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# Asymmetric Total Synthesis of (–)-Pavidolide B via a Thiyl-Radical-Mediated [3+2] Annulation Reaction

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#### **RECEIVED DATE**



**ABSTRACT:** The development of an efficient strategy for the asymmetric total synthesis of the bioactive marine natural product (–)-pavidolide B is described in detail. The development process and detours leading to the key thiyl-radical-mediated [3+2] annulation reaction, which constructed the central C ring with 4 contiguous stereogenic centers in one step, is depicted. Subsequently, the seven-membered D ring is constructed via a ring-closing metathesis reaction followed by a Rh(III)-catalyzed isomerization. This strategy enables the total synthesis of (–)-pavidolide B in a longest linear sequence of 10 steps.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The cembranoid family is one of the largest and most diverse marine metabolite families. To date, hundreds of cembrane-based derivatives have been isolated from marine soft corals, particularly of the genera Sinularia and Sarcophyton.<sup>1</sup> In 2012, a structurally diverse set of cembranoids, namely, pavidolides A–E (Figure 1), were isolated from the marine soft coral *Sinularia pavida*.<sup>2</sup> A preliminary biological study with a panel of tumor cell lines indicated that tetracyclic diterpenoid (-)-pavidolide B (1) shows selective inhibition against human promyelocytic leukemia cell line HL-60 (IC<sub>50</sub> = 2.7  $\mu$ g/mL).<sup>2</sup> Structurally, (-)-pavidolide B (1) possesses an unprecedented highly rigid 6,5,7-tricarbocyclic core, which includes a fully functionalized five-membered C-ring, seven contiguous stereocenters, and a quaternary bridgehead carbon center. The stereocontrolled construction of such a highly functionalized five-membered ring system with five contiguous stereogenic centers is the primary synthetic challenge for the total synthesis of this natural product. Herein, we describe our efforts to develop a concise strategy for the asymmetric total synthesis of (-)-pavidolide B (1),<sup>3a</sup> which was enabled by a thiyl-radicalmediated intramolecular [3+2] annulation reaction of a vinylcyclopropane (VCP) under visible-light irradiation. More recently, Ding and coworkers also realized the total synthesis of (-)-pavidolide B by constructing the 6,5,7-tricarbocyclic core through a pinacol rearrangement<sup>3b</sup> and ring contraction strategy<sup>3c</sup> respectively.



Figure 1. Structures of pavidolides A-E.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Retrosynthetic Analysis of Pavidolide B (1)**

Given the concise and powerful features of the [3+2] annulation reaction of VCPs<sup>4</sup> with alkenes for the stereoselective construction of highly substituted cyclopentanoids, we envisaged applying this reaction as the key disconnection strategy for the stereoselective construction of the 5-membered ring core of pavidolide B (1). To get the correct stereochemistry at C4 and C13, the VCP part needs to approach the enone from the top side, which is, however, hindered by the isopropyl group. To overcome the steric effect of *i*Pr group, the intermolecular [3+2] annulation reaction was designed as an intramolecular reaction with an ester linker, where the stereochemistry of C14 controls the stereoselectivity at C4 and C13.





Scheme 1 illustrates our retrosynthetic analysis. We envisioned that 1 could be made from compound 2 via a ring-closing metathesis (RCM) reaction<sup>5</sup> followed by a double-bond migration reaction<sup>6</sup>. The compound 2, in turn, could be assembled via a Ni-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction<sup>7</sup> of an aldehyde derived from compound **A**. We expected that compound **A** bearing the core structure of the five-membered ring could be generated directly from its corresponding VCP-tethered cyclohexanone (**B**) through an intramolecular [3+2] annulation reaction described above. The correct stereochemistry of C14 in substrate **B** could be made easily from alcohol **6** and acid **C** via a Mitsunobu reaction. Enantiopure alcohol **6** could then be prepared stereoselectively from (+)-carvone (**3**), whereas acid **C** 

could be prepared from bromide **4** and aldehyde **5** via a reported protocol for organocatalyzed asymmetric cyclopropanation<sup>8</sup>.

#### Model Study of the [3+2] Annulation Reaction

With this proposed route in mind, we first conducted a model study to test the key reaction by using **7** as a simplified substrate, which can be easily prepared in one step from known compounds<sup>9</sup> (see Supporting Information for details). In the beginning, we attempted Pd-catalyzed [3+2] cycloaddition reaction<sup>4b,4e,10</sup> with Pd(0) and various phosphine ligands (Table 1). When P(*n*-Bu)<sub>3</sub> and dppf (1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene) were used as ligands, no desired product was observed (entries 1–2). When dppe (1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane) ligand was used, a small amount of desired product **8** was detected (entry 3); however, most of the substrate decomposed, which may be due to the coordination of Pd to the enone double bond followed by cleavage of the C–O bond. Lowering the temperature prevented the decomposition of Pd to the VCP double bond over the enone double bond and probably reducing substrate decomposition, more hindered Trost ligand<sup>10</sup> was used, but no reaction occurred (entry 5).

**Table 1.** Model Study of [3+2] the Annulation Reaction



entry	conditions	temp	result <sup>a</sup>
1	$Pd_2(dba)_3 \cdot CHCl_3$ , $P(n-Bu)_3$ , DCM	20 °C to reflux	no reaction
2	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub> ·CHCl <sub>3</sub> , dppf, DCM	30 °C	decomposed
3	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub> ·CHCl <sub>3</sub> , dppe, DCM	30 °C	trace <sup>b</sup>
4	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub> ·CHCl <sub>3</sub> , dppe, DCM	10 °C	no reaction
5	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub> ·CHCl <sub>3</sub> , Trost ligand <sup>c</sup> , DCM	30 °C	no reaction
6	PhSH, ABVN <sup>d</sup> , toluene	80 °C	30%

7	PhSSPh, AIBN, sunlamp, toluene	50 °C	23%
8	PhSH, AIBN, toluene	80 °C	47% <sup>e</sup>

<sup>*a*</sup>Isolated yield; <sup>*b*</sup>Reagents and conditions: 7 (0.5 mmol), solvent (0.05 M for substrate), catalyst (5 mol%), ligand (10 mol%), under a nitrogen atmosphere for 3 h; <sup>*c*</sup>Trost ligand = (1R,2R)-(+)-1,2-diaminocyclohexane-*N*,*N*'-bis(2'diphenylphosphinobenzoyl); <sup>*d*</sup>AVBN = 2,2'-Azobis (2,4 dimethylvaleronitrile); <sup>*e*</sup>Slow addition of the mixture of PhSH (1.2 equiv) and AIBN (0.3 equiv) in toluene to the substrate.

Facing the difficulty with Pd catalyzed cyclization methods, we turned our attention to thiylradical mediated reactions. Fortunately, treating substrate **7** with PhSH and ABVN,<sup>11</sup> we successfully obtained the desired product **8** with 30% yield (entry 6). The relative stereochemistry of newly formed 4 stereocenters was confirmed to be consistent with that in natural product **1** by X-ray crystallography. Modification of the procedure<sup>12</sup> by slow addition of the mixture of PhSH and AIBN in toluene to the solution of the substrate at 80 °C increased the yield of product **8** to 47% (entry 8). Subsequently, product **8** underwent Krapcho decarboxylation<sup>13</sup> smoothly at 120 °C to give compound **9** in 77% yield (Scheme 2), which indicate the applicability of those reactions in total synthesis of pavidolide B.

