

Robert A. Holton

Career-In-Review (CIR)

Jenny M. Baxter (Leighton Group)

May 25, 2007

Synthesis Literacy Group

Columbia University Chemistry

Career Snapshot

1965 *B.S. at University of North Carolina*

1971 *Ph.D. at Florida State University (Adv. Martin Schwartz)*

1971-73 *Postdoc at Stanford University*

1973-78 *Assistant Professor at Purdue University*

1978-85 *Associate Professor at Virginia Tech*

1985-present *Professor at Florida State University*

Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder of Taxolog, Inc.

President and founder of MDS Research Foundation and

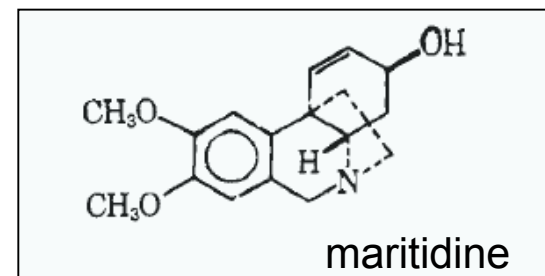
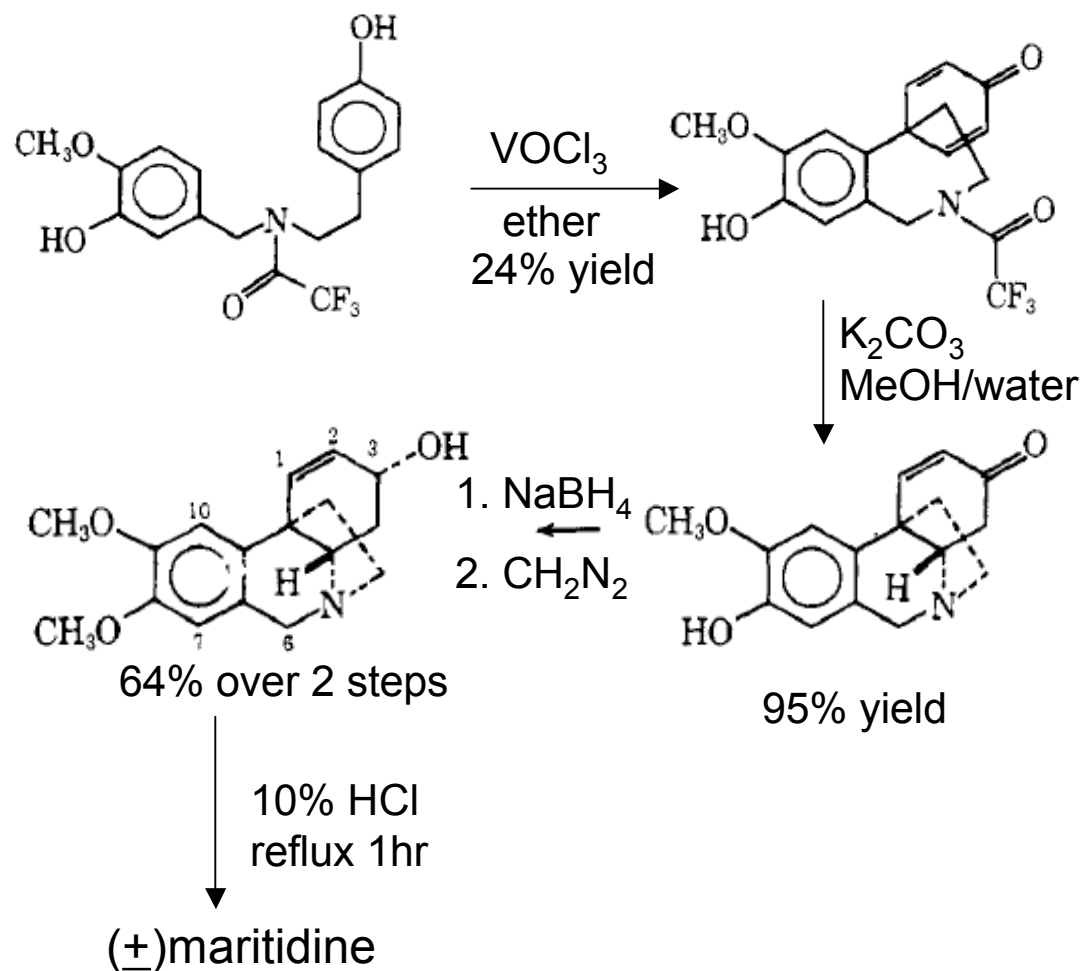
Syncure, Inc.

Baxter 2 - CU Synthesis Lit Group - Holton

Five Most Cited Papers (ISI Web of Science)

1. **HOLTON RA, SOMOZA C, KIM HB, et al.**
[FIRST TOTAL SYNTHESIS OF TAXOL .1. FUNCTIONALIZATION OF THE B-RING](#)
JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY 116 (4): 1597 -1598
FEB 23 1994
Times Cited: [398](#)
2. **HOLTON RA, KIM HB, SOMOZA C, et al.**
[FIRST TOTAL SYNTHESIS OF TAXOL .2. COMPLETION OF THE C -RING AND D-RING](#)
JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY 116 (4): 1599 -1600
FEB 23 1994
Times Cited: [328](#)
3. Rodi DJ, Janes RW, Sanganee HJ, et al.
[Screening of a library of phage -displayed peptides identifies human Bcl -2 as a taxol binding protein](#)
JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY 285 (1): 197 -203 JAN 8 1999
Times Cited: [107](#)
4. **HOLTON RA, JUO RR, KIM HB, et al.**
[A SYNTHESIS OF TAXUSIN](#)
JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY 110 (19): 6558 -6560
SEP 14 1988
Times Cited: [106](#)
5. **5. KRAFFT ME, HOLTON RA**
[REGIOSPECIFIC PREPARATION OF THERMODYNAMIC SILYL ENOL ETHERS USING BROMOMAGNESIUM DIALKYLAMIDES](#)
TETRAHEDRON LETTERS 24 (13): 1345 -1348 1983
Times Cited: [75](#)

Biogenetic synthesis of maritidine



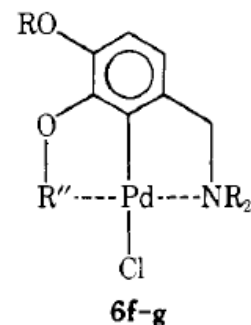
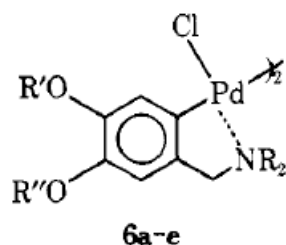
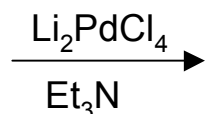
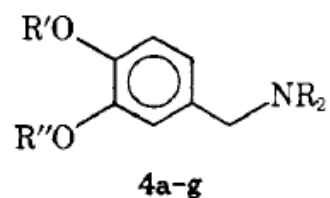
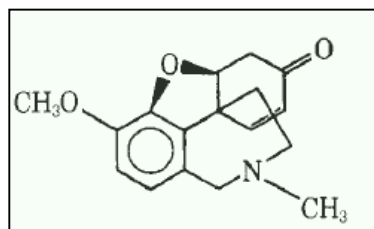
Key Points:

- Phenolic para coupling
- Second report of a biogenetic synthesis for this alkaloid class

Refs: JACS 1970, 92, 1090.
JACS 1969, 91, 2800.

