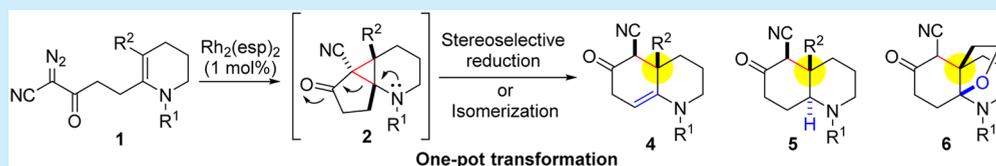


Synthesis of Octahydro- and Decahydroquinolines by a One-Pot Cascade Reaction of Tetrasubstituted Enecarbamate

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S Supporting Information



ABSTRACT: A transition-metal-catalyzed cyclopropanation followed by ring opening was investigated for the synthesis of octahydroquinolines **4** and decahydroquinolines **5** having a quaternary carbon center at the angular position, which are core structures of the fawcettimine-type alkaloids. A tandem reaction was also established for the synthesis of decahydroquinolines **5** and the tricyclic compound **6** through an iminium ion intermediate, readily produced by acidic treatment of cyclopropane **2**.

Fawcettimine, isolated from *Lycopodium fawcettii* by Burnell and co-workers in 1959, is one of the representative *Lycopodium* alkaloids (Figure 1).¹ It is one of more than 80

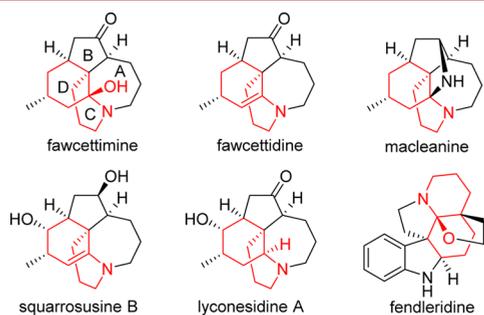


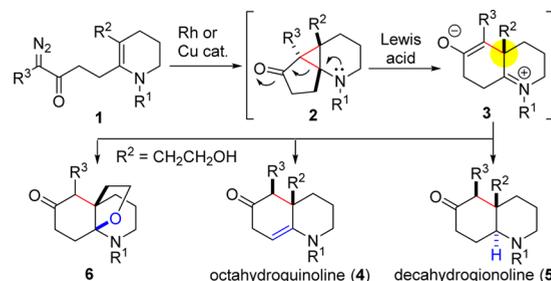
Figure 1. Fawcettimine-type alkaloids and a natural product containing both octa- and decahydroquinoline skeletons.

congeners reported to date, which include fawcettidine,^{1,2} macleanine,³ and squarrosusine B,⁴ each of which belong to the fawcettimine class of alkaloids. Recently, new members of this alkaloid class, such as lyconesidines,⁵ have been found in related species. Among these compounds, a complex tetracyclic skeleton is common, and the structural diversity mainly derives from the oxidation level and substituents on the B and D rings.⁶ Because of its unique tetracyclic structure, many groups are engaged in synthetic studies of the fawcettimine-type alkaloids.^{7,8} The main focus of these studies has been the synthesis of the hydrindane skeleton (B and D rings), and they are based on Heathcock and Inubushi's pioneering work.^{8p,q} As an exceptional strategy, Dake and Kozak reported Pt(II)-catalyzed cyclization to construct an octahydroquinoline skeleton having a quaternary carbon (C and D rings),⁸ⁿ while Dake's synthesis proposed the possibility of an octahydroquinoline skeleton as a useful intermediate. Additionally, the skeleton has been found in

various alkaloids such as fendleridine.⁹ Therefore, the development of a concise synthetic method for these skeleta would contribute to the synthesis of not only fawcettimine-type alkaloids but also related natural products.

Considering a synthesis of various analogues, we envisioned that an intramolecular cyclopropanation of tetrahydropyridine **1** followed by a ring opening would give both octa- and decahydroquinoline **4** and **5**, respectively (Scheme 1). That is,