To avoid the need of following high-temperature decarboxylation reaction, we investigated whether the mono-ester substrate could also work in this [3+2] annulation reaction. Mono-ester **10** was synthesized from simple starting materials<sup>14</sup>. However, under the similar reaction conditions (Scheme 2), only trace amounts of desired product **9** were detected, and further optimization of the reaction conditions did not give better results. This poor yield may due to the decomposition of the highly reactive radical intermediate from **10** without stabilization of the diester.

Scheme 2. Synthesis of Compound 9<sup>*a*</sup>



<sup>*a*</sup>Reagents and conditions: (a) LiCl (5.0 equiv), H<sub>2</sub>O (10.0 equiv), DMSO, 120 °C, 5 h, 77%; (b) PhSH (1.2 equiv), AIBN (0.3 equiv), toluene, 80 °C, trace.

#### **Preparation of Asymmetric Precursors**

The success of the model study with substrate 7 provided a basis for testing the viability of our designed approach for the synthesis of **1**. Our total synthesis began with the preparation of two enantiopure fragments, **13** and **6** as shown in Scheme 3. The preparation of enantiopure alcohol **6** commenced from commercially available (+)-carvone (**3**), which was subjected to enone allylic hydroxylation catalyzed by a copper-aluminum mixed oxide<sup>15</sup> in the presence of oxygen in ethanol to give alcohol **11** in 42% yield, followed by selective hydrogenation with Wilkinson's catalyst<sup>16</sup> to selectively remove the terminal double bond in excellent yield.

#### Scheme 3. Asymmetric Synthesis of Alcohol 6 and Acid 13<sup>a</sup>



<sup>*a*</sup>Reagents and conditions: (a) Cu–Al Ox (84 mg per mmol of carvone **3**), air, *t*-BuOK (0.5 equiv), EtOH, rt, 36 h, 42%; (b) RhCl(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (5 mol%), H<sub>2</sub> (1 atm), toluene, rt, 14 h, 95%; (c) (*S*)-2-(diphenyl((trimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl)pyrrolidine **F** (20 mol%), **5** (1.2 equiv), Et<sub>3</sub>N (1.0 equiv), CHCl<sub>3</sub>, rt, 6 h, 79%; (d) CH(OEt)<sub>3</sub> (1.5 equiv), ethylene glycol (2.0 equiv), PTSA (0.1 equiv), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt, 2 h; (e) Me<sub>4</sub>NOH (1.1 equiv), *i*-PrOH/H<sub>2</sub>O = 10:1, rt, 12 h, 65% for two steps.

Aldehyde 12 was synthesized in 79% yield by following a reported protocol<sup>8</sup>, and then protected with ethylene glycol in the presence of PTSA and CH(OEt)<sub>3</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The hydrolysis of the ethyl-ester with Me<sub>4</sub>NOH in a mixed solvent of *i*-PrOH and H<sub>2</sub>O afforded mono-acids 13 in 80% overall yield as a pair of diastereomers at C12 (13a:13b = 1:1). As the C12 stereogenic centre will be rebuilt in the following [3+2] annulation reaction, we envisioned that this lack of diastereoselectivity would not affect the asymmetric total synthesis of our final target.

The control of C5 stereochemistry in the [3+2] Annulation Reaction

To verify our hypothesis, acids **13a** (the stereochemistry of C12 was determined by the NOE-NMR analysis of its reduced derivative **13a'**, see Supporting Information for details)<sup>19</sup> and **13b** were separated and subjected to a typical Mitsunobu reaction<sup>20</sup> with alcohol **6** in the presence of diethyl azodicarboxylate (DEAD) and PPh<sub>3</sub> in THF, respectively, providing **14a** in 87% yield and **14b** in 84% yield (Scheme 4). Then the [3+2] annulation reaction was performed under the same conditions of model study by treating **14a** or **14b** with thiophenol and AIBN at 80 °C. However, both reactions occurred slowly in low yields. When we performed the reactions at a higher temperature of 120 °C, both **14a** and **14b** gave the same tricyclic product (**15**) in similar yields and diastereoselectivities (dr = 5:1). These results confirmed that the lack of diastereoselectivity at C12 in precursors would not affect the following [3+2] annulation reaction. Unfortunately, further X-ray crystallographic analysis of the major product **15** showed that the stereochemistry of C5 (*R*) was opposite to that of the natural product pavidolide B (**1**).





<sup>*a*</sup>Reagents and conditions: (a) PPh<sub>3</sub> (2.0 equiv), DEAD (2.0 equiv), **6** (1.1 equiv), THF, 0 °C to rt, overnight; (b) PhSH (1.2 equiv), AIBN (0.3 equiv), toluene, 120 °C, 6 h.

As shown in figure 2, compared with the stereoselectivity exhibited in the model study (product 8), radical cyclization with substrate 14 gave compound 15 as product, where the C5 stereochemistry is inverted. We reasoned that the product might preferably form with the substitution on C5 anti to that of C11. Although a thermodynamic analysis doesn't guarantee the corresponding kinetic preference, we do believe that similar interaction exists in the stereoselectivity-determining transition state. To gain confidence in this analysis, computational studies were carried out at DSD-PBEP86-D3/def2-TZVP//PBE0/def2-SV(P) level with SMD solvation in MeCN to evaluate the thermodynamic preference of C5, C11 diastereomers. For products derived from compound 14, the undesired C5-(R) configuration **B** is thermodynamically favored by 4.1 kJ/mol. On the contrary, if the stereogenic centre at C11 is inverted (compound 14'), compound C with an (anti,syn)-configuration would be the thermodynamically favored one over the (syn,anti)-product **D** by 6.2 kJ/mol. Based on conformational search, in the most stable conformation of product **D**, the acetal group is forced to occupy the out-ofplain carbon of the cyclopentane ring to minimize the steric interaction of the acetal group with the lactone and alkenyl chain. According to the RDG analysis, this will increase the strain of the tricyclic skeleton itself, causing the alkenvl chain to occupy the axial position of the cyclopentane envelope conformation which sterically contacts the other part of the tricyclic skeleton. In product C, steric repulsion between the alkenyl chain and the *cis*-methyl group positively contributes to the overall free energy, albeit to a lesser extent. Thus, we decided to prepare the C11-(S) substrate and see whether it would give the desired stereochemistry at C5. With this strategy, however, the stereochemistry of C11 will be opposite to that of the natural product, but we reasoned that C11, adjacent to a carbonyl group, could be epimerized later.