Aromatic Palladation

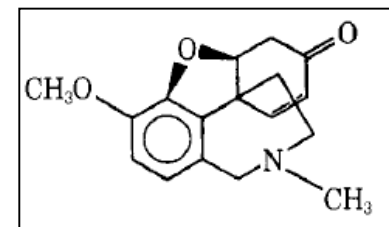
narwedine



Benzylic amine ⁸				Palladium complex ⁸			
No.	R	R'	R''	No.	6 isomer, % ^a	2 isomer, % ^a	% yield ^b
4a	C ₂ H ₅	-CH ₂ -		6a	100	0	98
4b	C ₂ H ₅	CH ₃	H	6b	100	0	95
4c	C ₂ H ₅	CH ₃	COCH ₃	6c	100	0	52
4d	C ₂ H ₅	CH ₃	CH ₂ OCH ₃	6d	100	0	85
4e	C ₂ H ₅	CH ₃	CH ₂ C ₆ H ₅	6e	100	0	58
4f⁹	C ₂ H ₅	CH ₃	CH ₂ SC ₆ H ₅	6f	0	100	42
4g¹⁰	C ₂ H ₅	CH ₃	CH ₂ SCH ₃	6g	0	100	95
4h¹¹				6h			93

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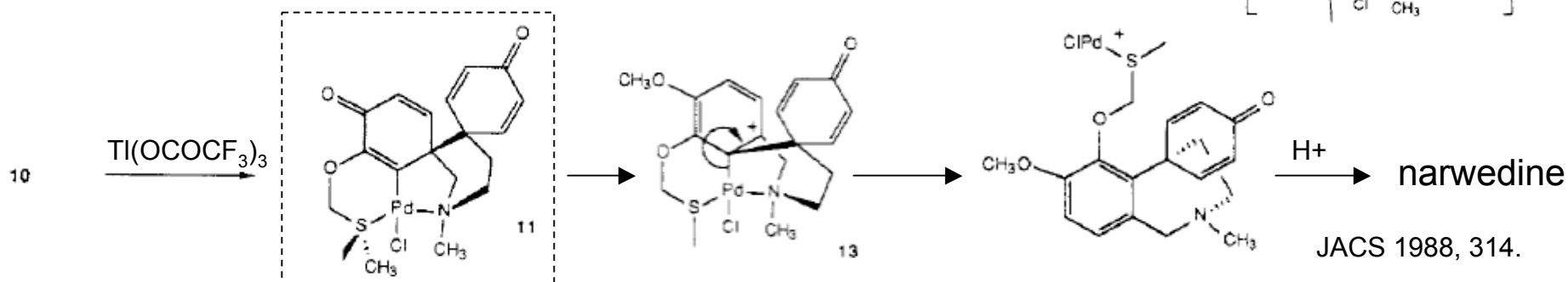
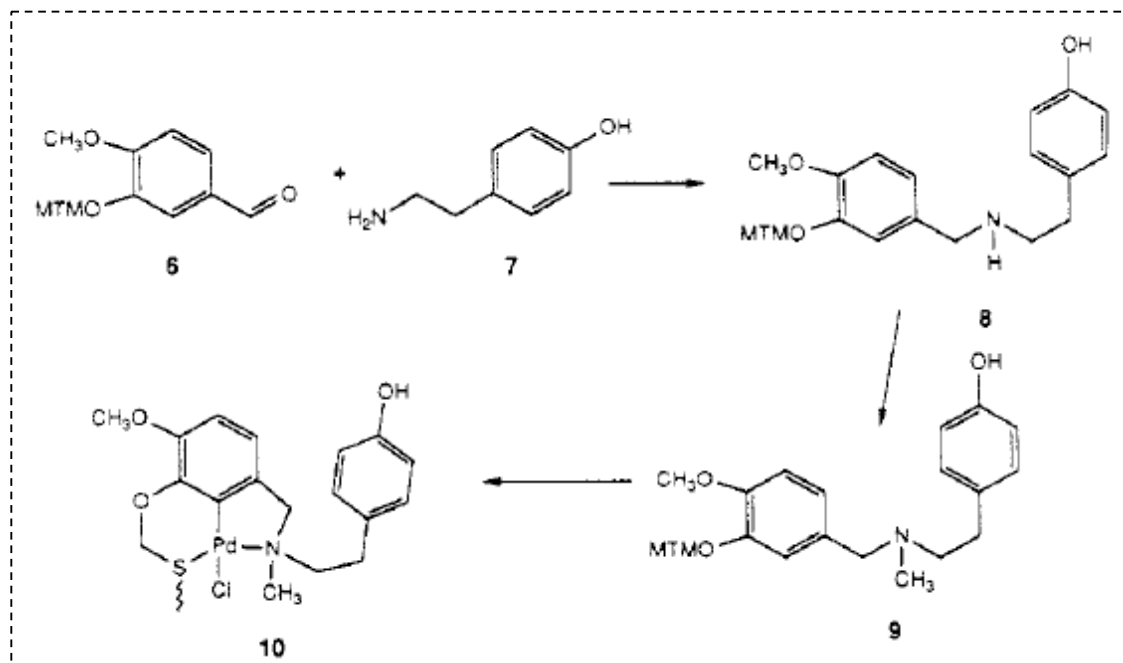
Synthesis of Narwedine



narwedine

Key Points:

- Ortho phenolic coupling
- Interesting rearrangement

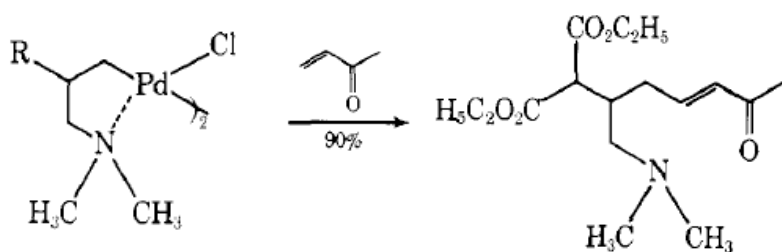
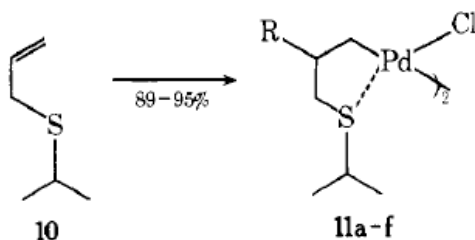
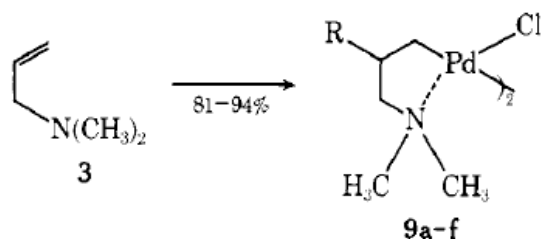


JACS 1988, 314.

Baxter 6 - CU Synthesis Lit Group - Holton

11 is obtained if reaction is quenched with water at low temp

Carbopalladation

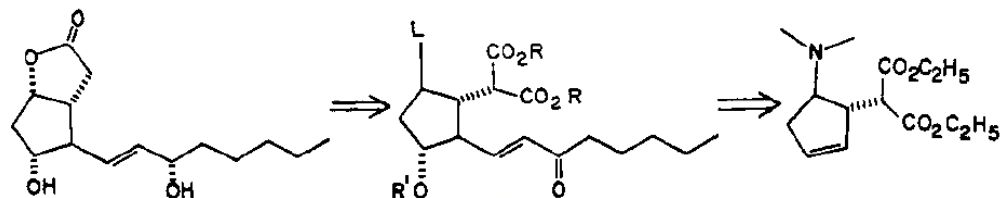
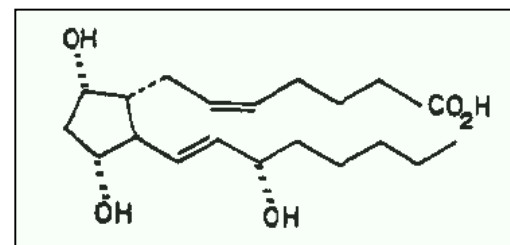


Nucleophile	Olefin	Palladium complex ¹¹	% yield ¹²
NaCH(COOC ₂ H ₅) ₂	3	9a	91
	10	11a	95
NaCH(COC ₆ H ₅) ₂	3	9b	89
	10	11b	93
NaCH(COCH ₃)CO ₂ C ₂ H ₅	3	9c	93
	10	11c	93
NaCH(CO ₂ CH ₃)CO ₂ CH ₃	3	9d	91
	10	11d	94
NaCH(COCH ₃)COC ₆ H ₅	3	9e	93
NaCHCOC ₆ H ₅	10	11e	92
NaC(CO ₂ C ₂ H ₅) ₂	3	9f	81
C ₂ H ₅	10	11f	89

Key Points:

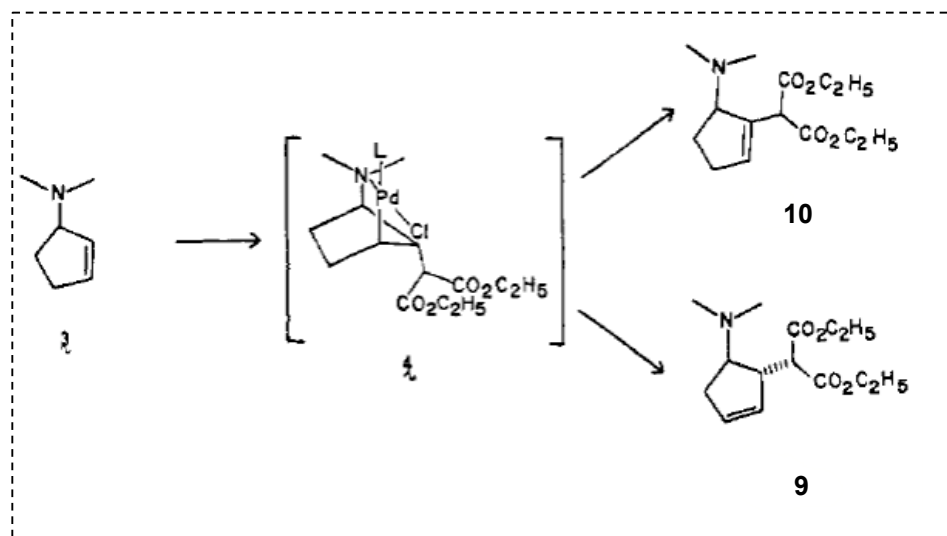
- Heteroatom directed activation of alkene
- Nice tandem functionalization of alkene