Scheme 1. Synthetic Strategy for Diverse Decahydro- and Octahydroquinolines



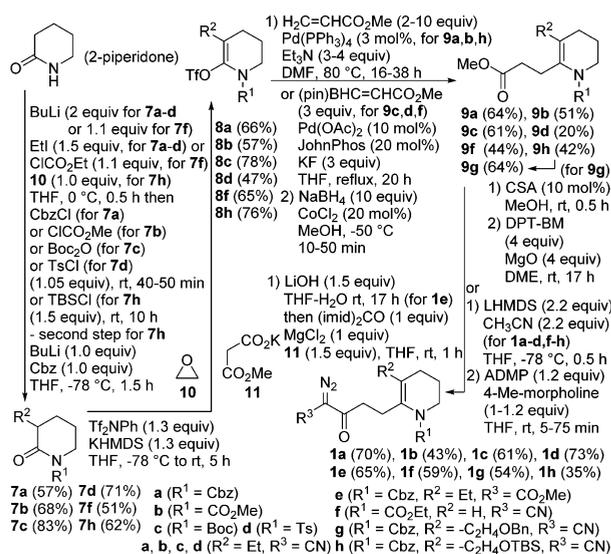
by introducing an electron-withdrawing group as a substituent ($R^3 = \text{EWG}$), a ring-opening of cyclopropane **2** would readily produce an iminium intermediate **3**,¹⁰ which would be converted to **4** and **5** by a proton transfer and stereoselective reduction, respectively. It was expected that various substituents could be introduced into the obtained compounds **4** and **5** by using ketone functionality for the synthesis of fawcettimine-type alkaloids. Moreover, the iminium intermediate **3**, derived from a substrate having a hydroxyethyl group ($R^2 = \text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$), would be intramolecularly trapped with an alcohol to give a

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tricyclic compound **6**, which can be found in a fendleridine skeleton. While there are many reports about cyclopropanation of monosubstituted enamides and ene carbamates,^{11,12} the number of reports decreases as the number of substituents increases. In the case of tetrasubstituted enamides and ene carbamates, pyrolysis of tosylhydrazones^{13a} and formation of carbene from chloroform via treatment of a strong base^{13b} were only employed for cyclopropanation.¹⁴ Thus, there is no example of the use of a transition-metal–carbene complex. Herein, we report synthesis of octahydroquinolines **4**, decahydroquinolines **5**, and tricyclic compound **6** having a quaternary carbon center at the angular position via a transition-metal-catalyzed cyclopropanation of tetrasubstituted ene carbamate and a ring-opening.

Initially, cyclization precursors **1a–h** were synthesized from 2-piperidone in six to eight steps including Heck or Suzuki–Miyaura coupling, 1,4-reduction,¹⁵ and diazotransfer¹⁶ (Scheme 2). We then investigated transition-metal-catalyzed cyclo-

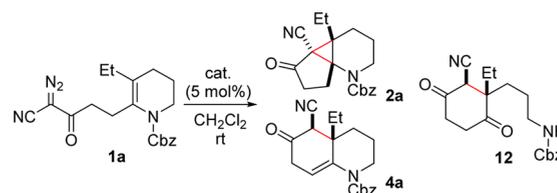
Scheme 2. Synthesis of Tetrasubstituted Enecarbamate **1**



propanation of tetrasubstituted ene carbamate **1a**. When compound **1a** was treated with $\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$, diketone **12** was obtained in 70% yield via a ring-opening of cyclopropane followed by hydrolysis (Table 1, entry 1). Although $\text{Cu}(\text{hfacac})_2$ could be used for suppressing a ring-opening of cyclopropane, a part of the desired product **2a** was converted to octahydroquinoline **4a**, which was a mixture of keto and enol tautomers owing to the presence of an acidic proton (entry 2). In contrast, the use of rhodium catalysts, including $\text{Rh}_2(\text{OAc})_4$, $\text{Rh}_2(\text{cap})_4$,¹⁷ and $\text{Rh}_2(\text{esp})_2$,¹⁸ was effective for suppressing the undesired side reactions (entries 3–5). Specifically, $\text{Rh}_2(\text{esp})_2$ gave hexasubstituted cyclopropane **2a** in 57% yield without compounds **4a** and **12** (entry 5). For reproducible isolation of the product **2a**, addition of triethylamine into an eluent for silica gel column chromatography was important because **2a** was not stable on silica gel.

We next focused on the selective transformation of the hexasubstituted cyclopropane **2a** into octahydroquinoline **4a** and decahydroquinoline **5a**. When compound **2a** was treated with trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) or $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$, ring-opening of cyclopropane was followed by a proton transfer to give compound **4a** in excellent yields (Table 2, entries 1 and 2).

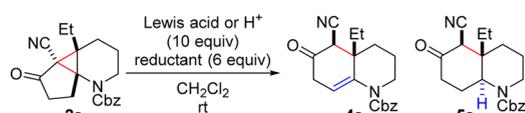
Table 1. Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Cyclopropanation of Tetrasubstituted Enecarbamate **1a**



entry	cat.	time	yield ^a (%)		
			2a	4a	12
1	$\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2$	10 h	0	0	70
2	$\text{Cu}(\text{hfacac})_2$ ^b	24 h	13	33	0
3	$\text{Rh}_2(\text{cap})_4$	2.5 h	42	0	0
4	$\text{Rh}_2(\text{OAc})_4$	30 min	52	0	0
5	$\text{Rh}_2(\text{esp})_2$ ^c	15 min	57	0	0

^aIsolated yield. ^b60 mol %. ^c0.1 mol %. Tf = triflate, hfacac = hexafluoroacetylacetonato, cap = caprolactamate, esp = $\alpha, \alpha', \alpha', \alpha'$ -tetramethyl-1,3-benzenedipropionic acid.