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C11-(*S*) substrate was prepared by similar procedures using (*R*)-2-(diphenyl((trimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl)pyrrolidine G as catalyst (Scheme 5). Meanwhile, dimethyl 2bromomalonate 16 was chosen instead of diethyl 2-bromomalonate to guarantee milder conditions for the later decarboxylation<sup>13b</sup>. After screening of a series of protecting groups<sup>18</sup>, aldehyde **17** was protected with a diethoxyl group in the presence of PTSA and CH(OEt)<sub>3</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. This protecting group has an enhanced steric effect that could ensure higher diastereoselectivity at C5 in the following [3+2] annulation reaction. After similar hydrolysis and Mitsunobu reaction sequences, precursor 19 was prepared as a pair of diastereomers (dr = 1.5:1) at C12. Then, this mixture was treated with thiophenol and AIBN at 120 °C to undergo the [3+2] annulation reaction. Fortunately, tricyclic product 20 was isolated in 35% yield as a single diastereomer, in which stereochemistry of C5 was consistent with pavidolide B (1). This clean control of all the relative stereochemistries in the C ring of 20 and the installation of the C4 quaternary carbon ultimately provided a concise access to pavidolide B (1).<sup>3a</sup>

Scheme 5. [3+2] Annulation Reaction of C11-(S) Substrate 19<sup>a</sup>



<sup>*a*</sup>Reagents and conditions: (a) (*R*)-2-(diphenyl((trimethylsilyl)oxy)methyl)pyrrolidine **G** (20 mol%), **5** (1.2 equiv), Et<sub>3</sub>N (1.0 equiv), CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 0 °C, 6 h, 79%; (b) CH(OEt)<sub>3</sub> (1.5 equiv), PTSA (0.1 equiv), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt, 2 h; (c) Me<sub>4</sub>NOH (1.1 equiv), *i*-PrOH/H<sub>2</sub>O = 10:1, rt, 12 h, 80% in two steps; (d) PPh<sub>3</sub> (2.0 equiv), DEAD (2.0 equiv), **6** (1.1 equiv), THF, 0 °C to 45 °C, overnight, 74%; (e) PhSH (1.2 equiv), AIBN (0.3 equiv), toluene, 120 °C, 35%.

#### **Optimization of the [3+2] Annulation Reaction Conditions**

With the success of the key [3+2] annulation reaction for the stereoselective formation of the tricyclic core of **1**. We tried to vary the conditions to thermally generate the thiyl radical<sup>12</sup>, involving the treatment of **19** with a mixture of PhSH (1.5 equiv) and AIBN (0.3 equiv) in degassed toluene at various temperatures. We found that substrate **19** was completely consumed at 60 °C after 9 h, but only a trace amount of the desired product **20** was detected (Table 2, entry 1). When the reaction was conducted at 120 °C for 3 h, the desired product **20** was isolated in 35% yield, along with decomposition of the substrate (entry 4).

Table 2. Thermal Conditions Screening for the [3+2] Annulation Reaction



<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions: **19** (0.5 mmol) in toluene (20 mL), slow addition of PhSH (1.5 equiv) and AIBN (0.3 equiv) in toluene (10 mL); <sup>*b*</sup> Isolated yield.

To gain insight into this highly stereospecific annulation reaction, we carried out DFT calculation at DSD-PBEP86-D3/def2-TZVP//PBE0-D3/def2-SV(P) level with SMD solvation in MeCN for the pathways from 19 to 20. <sup>21a-f</sup> As shown in Figure 3, the calculation indicates that the rate-determining step is the 5-*exo* conjugate addition of intermediate IM2 (19', Scheme 5) forming IM3 (19'', Scheme 5). The activation Gibbs free energy is 72.3 kJ/mol from (12*S*)-19, and 59.6 kJ/mol from (12*R*)-19 (for all possible pathways, see Supporting Information). Similar to what's predicted by the thermodynamic data, with (11*S*)-19 as the substrate, product 20 is favored over 5-*epi*-20 in all pathways. This preference is inverted when (11*R*)-19 was used as the substrate, shown in the right part of Figure 3. The substrate dependence of stereoselectivity in this reaction demonstrated that C5 stereocenter is controlled by the C11 acetal group during the cyclization process.



Figure 3. DFT calculation of PhS· initiated cyclization reaction from (12S)-19 and 11-epi-19

Besides the rate-determining step and the origin of diastereoselectivity, the computational study shown in Figure 3 also indicates that the cyclization process, once initiated, requires less than 75 kJ/mol of activation Gibbs free energy, which means the cyclization could occur rapidly at room temperature. Thus, combined with the fact that the VCP moiety in the substrate is thermally unstable,<sup>22</sup> we next attempted to optimize this reaction by room temperature radical initiation methods. We first tested irradiation with UV light<sup>23</sup> (entries 1-6, Table 3). The desired annulation proceeded smoothly when the reaction was performed in the presence of PhSSPh and AIBN under UV-light irradiation in toluene at 25 °C for 5 h (entry 1), giving product 20 in 32% yield. According to Feldman's work<sup>24</sup>, the addition of AlMe<sub>3</sub> as a Lewis acid could promote this reaction and, to our delight, the yield of 20 was improved to 40%–48% with a shorter reaction time (entry 2). However, the yield of 20 was variable when using this approach, as AlMe<sub>3</sub> is sensitive to moisture and its quality is difficult to control. The screen of other Lewis acids, such as Zn(OTf)<sub>2</sub>, Sc(OTf)<sub>2</sub>, and Ti(Oi-Pr)<sub>4</sub>, failed to promote this reaction. Solvent screening showed that toluene was the best solvent. Even the reaction gave similar yield (47%) in cyclohexane, the yield declined in a larger scale due to the lower solubility in cyclohexane. When we tested BPO as an initiator<sup>25</sup> (entry 5), the desired product 20 was generated in only 20% yield. Interestingly, when a higher-power UV light (500 W) was used (entry 6), the yield of 20 dropped to 35%. We recognized that high-energy UV irradiation may lead to some side reactions, which could potentially be minimized by using lower-energy visible-light irradiation.

#### Table 3. Optimization for UV-initiated [3+2] Annulation Reaction at Room Temperature



entry	conditions	solvent	additive	time (h)	yield (%) <sup>a</sup>
1	PhSSPh, AIBN, UV (250 W)	Toluene		5	32
2	PhSSPh, AIBN, UV (250 W)	toluene	AlMe <sub>3</sub>	3	40–48 <sup>b</sup>
3	PhSSPh, AIBN, UV (250 W)	MeCN	AlMe <sub>3</sub>	6	37
4	PhSSPh, AIBN, UV (250 W)	cyclohexane	AlMe <sub>3</sub>	3	47°
5	PhSSPh, BPO, UV (250 W)	toluene	AlMe <sub>3</sub>	5	20
6	PhSSPh, AIBN, UV (500 W)	toluene	AlMe <sub>3</sub>	3	35

<sup>*a*</sup>Isolated yield; <sup>*b*</sup>Reaction conditions: **19** (0.5 mmol), AlMe<sub>3</sub> (1.0 equiv), PhSSPh (1.2 equiv), AIBN (0.5 equiv), toluene (30 mL), UV (250 W) irradiation. <sup>c</sup>the yield dropped in larger scale due to the poor solubility.

Recently, the couplings of thiols and alkenes were realized by using transition-metal catalysts<sup>26</sup> or organic photocatalysts<sup>27</sup> under visible-light irradiation<sup>28</sup>, representing state-of-the-art chemical transformations promoted by low-cost energy. Motivated by this recent progress, we applied similar conditions to our thiyl-radical-mediated [3+2] annulation reaction (Table 4). To this end, several commercially available photoredox catalysts<sup>29</sup> were screened (entries 1–3). Under irradiation of low-energy blue light-emitting diodes (LEDs), when  $Ir(dF(CF_3)ppy)_2(dtbbpy)PF_6$  (0.5 mol%) was selected as the catalyst, desired product **20** was obtained in 50% yield. In contrast, when alkyl thiols, such as benzyl mercaptan and methyl thioglycolate (entries 4 and 5) were used as the thiyl-radical source, the yield of **20** declined, probably because of the higher bond dissociation energy (BDE) of S–H bonds in alkyl thiols than that of PhSH<sup>12c</sup>.