Prostaglandin

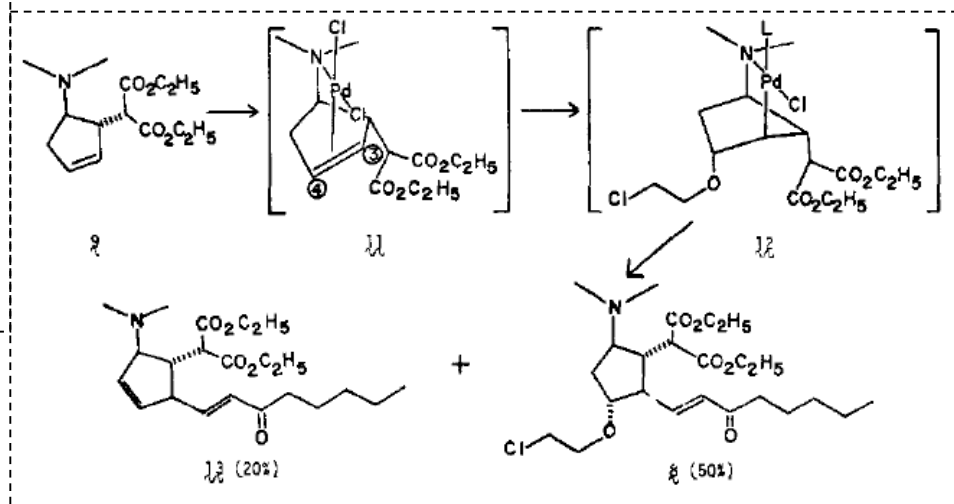


Key Points:

- Nitrogen chelate directed regiochemistry
- Relative stereochemistry directed by palladacycle



At 25°C: **10** is major product
 At 0°C: **9** is obtained in 92% yield

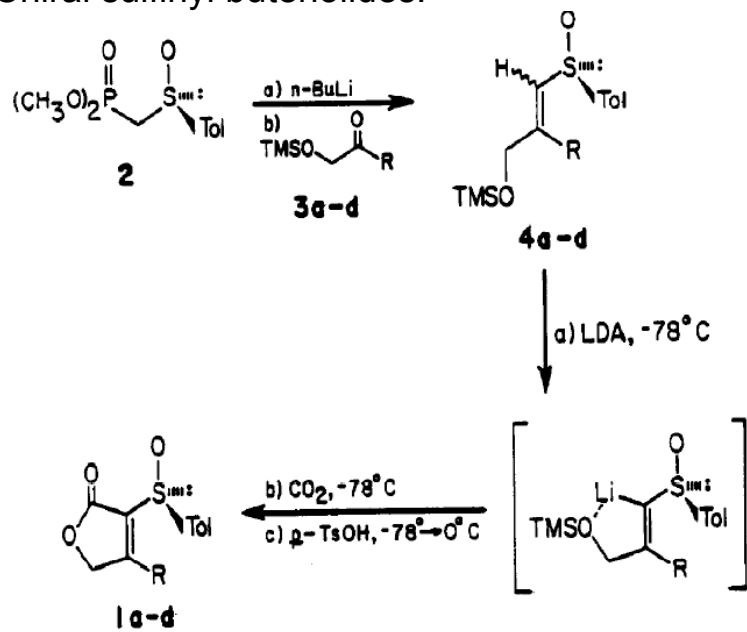


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JACS 1977, 8083.

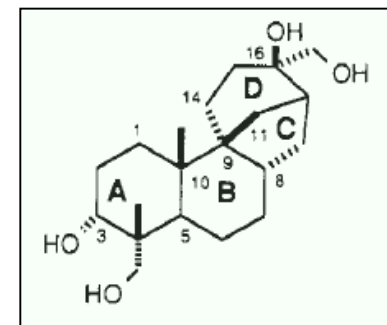
Enantioselective Synthesis of Aphidicolin

Chiral sulfinyl butenolides:

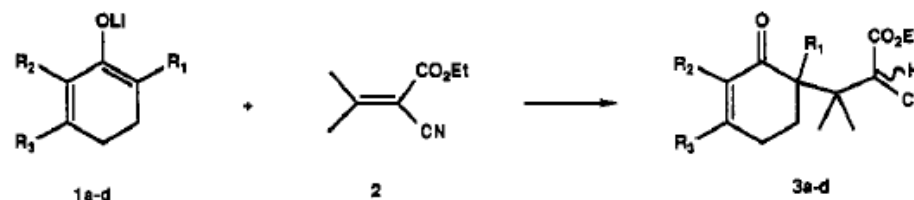


Key Points:

- Enantioselective preparation of 2-(*p*-tolylsulfinyl)-2-butenolides
- Formation of quaternary centers via Michael addition



Formation of vicinal quaternary centers:



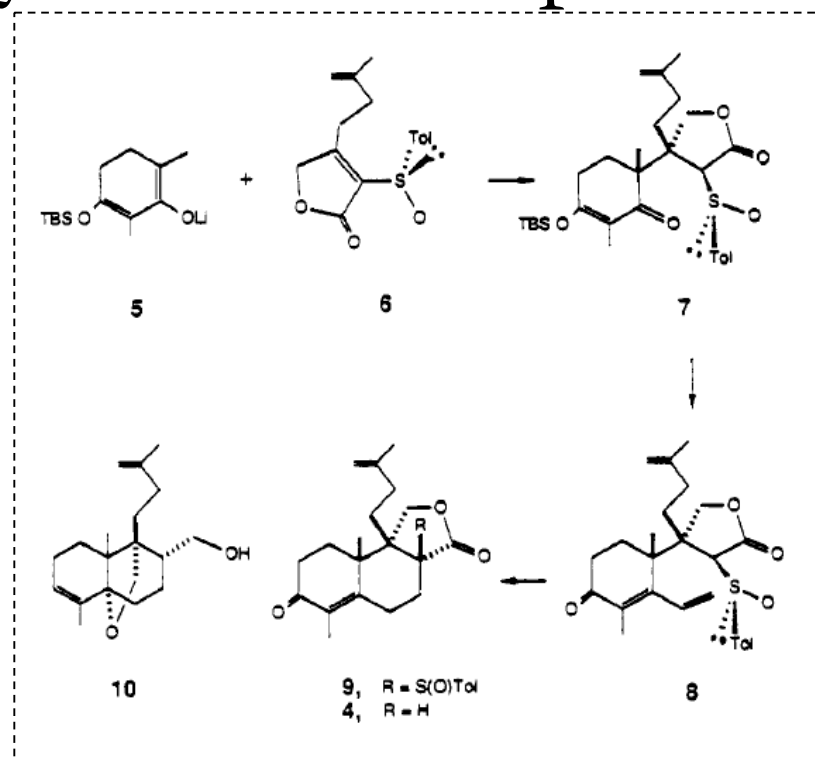
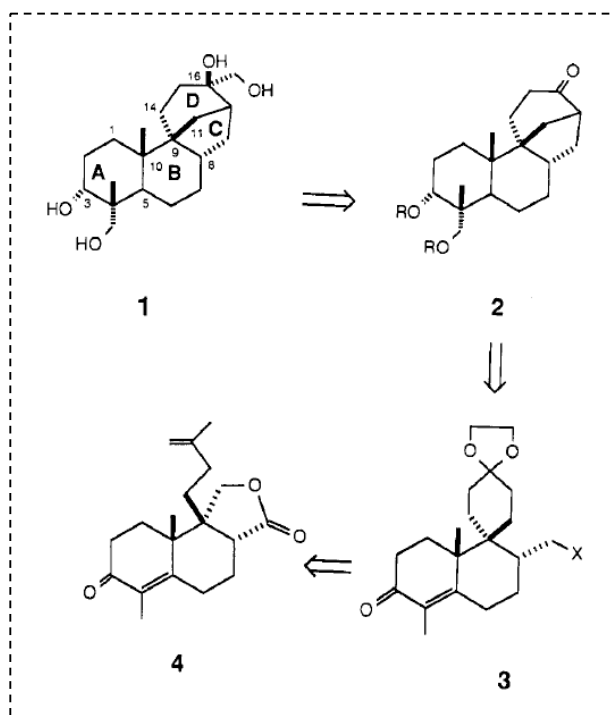
➤ Chiral sulfoxides prepared via of menthol sulfinates
-both enantiomers are readily available

