7.0 Hz, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  11.2, 14.6, 16.0, 22.2, 30.2, 32.5, 52.4, 64.0, 66.1, 84.8, 123.6, 129.7, 131.9, 136.6, 137.3, 139.6, 140.9, 150.1, 169.5, 172.2, 192.1; HRMS, calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>27</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>Na (M + Na)\* 412.1736, found 412.1753.

## (2S, 3R)-2-[(E)-6-Hydroxy-2-methylhex-2-enoyl]-3-[(R)-1-[(triethylsilyl)oxy]-ethyl]oxirane-2-carboxamide (23):

*tert*-Butyllithium (1.64 M in THF, 3.9 mL, 6.4 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of vinylbromide **7** (405 mg, 2.3 mmol) in THF (5 mL) at -78 °C, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 20 min at this temperature. A solution of TES ether **22** (150 mg, 0.45 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added dropwise at -78 °C, the stirring was continued for another 2 hours at this temperature. A saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution was added and the organic material was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic extracts were washed with water, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo* after filtration. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 50–70% ethyl acetate in hexane) provided 137 mg (82%) of alcohol **23** as a colorless foam: IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$  3405, 3194, 2956, 2878, 1692, 1660, 1633, 1413, 1396, 1323, 1275, 1240, 1164, 1111, 1003, 774, 745, 730 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$  +55.1 (*c* 0.50, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.61 (q, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 6 H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 9 H), 1.35 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 3 H), 1.74-1.82 (m, 2 H), 1.83 (s, 3 H), 2.38-2.48 (m, 2 H), 3.18 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1 H), 3.70 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2 H), 3.76-3.86 (m, 1 H), 5.63 (br s, 1 H), 6.47 (br s, 1 H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  4.9 (x 3), 6.7 (x 3), 11.2, 21.7, 26.2, 31.2, 62.2, 65.4, 66.0, 66.1, 135.2, 150.0, 166.6, 193.4; HRMS, calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>34</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Si (M + H)\* 372.2206, found 372.2213. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>33</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Si: C, 58.19; H, 8.95; N, 3.77. Found: C, 58.04; H, 8.72; N, 3.67.

# (2S, 3R)-2-[(E)-2-Methyl-6-oxohex-2-enoyl]-3-[(R)-1-[(triethylsilyl)oxy]ethyl]-oxirane-2-carboxamide (24):

Dess-Martin periodinane (206 mg, 0.48 mmol) was added to a solution of alcohol **23** (60.0 mg, 0.16 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1 mL) at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 hours at this temperature. A 1 M solution of Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and a saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution were added, the organic material was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic extracts were washed with water, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo* after filtration. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 30–40% ethyl acetate in hexane) gave 48.1 mg (81%) of aldehyde **24** as a colorless foam: IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$  3402, 3183, 2956, 2878, 1728, 1692, 1661, 1637, 1414, 1323, 1241, 1164, 1111, 1005, 775, 746, 729, 622 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $[\alpha]^{22}_{p}$  +61.0 (*c* 0.50, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.60 (q, J = 7.9 Hz, 6 H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 9 H), 1.34 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3 H), 1.84 (s, 3 H), 2.55-2.72 (m, 4 H), 3.16 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 3.75-3.86 (m, 1 H), 5.58 (br s, 1 H), 6.46 (br s, 1 H), 7.00 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 1 H), 9.81 (s, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  4.9 (x 3), 6.7 (x 3), 11.3, 21.7, 21.9, 42.2, 65.3, 65.9, 66.0, 135.7, 147.2, 166.3, 193.5, 200.3; HRMS, calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>32</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>Si (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 370.2050, found 370.2029.