#### Table 4. Screening of Visible-Light Irradiation Conditions



#### **Building the Tetracyclic Core**

#### Table 5. Screening of Krapcho Decarboxylation Reaction Conditions

Me EtO EtO MeC		H Me		Me H Me Me	Me Me H H O H Me Me Me Me Me Me Me Me Me Me	ORTEP of <b>21a</b>
	entry	conditions	temp (°C)	time (h)	yield of <b>21a</b> (%) <sup><i>a</i></sup>	ratio (21a:21b)
	1	LiCl, DMAc, H <sub>2</sub> O	120	12	<10	-
	2	LiCl, DMSO, H <sub>2</sub> O	120	12	<10	-
	3	LiCl, DMAc, H <sub>2</sub> O	160	6	20	1.3:1
	4	LiI, DMAc, H <sub>2</sub> O	160	6	28	1.3:1
	5	NaI, DMAc, H <sub>2</sub> O	160	4.5	38 <sup>b</sup>	1.6:1
	6	NaI, DMF, H <sub>2</sub> O	160	4.5	32	1.5:1

<sup>a</sup>Yield of isolated product; <sup>b</sup>Reagents and conditions: NaI (5.0 equiv), H<sub>2</sub>O (10.0 equiv), DMAc, 160 °C, 4.5 h.

To remove the extra C12 carboxylic ester needed for the [3+2] cyclization reaction, compound **20** was treated under Krapcho decarboxylation reaction conditions.<sup>13</sup> Various halogen salts, such as LiCl, NaCl, LiBr, LiI, and NaI, were tested in different solvents at high temperatures. Interestingly, we found that the deprotection of the aldehyde occurred simultaneously to give aldehyde **21a** in low yields (Table 5, entries 1–3). The stereochemistry of product **21a** was assigned by X-ray crystallography. After careful examination of the other messy byproducts, we found that aldehyde **21b** was formed at the same time (entry 3), in which all seven contiguous stereocenters are the same as those in the target molecule **1**. However, attempts to drive further epimerization of **21a** to **21b** under several basic or acidic conditions led to a mixture of diastereomers, with a ratio of **21a**:2**1b** = 1:1.5 (see Supporting Information for details). These results indicate that equilibrium may exist between **21a** and **21b**.

Scheme 6. Building the Tetracyclic Skeleton 23a from aldehyde 21a<sup>a</sup>



<sup>*a*</sup>Reagents and conditions: (a) Ni(acac)<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%), isoprene (4.0 equiv), Et<sub>2</sub>Zn (2.4 equiv), THF, rt, 4 h; (b) NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (5.0 equiv), Dess–Martin periodinane (1.2 equiv), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt, 4 h, 94% in two steps; (c) Grubbs II catalyst (2 mol%), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, reflux, 6 h, 85%.

With key intermediates **21a** and **21b** in hand, we focused on constructing the seven-membered ring D of **1**. We adopted the Ni-catalyzed reductive coupling reaction of aldehydes with 1,3-dienes developed by Tamaru and co-workers<sup>7</sup> to install the alkene side chain. When aldehyde **21a** was coupled with isoprene in the presence of Ni(acac)<sub>2</sub> and Et<sub>2</sub>Zn in THF at room temperature for 2 h, the expected homoallylic product was obtained in almost quantitative yield. Then DMP oxidation of this product without purification gave diene **22a** in 94% yield over two steps (Scheme 6). Then, the intramolecular RCM reaction<sup>5</sup> of diene **22a** was explored with several catalysts. The Grubbs II catalyst gave the best result, with an 85% annulation yield for product **23a**, thus completing the tetracyclic skeleton of **1**.<sup>3a</sup>

#### Final trip to pavidolide B (1)

#### Scheme 7. Hydrogenation and Oxidation Sequence<sup>a</sup>





<sup>*a*</sup>Reagents and conditions: (a) Pd/C (20 wt%),  $H_2$  (1 atm), MeOH, 36 h, 81%.

To build the enone moiety, we first tried a hydrogenation and oxidation sequence, proposing the less hindered carbonyl group on 7-membered ring may be more prone to be activated. As shown in Scheme 7, hydrogenation of the C-C double bond of **23a** in the presence of Pd/C in a hydrogen atmosphere (1 atm) provided product **24a** in 81% yield. Unfortunately, several methods to build the enone moiety<sup>30</sup> were investigated, including Saegusa oxidation,<sup>31</sup> selenylation,<sup>32</sup> IBX oxidation,<sup>33</sup> and Stahl's palladium-catalyzed dehydrogenation,<sup>34</sup> but these conditions failed to generate desired product **25a**, resulting in decomposition or no reaction.

Scheme 8. Realizing the Total Synthesis of Pavidolide B (1) through Double-Bond Migration<sup>a</sup>



<sup>*a*</sup>Reagents and conditions: (a) Ni(acac)<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%), isoprene (4.0 equiv), Et<sub>2</sub>Zn (2.4 equiv), THF, rt, 4 h; (b) NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (5.0 equiv), Dess–Martin periodinane (1.2 equiv), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt, 4 h, 90% in two steps; (c) Grubbs II catalyst (2 mol%), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, reflux, 6 h, 86%; (d) RhCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mol%), EtOH, 100 °C, sealed tube, 5 h, 85%.

As an alternative, we thought that double-bond migration<sup>6</sup> of the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated enone to the more stable  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated enone would be a more efficient and direct strategy. We tested this idea by using C11-(*S*) aldehyde **21b** as substrate, with all seven contiguous stereocenters the same as those in

pavidolide B (1). Following a similar procedure, tetracyclic compound **23b** was prepared from **21b** smoothly in three steps (Scheme 8). After screening various olefin isomerization catalysts<sup>6, 35</sup>, including Ru, Rh, and Pd catalysts, we were glad to find that when **23b** was treated with RhCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mol%) in absolute ethanol at 100 °C in a sealed-tube for 5 h<sup>35a</sup>, the target molecular **1** was generated in 85% yield ([ $\alpha$ ]26 D = -146, *c* = 0.42 in MeOH). The structure of the synthesized product was unambiguously confirmed by X-ray crystallography to match that of the isolated (–)-pavidolide B (**1**).

#### **Optimization of Synthetic Route**

![](_page_18_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_5.jpeg)

<sup>*a*</sup>Reagents and conditions: (a) Me<sub>4</sub>NOH (1.1 equiv), *i*-PrOH/H<sub>2</sub>O = 10:1, rt, 12 h; then toluene, 120 °C, 4 h; (b) HCl (2.0 M), THF, rt, 2 h, 90%; (c) (Ni(acac)<sub>2</sub> (20 mol%), isoprene (4.0 equiv), Et<sub>2</sub>Zn (2.4 equiv), THF, rt, 4 h; (d) NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (5.0 equiv), Dess–Martin periodinane (1.2 equiv), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt, 4 h, 90% in two steps; (e) Grubbs II catalyst (20 mol%), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, reflux, 6 h, 86%; (f) RhCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mol%), EtOH/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> = 6:1, 100 °C, sealed tube, 5 h, 95%.