➤ Two EWGs needed on Michael acceptor to overcome steric effects

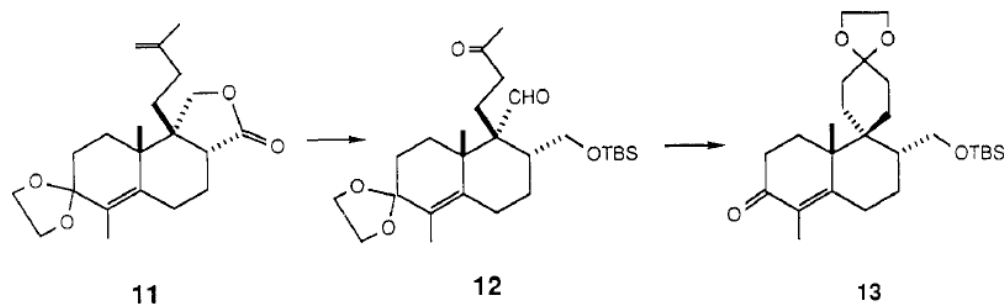
Refs: JOC 1986, 5480.
TL 1986, 2191.

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Enantioselective Synthesis of Aphidicolin

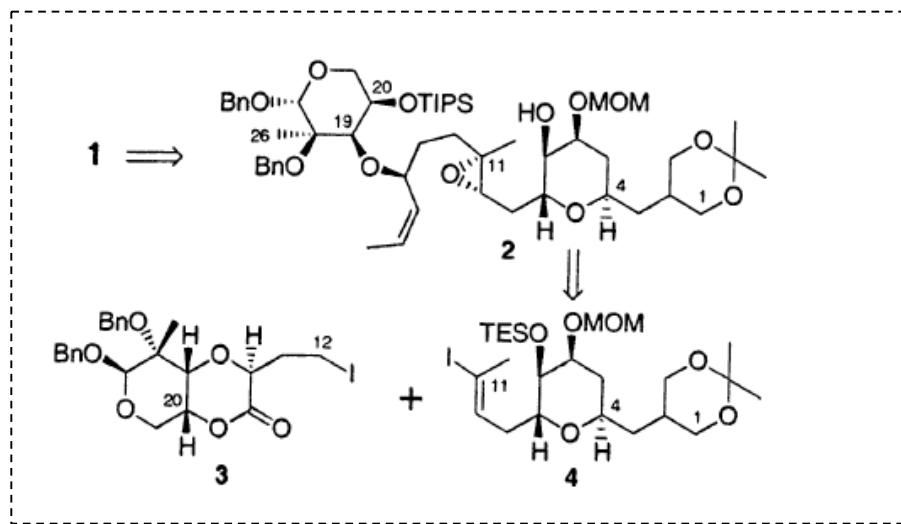


- Key Points:**
- Formation of quaternary centers via Michael addition
 - Tandem Michael reaction to form B ring



Baxter 10 - CU Synthesis Lit Group - Holton

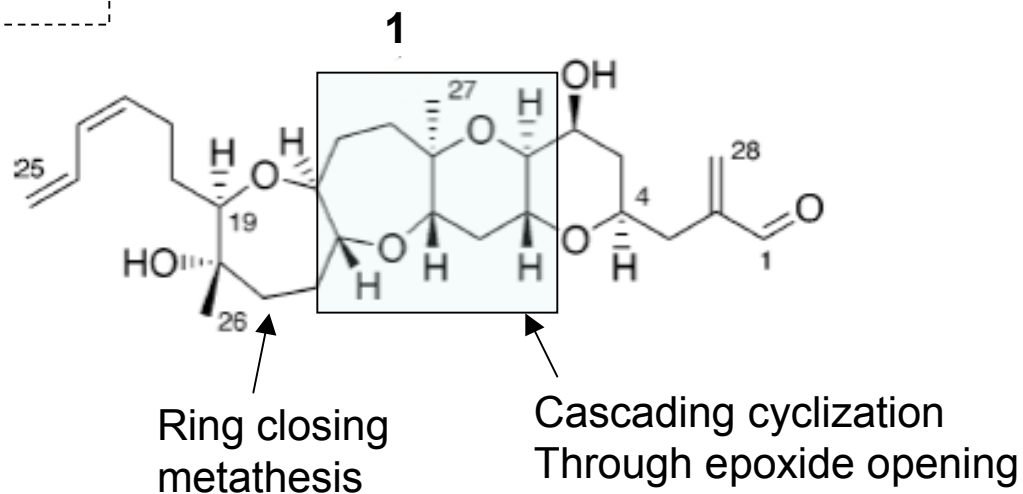
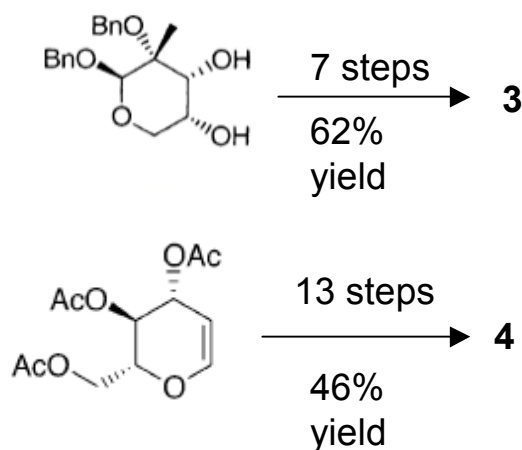
Total Synthesis of Hemibrevetoxin B



Key Points:

- First convergent synthesis
- Cascading cyclization as key step
- 6-endo epoxide opening

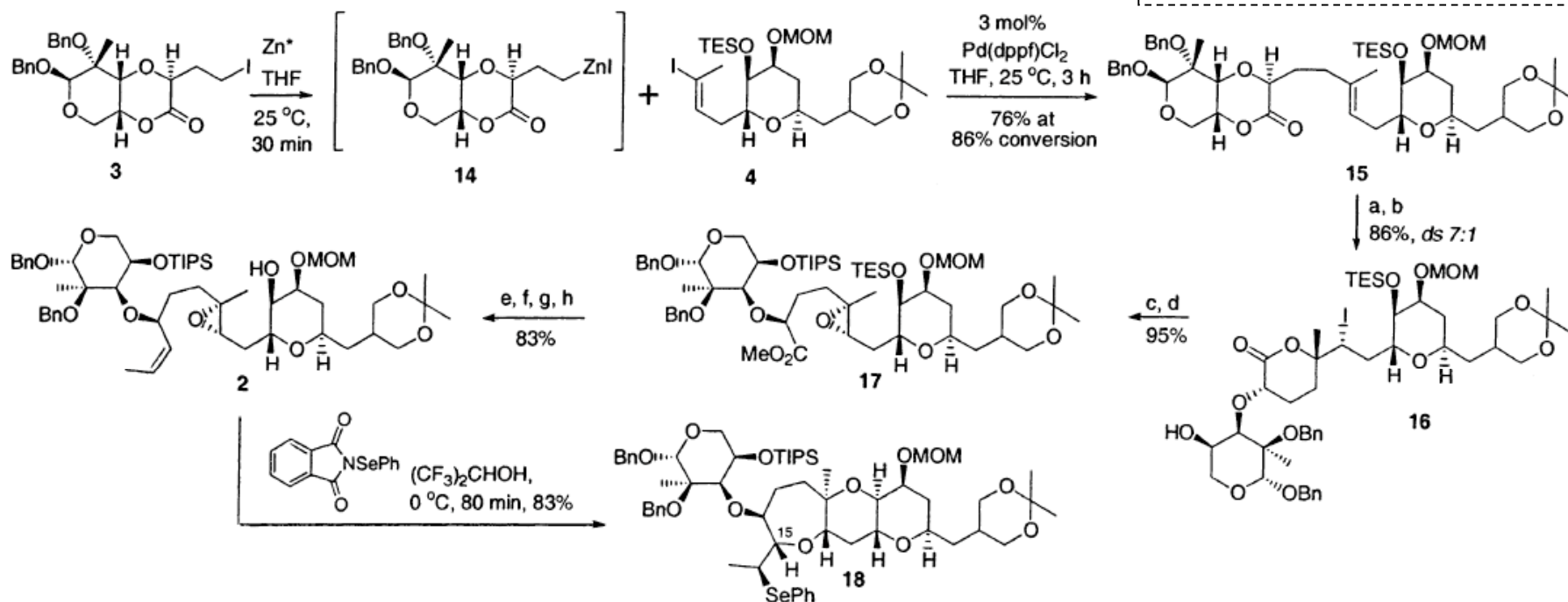
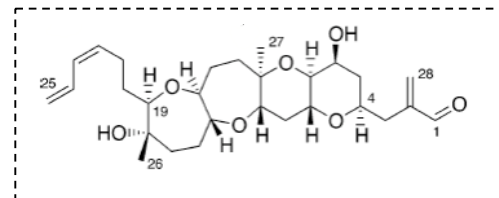
39 steps; 4% overall yield through longest linear sequence



Baxter 11 - CU Synthesis Lit Group - Holton

Ref: JACS 2003, 7822.