### Methyl (3E, 5E, 9E)-11-[(2S, 3R)-2-carbamoyl-3-[(R)-1-[(triethylsilyl)oxy]-ethyl]oxiranyl]-4,10-dimethyl-2-[(E)-ethylidene]-11-oxoundeca-3,5,9-trienoate (25):

Potassium tert-butoxide (1.0 M in THF, 50  $\mu$ L, 0.05 mmol) was added to a solution of the phosphonium salt 19b (30.5 mg, 0.07 mmol) and 18-crown-6/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (21.4 mg, 0.07 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to -46 °C and stirred for 20 min, a solution of aldehyde 24 (5.0 mg, 0.014 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added at -46 °C, and the stirring was continued for another 20 min at this temperature. A saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution was added, the organic material was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous MgSO, and concentrated in vacuo after filtration. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 20-30% ethyl acetate in hexane) afforded 4.9 mg (72%) of triene (E:Z=20:1). This mixture was separated by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 8% ethyl acetate in benzene) to obtain 4.2 mg of E isomer 25 as a colorless oil: IR (film)  $v_{max}$  3467, 3336, 3193, 2955, 2878, 1695, 1639, 1590, 1436, 1378, 1254, 1113, 1005, 748 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{22}$  +44.5 (c 0.50, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.62 (q, J = 7.8 Hz, 6 H), 0.97 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 9 H), 1.35 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 3 H), 1.63 (s, 3 H), 1.74 (dd, J = 7.1 Hz, 1.1 Hz, 3 H), 1.82 (s, 3 H), 2.34-2.50 (m, 4 H), 3.22 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 3.75-3.88 (m, 1 H), 5.72 (dt, J = 15.6 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.92 (br s, 1 H), 5.97 (s, 1 H), 6.26 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.35 (br s, 1 H), 6.96 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1 H), 7.04 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  4.8 (x 3), 6.7 (x 3), 11.3, 14.3, 15.8, 21.7, 29.0 31.5, 51.8, 65.1, 65.9, 66.0, 122.8, 128.4, 130.4, 135.1, 135.3, 138.1, 139.8, 148.8, 166.6, 167.8, 193.4; HRMS, calcd for  $C_{27}H_{44}NO_6Si (M + H)^+ 506.2938$ , found 506.2939.

# Methyl (3E, 5E, 9E)-11-[(2S, 3R)-2-carbamoyl-3-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]oxiranyl]-4,10dimethyl-2-[(E)-ethylidene]-11-oxoundeca-3,5,9-trienoate (26):

Triethylamine trihydrofluoride (20 µL) was added to a solution of triene **25** (9.3 mg, 0.018 mmol) in DMF (0.5 mL) at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour. The solvent was concentrated, and the resulting residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 50–80% ethyl acetate in hexane) to give 5.8 mg (81%) of alcohol **26** as a colorless oil: IR (film)  $v_{max}$  3435, 3337, 2979, 2950, 1689, 1637, 1595, 1436, 1265, 1213, 1136, 1060, 1024, 966, 760, 616 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$  +18.3 (*c* 0.20, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.39 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3 H), 1.62 (s, 3 H), 1.73 (dd, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1.2 Hz, 3 H), 1.81 (s, 3 H), 2.33-2.51 (m, 4 H), 2.82 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.17 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 3.70-3.77 (m, 1 H), 3.73 (s, 3 H), 5.70 (dt, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.95 (s, 1 H), 6.08 (br s, 1 H), 6.26 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.35 (br s, 1 H), 6.94 (q, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (67.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.3, 14.3, 15.8, 20.3, 28.9, 31.4, 51.9, 65.4, 65.7, 66.1, 122.9, 128.3, 130.4, 135.1, 135.6, 138.2, 139.9, 149.7, 167.1, 167.9, 192.8; HRMS, calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>6</sub> (M + H)<sup>+</sup> 392.2073, found 392.2093.

## Methyl (3E, 5E, 9E)-4,10-dimethyl-2-[(E)-ethylidene]-11-[(1S, 5S)-4-hydroxy-4-methyl-2-oxo-6-oxa-3-azabicyclo[3.1.0]hex-1-yl]-11-oxoundeca-3,5,9-trienoate ((-)-Epolactaene, (-)-1):

Dess-Martin periodinane (23.8 mg, 0.056 mmol) was added to a solution of alcohol **26** (2.2 mg, 0.006 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL) at room temperature and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at this temperature A 1 M solution of Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and a saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution were added, the organic material was extracted with ethyl acetate, and the combined organic extracts were washed with water and brine, dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated *in vacuo* after filtration. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 40-60% ethyl acetate in hexane) furnished 1.5 mg (69%) of (-)-epolactaene ((-)-1) as a colorless oil:  $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$  -30.0 (*c* 0.10, MeOH);

HRMS, calcd for  $C_{21}H_{28}NO_6 (M + H)^+$  390.1917, found 390.1936.

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