After successfully realizing the total synthesis of **1**, we attempted to improve the efficiency of this synthetic route (Scheme 9). To improve the yield of the decarboxylation reaction, the methyl ester of compound **20** was selectively hydrolyzed by treatment with Me<sub>4</sub>NOH in a mixed solvent of *i*-PrOH and H<sub>2</sub>O at room temperature. Without purification, the resultant acid **26** was subjected to decarboxylation<sup>36</sup> by heating at 120 °C in toluene and then deprotection with HCl solution (3 N) in situ

 to furnish **21a** in 90% yield over two steps. Following the same procedure, **21a** was transformed into tetracyclic **23a** on the scale of hundreds of milligrams. When **23a** was treated with RhCl<sub>3</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mol%) in ethanol (with a small amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as a cosolvent) at 100 °C for 5 h, to our delight, epimerization of C11 occurred simultaneously with double-bond migration to give natural product **1** in 95% yield. Thus, the entire synthetic route was shortened to 10 linear steps and the overall yield was improved to 16%. Finally, 300 mg of pavidolide B (**1**) was synthesized for further bioactivity studies.

#### CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the asymmetric total synthesis of (–)-pavidolide B (1) was realized in 10 steps in 16% overall yield. In this work, a thiyl-radical-mediated [3+2] annulation reaction under visible-light irradiation conditions was used for the concise construction of a highly substituted cyclopentane core structure, with two C–C bonds, two rings, and four stereocenters, including one quaternary all-carbon center, formed in one step. The four newly formed stereocenters were cleanly controlled through the logical design of the substrate. This cascade radical reaction provides a powerful strategy for the construction of highly substituted five-membered rings under mild conditions with good functional-group tolerance, which may have broad potential applications in organic synthesis.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

**General Experimental Information.** Unless otherwise mentioned, all reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere in oven-dried glassware with dry solvents. An oil bath was used as the heating source for the reactions that require heating. Reagents were purchased at the highest commercial quality and used without further purification, unless otherwise stated. Solvents purification was conducted according to Purification of Laboratory Chemicals (Peerrin, D. D.; Armarego, W. L. and Perrins, D. R., Pergamon Press: Oxford, 1980). Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) carried out on 0.25 mm Tsingdao silica gel plates (GF-254) and visualized under UV light at 254 nm. Staining was performed with an ethanolic solution of phosphomolybdic acid (PMA) and cerium sulfate, or by oxidative staining with an aqueous basic potassium permanganate (KMnO<sub>4</sub>) solution and subsequent heating. Tsingdao silica gel (60, particle size 0.040-0.063 mm) was used for flash column chromatography. NMR spectra were recorded on either a Brüker Advance 400 MHz or Brüker Advance 500 MHz NMR spectrometer. All <sup>1</sup>H-NMR data are reported in  $\delta$  units, parts per million (ppm), and all <sup>13</sup>C-NMR data were obtained with <sup>1</sup>H decoupling unless otherwise stated. They were calibrated using residual undeuterated solvent as an internal reference (CDCl<sub>3</sub>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR = 7.26 ppm, <sup>13</sup>C NMR = 77.2 ppm; Acetone-d6: <sup>1</sup>H NMR = 2.05 ppm, <sup>13</sup>C NMR = 206.3 ppm; DMSO-d6: <sup>1</sup>H NMR =2.50 ppm, <sup>13</sup>C NMR = 40.0 ppm). The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad. IR spectra were recorded on an IR Prestige-21 FTIR spectrometer with a KBr disc. Melting points (m.p.) are uncorrected and were recorded on a SGWX-4B apparatus. High resolution mass spectrometric (HRMS) data were recorded on a Brüker Apex IV RTMS instrument and a VG Auto Spec-3000 spectrometer using quadrupole analyzer, respectively. CD spectrum was measured using the Applied Photophysics Chirascan with a 150W Xe lamp (165 nm – 900 nm). Optical rotation values were recorded on a Rudolph Research Analytical Autopol I polarimeter (Rudolph Research Co.).

#### 4,4,5a-trimethyl-6-vinyloctahydroindeno[7,1-bc]furan-1,5-dione (9):

A flame dried round-bottom flask containing a solution of 7 (300 mg, 1.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv, see Supporting Information for details) in toluene (20 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> was heated to 80 °C in an oil bath. Then a mixture solution of PhSH (150  $\mu$ L, 1.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and AIBN (50 mg, 0.3 mmol, 0.3 equiv) in toluene (10 mL) was added dropwise by syringe pump over 5 h at 80 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at the same temperature for an additional 30 min. After cooling to ambient temperature, the solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1) to give the desired product **8** (141 mg, 47%) as a crystalline solid. Compound **8**: R<sub>f</sub> = 0.50 (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 4:1, KMnO<sub>4</sub>); m.p.: 106.2–107.5 °C; IR (thin film,  $\nu \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ): 3000, 2961, 2918, 2850, 1772, 1759, 1377, 1250, 1243, 1054, 800; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 307.1540; found: 307.1532. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 5.82 – 5.74 (m, 1H), 5.17 – 5.14 (m, 1H), 5.08 (td, *J* = 9.2, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.02 – 4.98 (m, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.25 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 2.65 – 2.58 (m, 2H), 2.50 – 2.39 (m, 1H), 2.33 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (dd, *J* = 14.5, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.15 – 1.08 (m, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 213.0, 175.0, 169.9, 133.8, 117.8, 74.6, 61.3, 55.8, 54.6, 53.5, 50.1, 42.4, 39.1, 36.4, 25.9, 25.0, 20.3 ppm.

To a stirred solution of **8** (100 mg, 0.33 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in DMSO (10 mL) was added LiCl (138 mg, 3.3 mmol, 10.0 equiv) and  $H_2O$  (0.3 mL, 16.5 mmol, 50.0 equiv), and the resultant reaction mixture was

then heated to 120 °C in an oil bath, and stirred for 5 h. After cooling to ambient temperature, the mixture was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (5 x 30 mL). The combined extracts were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc = 6:1) to give the desired product **9** (66 mg, 77%) as a viscous oil. Compound **9**:  $R_f$  = 0.45 (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 4:1, KMnO<sub>4</sub>); IR (thin film,  $v \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ): 2961, 2929, 2854, 1765, 1661, 1472, 1243, 1018; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $C_{15}H_{20}NaO_3^+$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 271.1305; found: 271.1305. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 5.76 (ddd, *J* = 17.1, 10.5, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (dt, *J* = 10.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (M, 2H), 3.30 (td, *J* = 10.3, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (t, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 2.70 – 2.55 (m, 1H), 2.38 – 2.21 (m, 2H), 2.19 – 2.09 (m, 1H), 2.05 – 2.00 (m, 1H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 213.9, 179.3, 134.4, 117.5, 75.0, 56.3, 50.2, 48.6, 44.0, 42.4, 39.4, 33.2, 25.9, 25.0, 20.2 ppm.

# (2*R*,3*R*)-2-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)-1-(ethoxycarbonyl)-3-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1-yl)cyclopropane-1carboxylic acid (13):

Compound **12** was prepared by following known procedures<sup>8</sup> in 79% yield as a colorless oil, which is an inseparable 11:1 mixture of diastereomers. (For the determination of enantiomeric excess of **12**, see Supporting Information.) To a stirred solution of aldehyde **12** (2.84 g, 11.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dry DCM (100 mL) was added triethyl orthoformate (2.23 mL, 13.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv), ethylene glycol (1.14 mL, 22.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and PTSA•H<sub>2</sub>O (213 mg, 1.12 mmol, 0.1 equiv) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After completion, the mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (30 mL) and extracted with DCM (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL), brine (20 mL) and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The residue can be used directly for the next step without further purification.