Total Synthesis of Hemibrevetoxin B

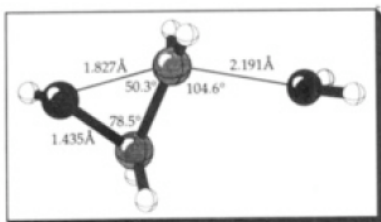


^a Conditions: (a) LiOH, THF–H₂O (2:1), 0 °C, 20 min; (b) NIS, 2,6-lutidine, CH₂Cl₂, –10 °C, 3 h; (c) TIPSOTf, 2,6-lutidine, *t*-BuOAc, –10 °C, 15 min; (d) 1.1 equiv of MeONa/MeOH, CH₂Cl₂, –35 °C, 1 h; (e) LiAlH₄, THF, –78 °C, 1 h; (f) (COCl)₂–DMSO, *i*-Pr₂NEt, –78 to 0 °C, 30 min; (g) Ph₃PEt⁺Br[–], NaHMDS, THF–DMPU (3:2), rt, 2 h; (h) 6 M aqueous HF–Py–MeCN, rt, 8 h.

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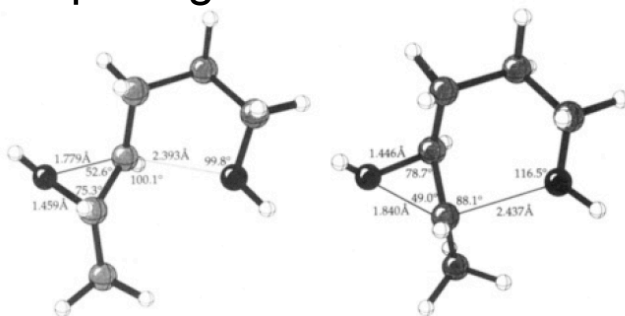
Total Synthesis of Hemibrevetoxin

Intermolecular epoxide opening



Ref: Houk *et al.* JACS, 1993, 8453.

Intramolecular epoxide opening



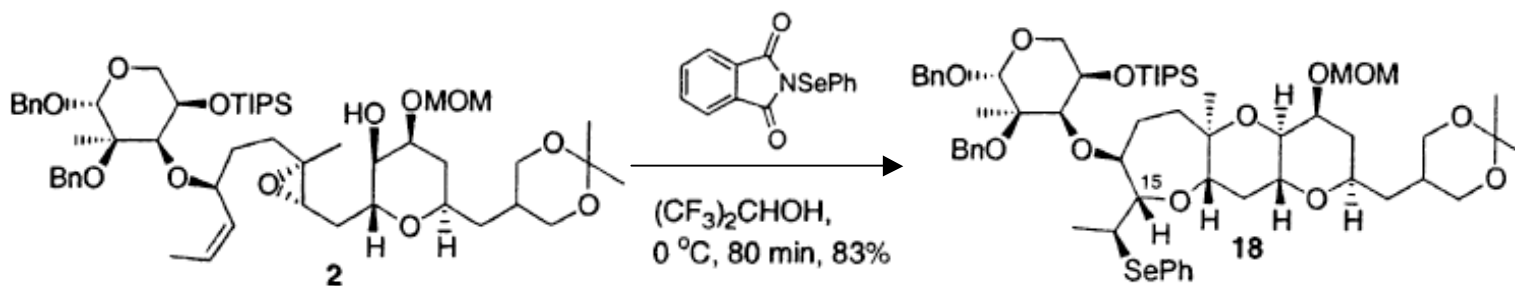
5-exo
Favored

6-endo
Disfavored

Key Points:

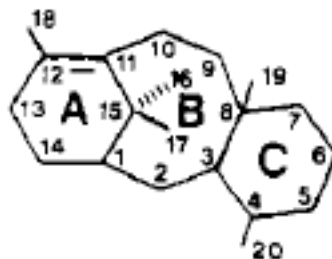
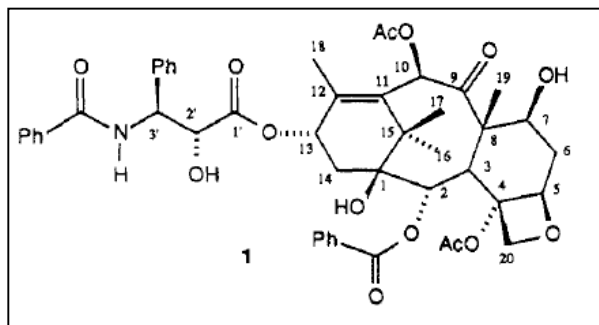
- Phenolic para coupling
- Second report of a biogenetic synthesis for this alkaloid class

Need 6-endo cyclization:



Baxter 13 - CU Synthesis Lit Group - Holton

Taxol Synthesis - Taxane Skeleton



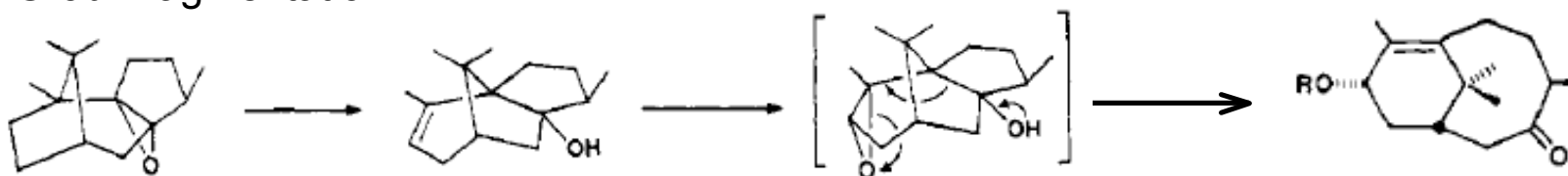
Key Points:

- Ring expansion via Grob fragmentation

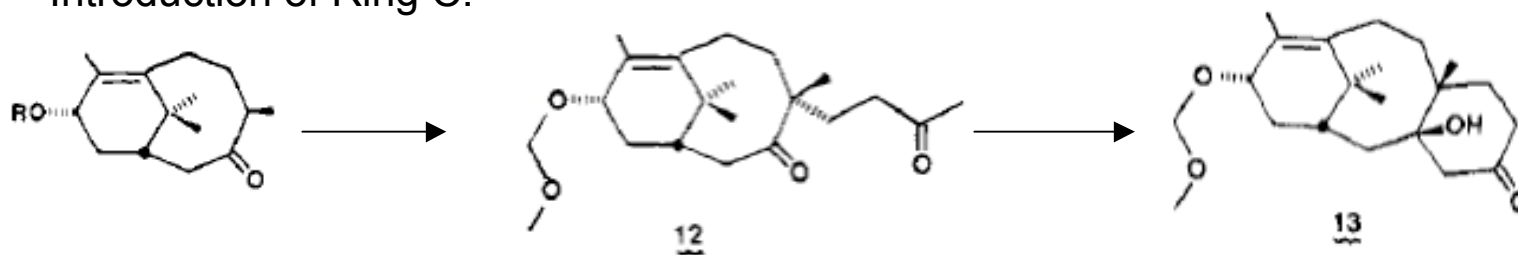
- Initial step toward taxol

5 chemical steps
53% overall yield

Grob Fragmentation:



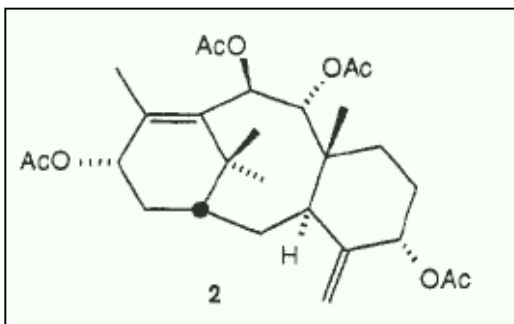
Introduction of Ring C:



Baxter 14 - CU Synthesis Lit Group - Holton

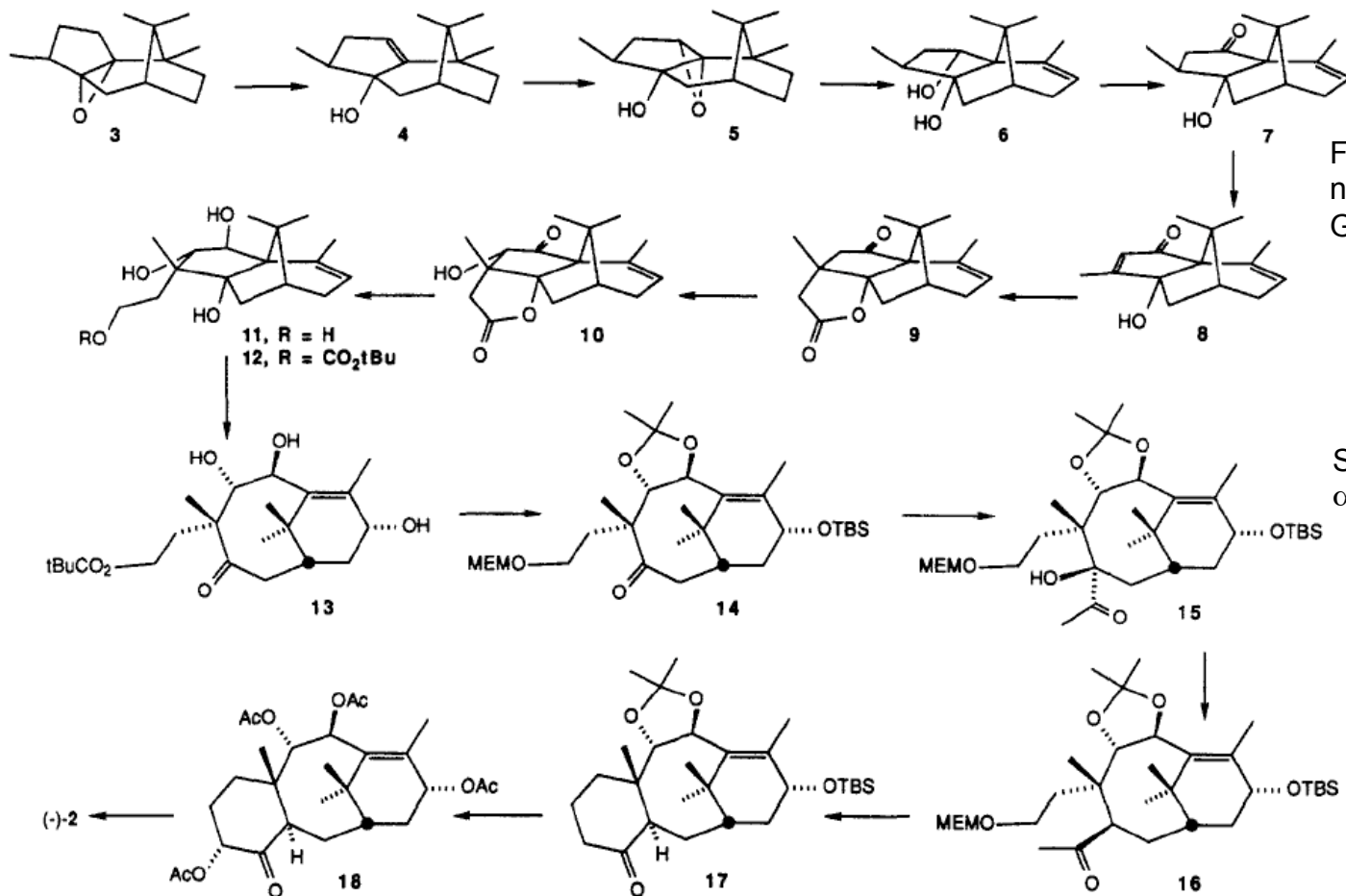
JACS 1984, 5731.

Synthesis of Taxusin



Key Points:

- Grob fragmentation effected on more functionalized substrate
- MEM ether directed alkylation



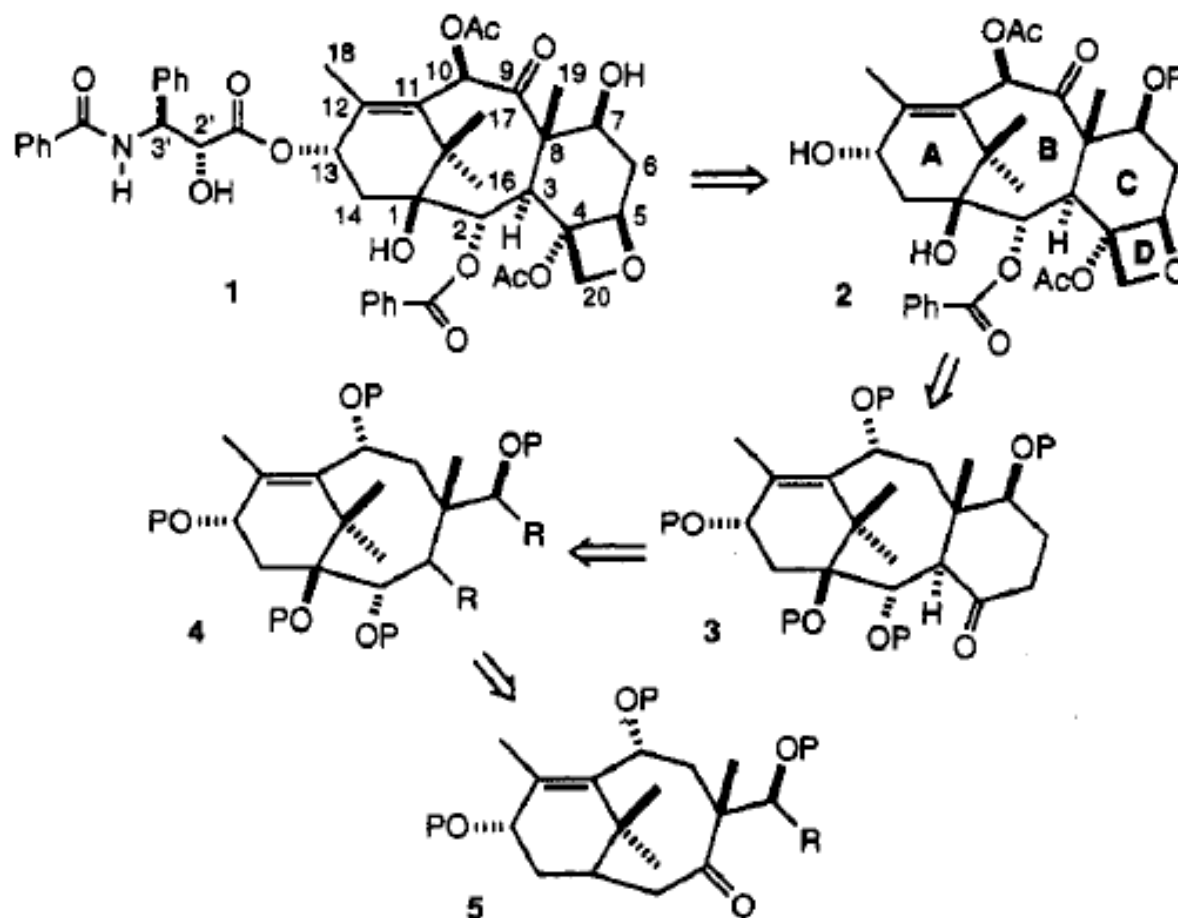
Functionality at C-6 and C-7 needed to be introduced before Grob fragmentation