Table 2. Selective Formation of Octahydroquinoline **4a and Decahydroquinoline **5a****



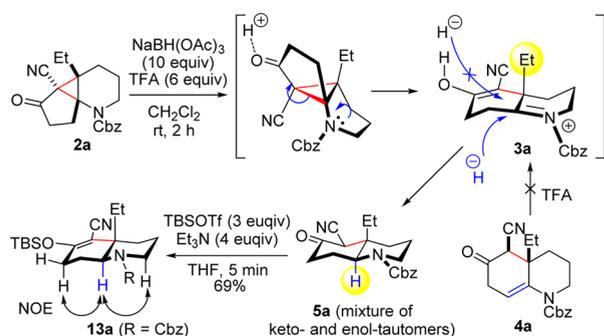
entry	Lewis acid or H ⁺	reductant	time	yield ^a (%)	
				4a	5a
1	TFA ^b	none	30 min	96	0
2	$\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ ^b	none	30 min	95	0
3	TFA	Et_3SiH	2 h	56	0
4	TFA	Ph_3SiH	5 h	40	0
5	TFA	NaBH_3CN	2 h	17	0
6	TFA	$\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$	2 h	22 ^c	72 ^c
7	$\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ ^d	$\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$ ^e	11 h	23 ^c	31 ^c
8	$\text{Ti}(\text{O}i\text{Pr})_4$	$\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$	15 min	29 ^f	0
9	AlCl_3	$\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$	3 h	59	0
10	$\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$	$\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$	2 h	28	0
11	$\text{MgBr}_2 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$	$\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$	3 h	60	0

^aIsolated yield. ^b1 equiv. ^cThe yield was calculated by ¹H NMR. ^d6 equiv. ^e10 equiv. ^fThe starting material was recovered (31%). TFA = trifluoroacetic acid.

These results indicated that cyclopropane **2a** was readily cleaved to produce an iminium ion such as **3**. Thus, reduction of the iminium ion was examined for obtaining decahydroquinoline **5a**. When compound **2** was treated with Et_3SiH , Ph_3SiH , or NaBH_3CN under acidic conditions (TFA), these reductions did not proceed (entries 3–5). In sharp contrast, use of $\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$ was effective, and the reaction gave the desired product **5a** in 72% yield along with a small amount of **4a** (entry 6). Several Lewis acids were also examined instead of TFA. In the case of $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$, the reaction gave **5a**, but the yield was low (31%, entry 7). In contrast, a combination of $\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$ and other Lewis acids, including $\text{Ti}(\text{O}i\text{Pr})_4$, AlCl_3 , $\text{Sc}(\text{OTf})_3$, and $\text{MgBr}_2 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$, gave only octahydroquinoline **4a** in low to moderate yields (entries 8–11). Therefore, $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ was employed for opening the cyclopropane ring to access compound **4**, and a combination of TFA and $\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$ was determined to provide the best conditions for the synthesis of compound **5**. Reduction of the iminium intermediate **3a**

proceeded with excellent stereoselectivity because the reductant attacked from the less hindered face (Scheme 3). Because **5a** was

Scheme 3. Stereoselectivity of the Reduction of Iminium Intermediate 3a



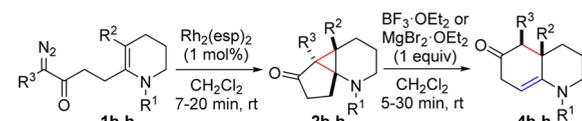
a mixture of keto and enol tautomers, the stereochemistry of the *trans*-fused ring system was determined by NOESY experiments after formation of *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl (TBS) enol ether **13a** (Scheme 3). For the synthesis of compound **5a**, compound **4a** was also treated under the optimized reduction conditions (TFA and NaBH(OAc)₃, rt). However, the reaction did not proceed to give **5a**. This result indicated that the iminium ion **3a** was not produced from compound **4a** under these mild conditions.