To a solution of the residue in *i*-PrOH/H<sub>2</sub>O = 50 mL/5 mL, tetramethylammonium hydroxide (5.5 mL, 25% w/w solution in H<sub>2</sub>O, 12.0 mmol, 1.1 equiv) was added at room temperature. The reaction mixture was heated to 40 °C in an oil bath and stirred for 12 h. After completion, the solution was extracted with DCM ( $2 \times 20$  mL). The organic phase was discarded and the water phase was acidified with 2 N aq. HCl at 0 °C to pH = 2, and extracted with DCM ( $3 \times 50$  mL). The combined organic layer were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under vacuum to give acid **13** (1.97 g, 65% yield in two steps) as a colorless oil, which is a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers, and can be separated by flash column

chromatography (PE:EA = 2:1) to afford **13a** and **13b**. Compound **13a**:  $R_f = 0.40$  (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 1:1, PMA). [*a*]**25 D** = + 2.4 (c = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film, *v* cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2974, 2925, 2857, 1726, 1713, 1453, 1374, 1292, 1211, 1113, 966; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $C_{13}H_{18}NaO_6^+$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 293.0996; found: 293.0998. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 5.86 - 5.77$  (m, 1H), 5.37 - 5.31 (m, 1H), 4.88 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.29 - 4.24 (m, 2H), 4.01 - 3.98 (m, 2H), 3.90 - 3.81 (m, 2H), 2.83 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.68 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm.<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 170.6$ , 169.4, 131.6, 123.7, 102.4, 65.1, 65.0, 62.4, 37.9, 36.7, 35.7, 17.9, 13.8 ppm. Compound **13b**:  $R_f = 0.30$  (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 1:1, PMA). [*a*]**25 D** = - 6.4 (c = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film, *v* cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2964, 2922, 2853, 1722, 1445, 1374, 1266, 1096, 1022, 800; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $C_{13}H_{18}NaO_6^+$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 293.0996; found: 293.0998. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 5.88 - 5.79$  (m, 1H), 5.34 - 5.24 (m, 1H), 5.09 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.35 - 4.18 (m, 2H), 4.05 - 3.98 (m, 2H), 3.92 - 3.83 (m, 2H), 2.95 (t, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 2.48 - 2.44 (m, 1H), 1.68 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 170.7$ , 169.6, 132.2, 123.9, 101.8, 65.1, 65.1, 62.6, 37.8, 37.6, 37.0, 18.0, 14.0 ppm.

# 1-ethyl 1-((1R,6S)-6-isopropyl-3-methyl-4-oxocyclohex-2-en-1-yl) (1R,2R,3R)-2-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)-3-((E)-prop-1-en-1-yl)cyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylate (14a) and 1-ethyl 1-((1R,6S)-6-isopropyl-3-methyl-4-oxocyclohex-2-en-1-yl) (1S,2R,3R)-2-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)-3-((E)-prop-1-en-1-yl)cyclopropane-1,1-dicarboxylate (14b):

To a solution of **13a** (576 mg, 2.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv), alcohol **6** (430 mg, 2.56 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and PPh<sub>3</sub> (1.9 g, 4.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in THF, was added DEAD (0.66 mL, 4.2 mmol, 2.0 equiv) dropwise at 0 °C. Then the reaction mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched by the addition of a saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (10 mL), and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (4 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (5 mL), dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate = 20:1) to give **14a** (767 mg, 87% yield) as a colorless oil. Compound **14a**: R<sub>f</sub> = 0.60 (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 4:1, UV & PMA). [*a*]**25** D = + 261 (c = 0.6, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film, *v* cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2964, 2925, 1724, 1683, 1459, 1370, 1285, 1204, 1110, 1051, 907; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>32</sub>NaO<sub>7</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 443.2040; found: 443.2041; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 6.86 – 6.78 (m, 1H), 5.81 – 5.71 (m, 1H), 5.41 (dd, *J* = 5.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.10 – 5.01 (m, 1H), 4.65 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.20 – 4.02 (m, 2H), 4.00 – 3.93 (m, 2H), 3.85 – 3.73 (m, 2H), 2.69 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (dd, *J* =

16.9, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (dd, J = 16.9, 12.8 Hz, 1H), 2.27 – 2.19 (m, 1H), 1.77 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 3H), 1.75 –1.70 (m, 1H), 1.60 (dd, J = 6.6, 1.4 Hz, 3H), 1.24 – 1.17 (m, 1H), 1.10 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.86 (dd, J = 13.2, 6.6 Hz, 6H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 199.3$ , 166.9, 166.4, 138.9, 138.6, 130.8, 124.0, 102.2, 67.7, 65.1, 65.0, 61.7, 44.5, 39.3, 37.6, 33.6, 32.0, 28.2, 20.2, 19.8, 17.9, 15.4, 13.8 ppm.

Compound **14b** was prepared through the same procedure from **13b** in 84% yield as a colorless oil. Compound **14b**:  $R_f = 0.70$  (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 4:1, UV & PMA). [*a*]**25 D** = + 40 (c = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film, *v* cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2965, 2926, 1727, 1684, 1459, 1371, 1286, 1205, 1110, 1051, 908; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $C_{23}H_{32}NaO_7^+$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 443.2040; found: 443.2041; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 6.89$  (dd, *J* = 5.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.81 – 5.72 (m, 1H), 5.43 – 5.42 (m, 1H), 5.15 – 5.06(m, 1H), 4.64 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.14 – 4.04 (m, 2H), 4.00 – 3.93 (m, 2H), 3.85 – 3.72 (m, 2H), 2.68 – 2.59 (m, 2H), 2.41 – 2.29 (m, 1H), 2.27 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 1.64 – 1.62 (m, 3H), 1.29 – 1.20 (m, 1H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 6H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 199.5$ , 166.9, 166.6, 138.8, 138.7, 130.8, 123.7, 102.3, 68.1, 65.1, 64.9, 61.6, 44.8, 39.1, 37.6, 33.8, 31.7, 28.1, 20.3, 20.0, 17.9, 15.5, 14.0 ppm.

# ethyl (2a*R*,2a<sup>1</sup>*R*,3*R*,4*R*,4a*R*,7*S*,7a*R*)-3-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)-7-isopropyl-4a-methyl-2,5-dioxo-4-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1-yl)octahydroindeno[7,1-bc]furan-2a(2H)-carboxylate (15):

A flame dried three-necked round-bottom flask containing solution of mixture **14** (100 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in toluene (20 mL) was heated to 120 °C in an oil bath under N<sub>2</sub>. Then a solution of PhSH (31  $\mu$ L, 0.3 mmol, 1.2 equiv) and AIBN (50 mg, 0.3 mmol, 0.3 equiv) in toluene (10 mL) was added dropwise by syringe pump over 5 h at 120 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at the same temperature for an additional 30 min. After cooling to ambient temperature, the solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1) to give the desired product **15** (37 mg, 37%, *dr* = 5:1) as a crystalline solid. Compound **15** (major): R<sub>f</sub> = 0.40 (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 4:1, KMnO<sub>4</sub>). m.p.: 146.1-148.2 °C. [*a*]**25 D** = + 18 (c = 1.0, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film, *v* cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2968, 2916, 2850, 1774, 1733, 1710, 1022; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>32</sub>NaO<sub>7</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 443.2040; found: 443.2041; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 5.95 – 5.86 (m, 1H), 5.46 – 5.36 (m, 1H), 5.24 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 4.30 – 4.21 (m, 2H), 4.00 – 3.92 (m, 2H), 3.88 – 3.73 (m, 2H), 3.23 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.68 – 2.54 (m, 2H), 2.44 (dd, *J* = 11.9, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.17 – 1.99 (m, 2H), 1.78 (dd, *J* = 11.3, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (dd, *J* = 6.4, 1.6 Hz, 3H), 1.36 – 1.25 (m, 6H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.95 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  =

212.0, 174.0, 168.7, 128.8, 127.5, 104.0, 75.0, 65.3, 64.3, 62.5, 62.4, 58.9, 57.3, 55.7, 52.4, 43.4, 38.2, 30.4, 23.0, 20.6, 20.4, 17.8, 13.9 ppm.

#### General procedure of [3+2] annulation under visible light irradiation conditions.

To a stirred solution of compound 19<sup>3a</sup> (110 mg, 0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and *p*-toluidine (13.4 mg, 0.12 mmol, 0.5 equiv), Ir(dF(CF<sub>3</sub>)ppy)<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)PF<sub>6</sub> (0.5 mol %) in dry MeCN (15 mL) under argon atmosphere was added a solution of aryl or alkyl thiols (0.27 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in dry MeCN (5 mL) dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature at a distance of approximately 3 cm from blue LED strips ( $\lambda_{max} = 465$  nm, 0.5m, 11.52W/m). Upon completion of the reaction, the solution was washed with aq. NaOH solution (10%, 5 mL) to remove unreacted thiol. The aqueous layers were extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O ( $4 \times 10$  mL), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine (5 mL), and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc = 10:1) to give the desired product 20 as a colorless oil. The yields are shown in the table 4. Compound **20**:  $R_f = 0.40$  (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 4:1, KMnO<sub>4</sub>);  $[\alpha]$  25 D = - 48 (c = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film, v cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2965, 2922, 1781, 1748, 1733, 1683, 1260, 1065, 1011, 771; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>36</sub>NaO<sub>7</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 459.2353; found: 459.2353. <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(400 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta = 5.30 - 5.10 \text{ (m, 2H)}, 4.80 \text{ (s, 1H)}, 4.78 \text{ (s, 1H)}, 3.86 - 3.76 \text{ (m, 4H)}, 3.67 \text{ (dq}, J$ = 14.1, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.45 (dq, J = 14.2, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (dd, J = 12.6, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (t, J = 14.3 Hz, 1H), 2.41 – 2.30 (m, 2H), 1.92 – 1.77 (m, 1H), 1.65 (dd, J = 6.1, 1.1 Hz, 3H), 1.63 - 1.60 (m, 1H), 1.15 - 1.09 (m, 9H), 1.02 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H) ppm.  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{}$ NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 208.9, 173.0, 170.5, 128.2, 127.0, 104.1, 76.4, 65.3, 64.8, 63.8, 58.5, 56.0, 53.6, 53.2, 52.7, 45.8, 35.0, 30.2, 29.9, 20.7, 20.5, 18.1, 15.4, 15.3 ppm.

# (2a*R*,2a<sup>1</sup>*S*,3*S*,4*S*,4a*R*,7*S*,7a*R*)-7-isopropyl-4a-methyl-2,5-dioxo-4-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1yl)decahydroindeno[7,1-bc]furan-3-carbaldehyde (21a) and (2a*R*,2a1*S*,3*R*,4*S*,4a*R*,7*S*,7a*R*)-7-

isopropyl-4a-methyl-2,5-dioxo-4-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1-yl)decahydroindeno[7,1-bc]furan-3-

#### carbaldehyde (21b):

To a solution of compound **20** (218 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in DMAc (5.0 ml) and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.05 mL, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv) was added NaI (375 mg, 2.5 mmol, 5.0 equiv). Then the sealed tube was heated to 160  $^{\circ}$ C in oil bath and stirred for 12 hours under N<sub>2</sub>. After completion, the mixture was diluted with 20 mL Et<sub>2</sub>O and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (5 ×10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (10 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by a flash column

chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc = 6:1) to give the aldehyde **21a** (58 mg, 38% yield) as a colorless crystal and aldehyde **21b** (36 mg, 24% yield) as a white solid.

Optimized procedure: To a solution of 20 (0.87 g, 2.0 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in *i*-PrOH (20 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL) was added Me<sub>4</sub>NOH (25% w/w solution in H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.84 mL, 2.2 mmol, 1.1 equiv) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. After completion, the solution was acidified by the slow addition of 2 N aq. HCl solution at  $0 \,^{\circ}$ C until pH = 2. The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM ( $3 \times 20$  mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in toluene and heated to 120 °C for 4 h under N<sub>2</sub>. After cooling to room temperature, THF (5 mL) and 2 N aq. HCl solution (2 mL) was added to the solution and stirred for 2 h. After completion, the mixture was quenched with a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 20$  mL). The combined organic layers were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), brine (10 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by a flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc = 6:1) to give the aldehyde **21a** (0.54 g, 90% yield in 2 steps) as a colorless crystal. Compound **21a**:  $R_f = 0.35$  (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 2:1, PMA);  $[\alpha]25 D = -65 (c = 0.5, CHCl_3); m.p.:$ 138.9–140.2 °C; IR (thin film, v cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2993, 2917, 2851, 1762, 1726, 1693, 1276, 1204; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $C_{18}H_{25}O_4^+$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 305.1747; found: 305.1748. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone)  $\delta = 9.76$ (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 5.48 - 5.39 (m, 1H), 5.25 - 5.14 (m, 1H), 5.06 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (t, J = 8.1 Hz)Hz, 1H), 3.15 – 3.03 (m, 2H), 2.99 (dd, J = 12.1, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (t, J = 14.3 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (dd, J = 14.5, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 1.92 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.84 – 1.76 (m, 1H), 1.61 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 3H), 1.04 (s, 3H), 1.03 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (125 MHz, Acetone)  $\delta = 210.1, 201.6,$ 177.4, 130.1, 127.2, 79.7, 56.4, 56.0, 53.6, 50.8, 49.9, 46.7, 35.6, 31.2, 21.2, 21.0, 20.7, 18.4 ppm.

Compound **21b**:  $R_f = 0.6$  (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 2:1, PMA). [ $\alpha$ ]25 D = 86 (c = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); m.p.: 87.4–93.0 °C; IR (thin film, *v* cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2995, 2918, 2853, 1765, 1727, 1695, 1207; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $C_{18}H_{25}O_4^+$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup>: 305.1747; found: 305.1748; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone)  $\delta$  = 9.63 (d, *J* = 0.4 Hz, 1H), 5.76 – 5.61 (m, 1H), 5.26 – 5.13 (m, 2H), 3.93 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dd, *J* = 12.1, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.72 – 2.62 (m, 1H), 2.24 – 2.12 (m, 2H), 1.75 – 1.67 (m, 1H), 1.65 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 1.6 Hz, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, Acetone)  $\delta$  = 211.3, 199.0, 177.8, 130.4, 125.7, 76.0, 57.8, 56.4, 51.6, 50.3, 43.5, 42.7, 35.9, 30.4, 20.3, 19.8, 19.6, 17.0 ppm.