To determine the scope and limitations, the optimized conditions were applied for the synthesis of several octahydroquinolines **4b–h** (Table 3). Cyclopropanation of substrates **1b** and **1c** having CO₂Me and Boc groups as protecting groups gave compounds **2b** and **2c** in moderate yields, respectively (entries 1 and 2). Compound **2b** readily converted to octahydroquinoline **4b** when treated with BF₃·OEt₂. In the case of **2c**, MgBr₂·OEt₂ was used instead of BF₃·OEt₂ for suppressing the undesired deprotection of the Boc group. Compound **4c** was obtained in excellent yield. Interestingly, the reaction of **1d** with its tosyl group gave **4d** in 76% yield without acidic treatment, as the corresponding cyclopropane **2d** was easily cleaved (entry 3). The reaction of β -keto- α -diazooester **1e** did not give compound **2e**. Thus, a nitrile group is essential for this cyclopropanation (entry 4). The reaction of **1f** did not give cyclopropane **2f** because C–H insertion was competitive (entry 5). Benzyl (Bn) and TBS groups were compatible under these reactions, and octahydroquinolines **4g** and **4h** were obtained in 80% and quantitative yields, respectively (entries 6 and 7).

Because compound **2** was not stable as described above, a one-pot cyclopropanation/reductive ring-opening was attempted for the synthesis of decahydroquinolines **5**. Treatment of **1a** with Rh₂(esp)₂ was followed by reductive ring opening using TFA and NaBH(OAc)₃ to give decahydroquinoline **5a** in 48% yield, which was comparable to the yield of the stepwise procedure (Table 4, entry 1). Methoxycarbonyl and Boc groups were compatible under these conditions (entries 2 and 3). In the case of substrates having Bn and TBS groups, the desired decahydroquinolines **5g** and **5h** were obtained as major products, respectively, while the reductive ring opening competed with formation of octahydroquinolines **4g** and **4h**.

This one-pot procedure for decahydroquinolines **5** was extended to a one-pot synthesis of tricyclic compound **6** (Scheme 4). Treatment of β -keto- α -diazonitrile **1i** with Rh₂(esp)₂ followed by BF₃·OEt₂ gave compound **6** via cyclopropanation in 66% yield. It is interesting that the cyclopropanation was the preferable process rather than O–H

Table 3. Scope and Limitations of Synthesis of Octahydroquinoline 4



entry	first step	yield ^a	second step	yield ^a
1		2b : 60%		4b : 96%
2		2c : 50%		4c : quant ^b
3		2d : (-)		4d : 76% ^{c,d}
4		2e : 0%		4e : (-)
5		2f : 0%		4f : (-)
6		2g : 49%		4g : 80%
7		2h : 52%		4h : quant ^b

^aIsolated yield. ^bMgBr₂·OEt₂ was used instead of BF₃·OEt₂. ^cWithout acidic treatment. ^dThe reaction time was 35 min. Bn = benzyl, TBS = *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl.

Table 4. One-Pot Cyclopropanation and Reductive Ring-Opening for Synthesis of Decahydroquinoline 5

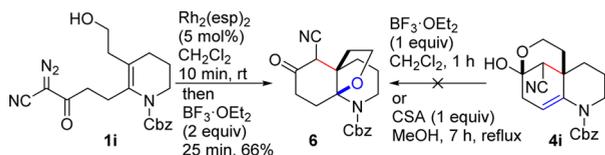


entry	R ¹	R ²	time	product	yield (%) ^a of 5 + 4	ratio ^b of 5 : 4
1 ^c	Cbz	Et	2 h	5a	48	4.0:1
2 ^d	CO ₂ Me	Et	50 min	5b	64	7.3:1
3 ^d	Boc	Et	45 min	5c	77	6.5:1
4	Cbz	CH ₂ CH ₂ OBn	8 h	5g	47	3.3:1
5 ^d	Cbz	CH ₂ CH ₂ OTBS	2 h	5h	43	3.8:1

^aIsolated yield. ^bThe ratio was calculated by ¹H NMR. ^c0.1 mol % of Rh₂(esp)₂ was used. ^dRh(OAc)₂ was used instead of Rh₂(esp)₂.

insertion in the first step, and an iminium ion could be trapped without formation of ene carbamate in the second step. It was difficult to obtain compound **6** from octahydroquinoline **4i**

Scheme 4. One-Pot Synthesis of Tricyclic Compound 6



under mild conditions including treatment with $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ or CSA.

In summary, we have investigated a concise synthesis of octahydroquinolines **4** and decahydroquinolines **5** having a quaternary carbon center at the angular position via a one-pot reaction involving cyclopropanation and ring opening. The use of Ts-protected ene-sulfonamide **1d** was found to be effective for direct access to **4**. One-pot procedures for the synthesis of decahydroquinolines **5** and tricyclic compound **6** were also established. These methods would be powerful because a quaternary carbon center and a six-membered carbocycle were constructed at once. Synthesis of related alkaloids based on the developed strategy for decahydroquinolines **5** is now underway.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.orglett.7b02122.

Experimental procedures and spectral data (^1H and ^{13}C NMR, IR, and HRMS) (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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