# (2a*R*,2a<sup>1</sup>*S*,3*R*,4*S*,4a*R*,7*S*,7a*R*)-7-isopropyl-4a-methyl-3-(3-methylpent-4-enoyl)-4-((*E*)-prop-1-en-1-yl)octahydroindeno[7,1-bc]furan-2,5-dione (22b):

To a flame-dried flask under N<sub>2</sub> containing Ni(acac)<sub>2</sub> (51.4 mg, 0.2 mmol, 0.2 equiv) was introduced a solution of aldehyde 21b (304 mg, 1.0 mmol 1.0 equiv) in THF (10 mL) and isoprene (0.4 mL, 4.0 mmol, 4.0 equiv) via syringe at room temperature. Then Et<sub>2</sub>Zn (1 M in hexane, 2.4 mL, 2.4 mmol, 2.4 equiv) was added dropwise at 0 °C.<sup>[6]</sup> The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 h, during which the reaction was monitored by TLC. After dilution with ethyl acetate (10 mL), the mixture was washed successively with aq. HCl solution (1N, 10 mL), saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL), brine (10 mL) and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under vacuum. The residual oil was used directly for the next step without further purification. To a solution of this crude alcohol in DCM (10 mL) was added NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (0.42 g, 5.0 mmol, 5.0 equiv) and Dess-Martin periodinane (2.54 g, 6.0 mmol, 1.2 equiv) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 h at room temperature. After completion, the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give compound **22b** (332 mg, 94% yield for 2 steps) as a viscous oil. Compound **22b**:  $R_f = 0.50$  (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 2:1, PMA);  $[\alpha]25 D = -110 (c = 0.5, CHCl_3);$ IR (thin film, v cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2961, 2930, 2880, 2853, 1771, 1710, 1372, 1120; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $C_{23}H_{32}NaO_4^+$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 395.2193; found: 395.2197; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 5.80 - 5.69$  (m, 1H), 5.62 - 5.51 (m, 1H), 5.05 - 4.90 (m, 4H), 4.04 (dd, J = 10.8, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 3.58 (dd, J = 11.0, 6.9Hz, 1H), 3.15 - 3.01 (m, 2H), 2.75 - 2.62 (m, 2H), 2.49 (dd, J = 17.2, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.35 - 2.18 (m, 2H), 2.02 - 1.93 (m, 1H), 1.84 - 1.73 (m, 1H), 1.63 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 3H), 1.09 (s, 3H), 1.05 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta = 212.4$ , 204.9, 178.2, 142.9, 131.0, 125.1, 113.0, 75.7, 57.8, 57.5, 53.5, 49.9, 49.4, 45.0, 42.9, 36.3, 32.5, 30.3, 22.0, 20.7, 20.4, 19.7, 17.8 ppm.

## (2a*R*,2a<sup>1</sup>*S*,3*S*,5a*R*,5b*S*,10a*R*,10b*R*)-3-isopropyl-5a,8-dimethyl-2a,2a1,3,4,5a,5b,8,9,10a,10bdecahydro-1H-cyclohepta[2,3]indeno[7,1-bc]furan-1,5,10-trione (23b):

To an N<sub>2</sub>-purged flask containing Grubbs II catalyst (100 mg, 0.12 mmol, 0.2 equiv) was introduced a solution of **22b** (220 mg, 0.6 mmol) in DCM via syringe. The solution was refluxed for 6 h. After completion, the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate = 8:1) to give **23b** (170 mg, 86% yield) as colorless viscous oil. Compound **23b**:  $R_f = 0.5$  (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 2:1, PMA); IR (thin film, *v* cm<sup>-1</sup>):

2961, 2922, 1765, 1695, 1168; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $C_{20}H_{26}NaO_4^+$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 353.1723; found: 353.1723; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 5.64 – 5.60 (m, 1H), 5.34 (dt, *J* = 11.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.93 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.09 – 2.99 (m, 1H), 2.98 – 2.88 (m, 2H), 2.61 (dd, *J* = 18.7, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.54 – 2.33 (m, 3H), 1.88 – 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.74 – 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.09 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.03 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.88 (s, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 211.0, 209.6, 179.4, 137.7, 125.3, 77.9, 56.6, 54.9, 53.1, 51.4, 49.2, 47.6, 45.5, 34.7, 30.0, 27.1, 21.5, 21.5, 20.5, 20.2 ppm.

## (2a*R*,2a<sup>1</sup>*S*,3*S*,5a*R*,5b*S*,10a*S*,10b*R*)-3-isopropyl-5a,8-dimethyldodecahydro-1Hcyclohepta[2,3]indeno[7,1-bc]furan-1,5,10-trione (24a):

To a Ar-purged flask containing Pd/C catalyst (12 mg, 20 wt%) was introduced a solution of **23a**<sup>3a</sup> (57.5 mg, 0.17 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in MeOH via syringe. The solution was bubbled with H<sub>2</sub> balloon and was stirred for 36 h under H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. After completion, the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate = 8:1) to give **24a** (45 mg, 85% yield) as a viscous oil. Compound **24a:** R<sub>f</sub> = 0.45 (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 2:1, PMA); [ $\alpha$ ]26 D = - 142 (c = 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (thin film, *v* cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2961, 2922, 2854, 1765, 1700, 1462, 1221, 1162, 1009; HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 355.1880; found: 355.1877; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 4.86 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.70 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 6.9 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 2.79 – 2.61 (m, 3H), 2.59 – 2.52 (m, 1H), 2.39 – 2.34 (m, 1H), 2.24 – 2.16 (m, 1H), 1.91 – 1.78 (m, 2H), 1.78 – 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.65 – 1.52 (m, 1H), 1.06 – 1.00 (m, 6H), 0.99 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.87 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 210.6, 176.9, 77.8, 57.7, 54.3, 51.3, 50.7, 50.2, 47.8, 46.0, 35.5, 34.7, 29.9, 29.6, 28.3, 22.6, 20.5, 20.2, 19.4, 17.2 ppm.

#### **Rh(III)-catalyzed double bond migration**

To a flame-dried microwave vial equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with RhCl<sub>3</sub>•3H<sub>2</sub>O (8.0 mg, 0.03 mmol, 0.2 equiv), capped with a rubber septum, and evacuated and backfilled with N<sub>2</sub> three times. Then a solution of compound **23b** (50.0 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in ethanol (3 mL) and DCM (0.5 mL) was added to the vial. The vial was heated to 100 °C in an oil bath for 5 h. After completion, the solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/ethyl acetate = 6:1) to give Pavidolide B (1) (42.5 mg, 85% yield) as colorless crystals. Pavidolide B (1):  $R_f = 0.40$  (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc = 2:1, UV);  $[\alpha]25 D = -146$  (c = 0.42, MeOH); mp : 179.6–180.9 °C; IR (thin film,  $v \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ): 2960, 2924, 1764, 1707, 1695, 1195, 1170; HRMS

(ESI): m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>NaO<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 353.1723; found: 353.1723; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta = 5.90$  (s, 1H), 4.98 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.71 (d, J = 9.0, 1H), 3.41 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 2.96 (dd, J = 9.0, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.59 – 2.52 (m, 1H), 2.50 – 2.43 (m, 2H) 2.33 (dd, J = 17.8, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (dd, J = 15.2, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 1.97 (s, 3H), 1.94 – 1.82 (m, 1H), 1.72 – 1.63 (m, 2H), 1.32 (dd, J = 24.7, 12.5 Hz, 1H), 0.98 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 0.81 (s, 3H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta = 211.5$ , 199.2, 179.9, 164.4, 128.3, 78.1, 59.2, 54.4, 53.8, 48.1, 46.8, 44.2, 34.7, 33.7, 30.2, 27.7, 26.3, 20.7, 20.7, 20.4 ppm.

#### ASSOCIATED CONTENT

**Supporting Information**. Additional experiments, NMR spectra, computational data, X-ray crystallography data and CIF files-are 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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