Stereospecific addition of α -Methoxyvinyl lithium

in THF: 1:1 mixture
in hexane: >30:1

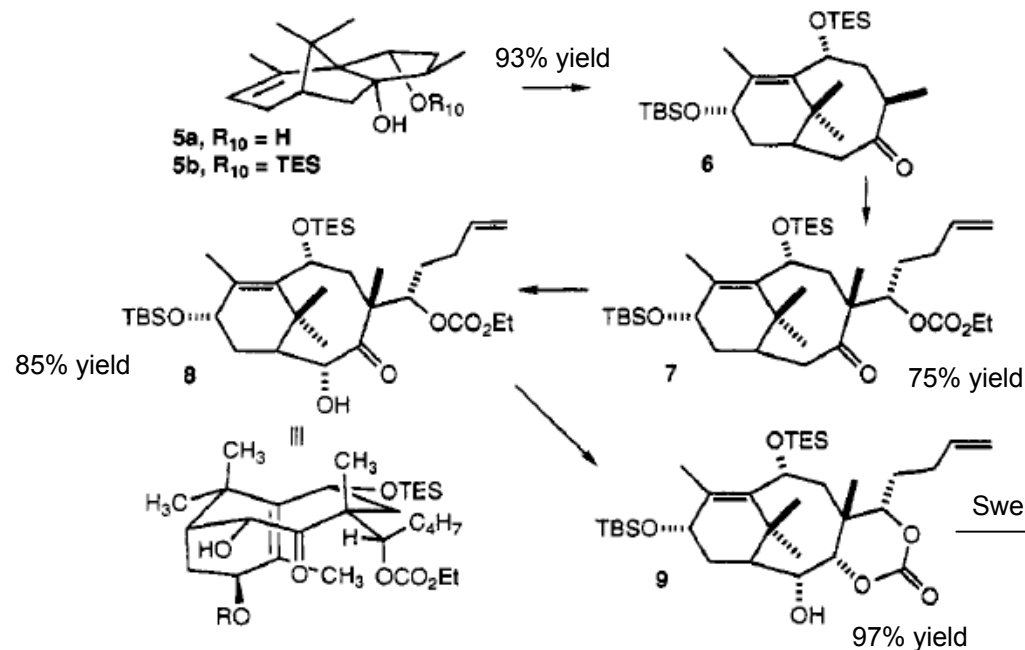
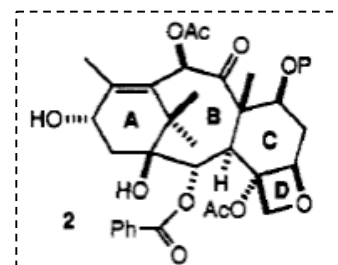
JACS 1988, 6559.

Total Synthesis of Taxol



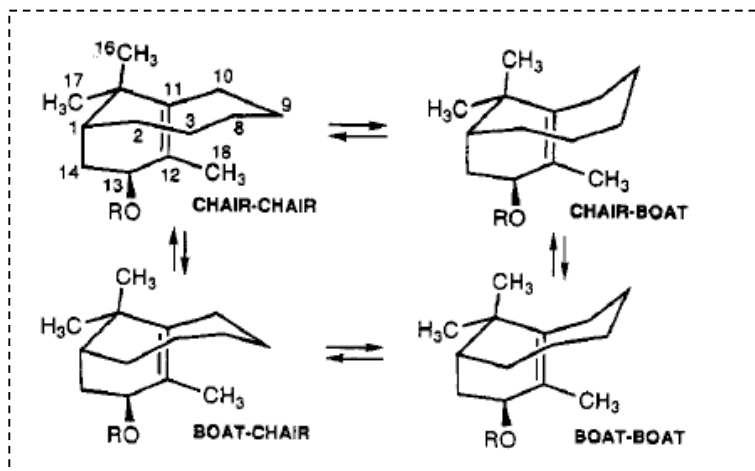
Baxter 16 - CU Synthesis Lit Group - Holton

Total Synthesis of Taxol



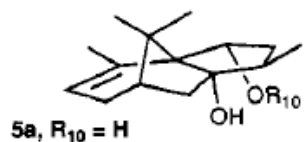
6 found to exist in chair-boat conformation
 -chair-chair and boat-chair
 only 2.5 kJ/mol less stable

7 is a 6:1 mixture of chair-chair and boat-chair conf.



Introduction of bridgehead hydroxyl requires
 boat-chair conformation

Total Synthesis of Taxol

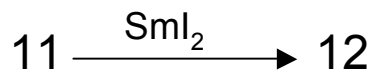
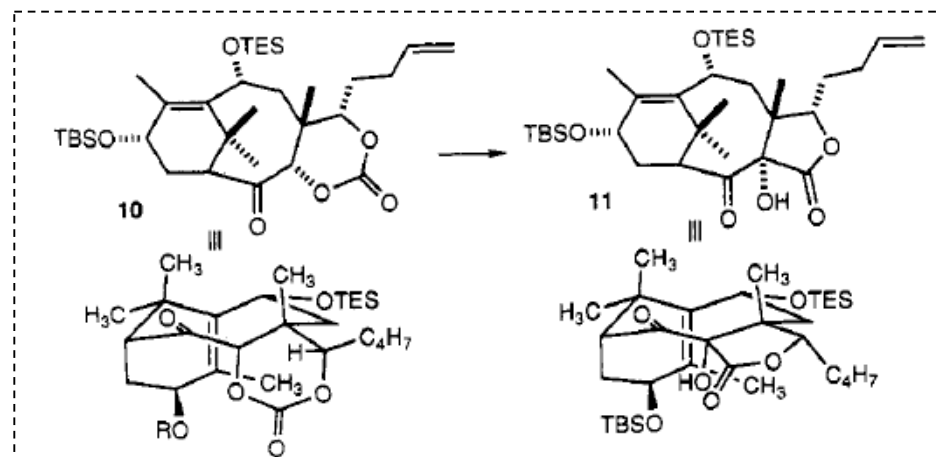


5a to 15: 12 steps
40% overall yield

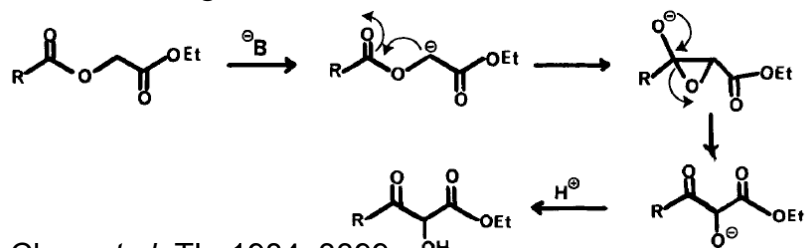
Key Points:

- First use of Chan rearrangement in a cyclic system

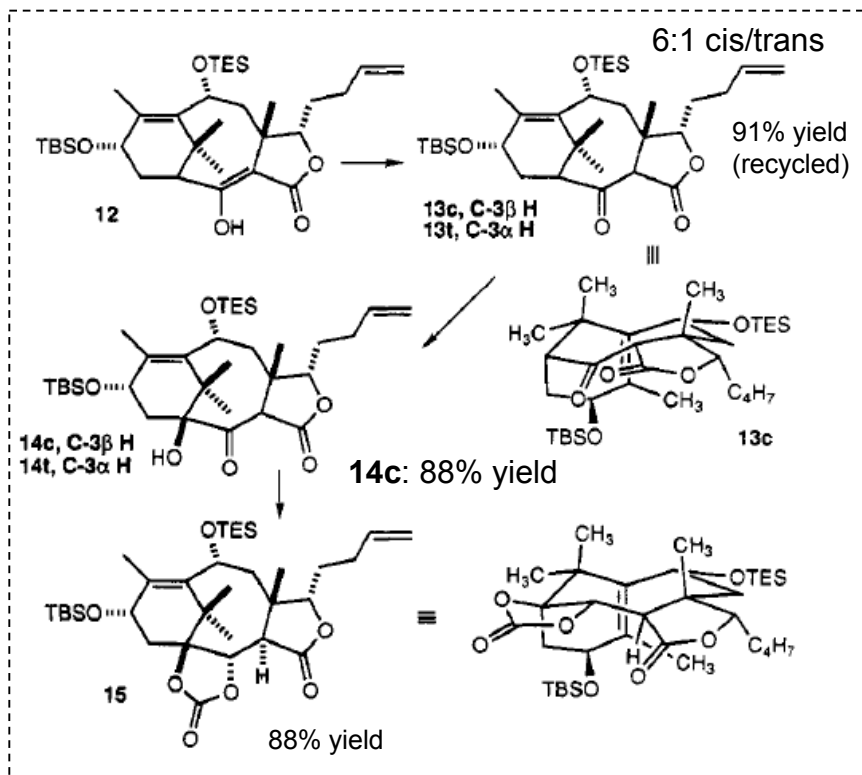
- Selective deprotonation



Chan rearrangement:

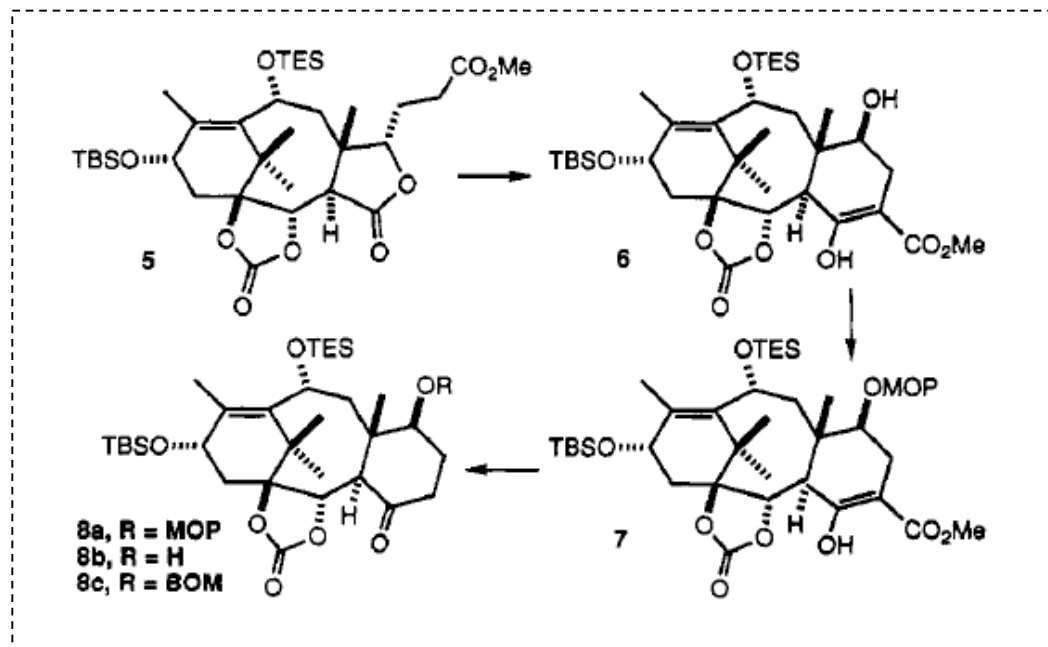


Chan *et al.* TL, 1984, 3399



Baxter 18 - CU Synthesis Lit Group - Holton

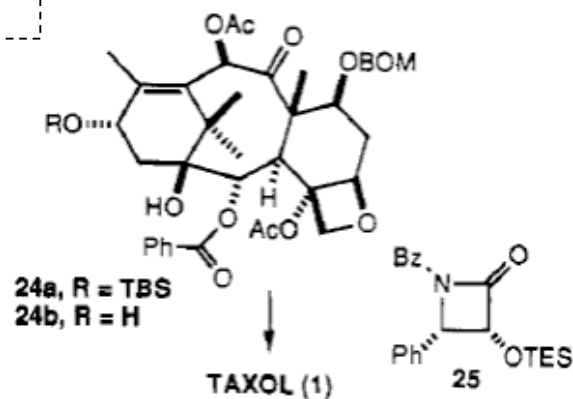
Total Synthesis of Taxol



Key Points:

- First use of Chan rearrangement in synthesis
- Selective deprotonation

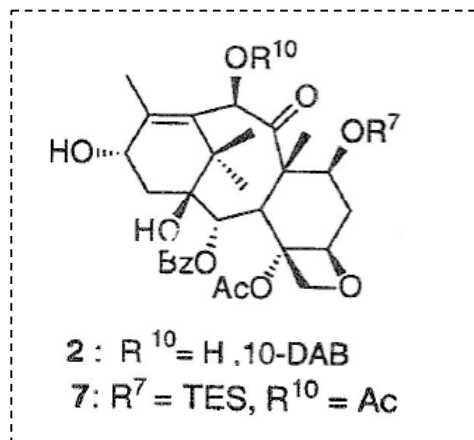
8c



93% yield from **24b**

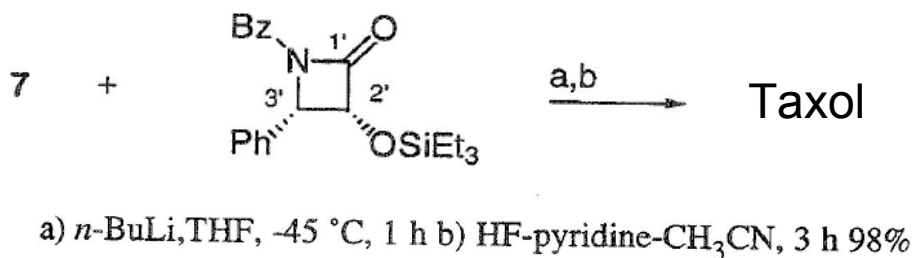
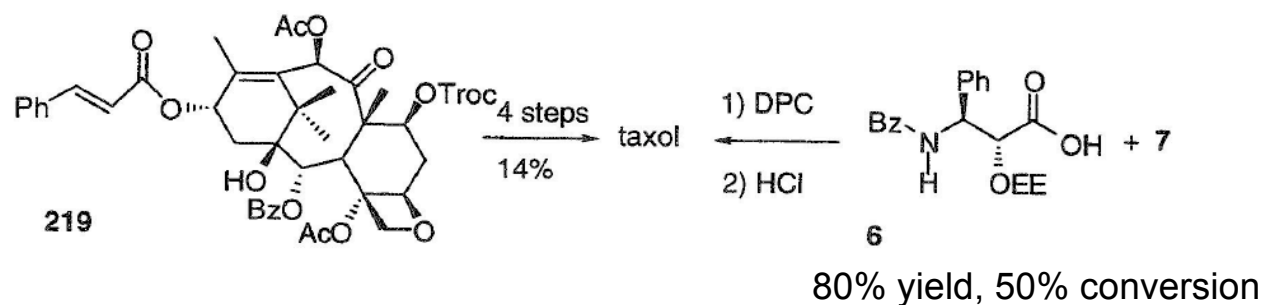
Baxter 19 - CU Synthesis Lit Group - Holton

Side Chain Incorporation



Key Points:

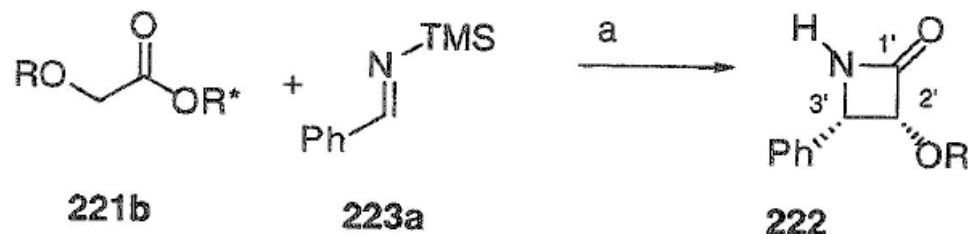
- Reaction with β -lactam is superior to other methods to install side chain
- Lithium alkoxide patent



BMS commercialized process used this method (LHMDS)

β -Lactam Synthesis

Ojima's and Georg's Chiral Synthesis of β -Lactams

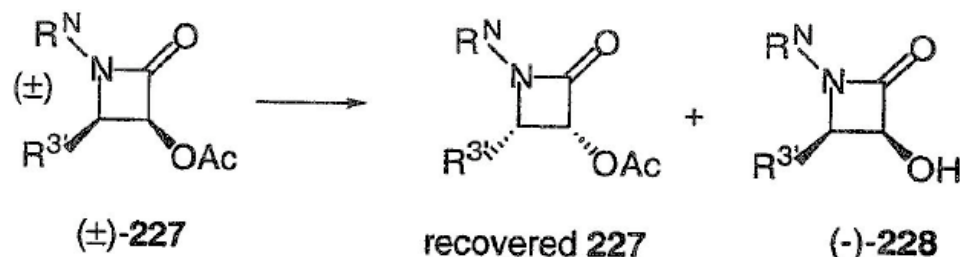


a) LDA, THF -78 to 25 °C over 12 h

Ester	Chiral Auxiliary (R*)	R	%ee	major isomer	%yield	β -lactam
221a	(-)-(1 <i>R</i> ,2 <i>S</i>)-2-phenyl-1-cyclohexanol	TBS	76	2' <i>R</i> ,3' <i>S</i>	90	222a
221b	(-)-(1 <i>R</i> ,2 <i>S</i>)-2-phenyl-1-cyclohexanol	TIPS	96	2' <i>R</i> ,3' <i>S</i>	85	222b
221c	(+)-(1 <i>S</i> ,2 <i>R</i>)-2-phenyl-1-cyclohexanol	TIPS	97	2' <i>S</i> ,3' <i>R</i>	80	222b
221d	(-)-(1 <i>R</i> ,2 <i>S</i> ,4 <i>R</i>)-menthol	Bn	15	2' <i>R</i> ,3' <i>S</i>	18	222d
221e	(-)-(1 <i>R</i> ,2 <i>S</i> ,4 <i>R</i>)-menthol	TBS	50	2' <i>R</i> ,3' <i>S</i>	52	222a
221f	(-)-10-dicyclohexanyl-sulfamyl-D-isoborneol	TBS	94	2' <i>R</i> ,3' <i>S</i>	97	222a

Chiral auxiliary is expensive

β -Lactam Resolution



Enzyme source	$(-)$ -227			$(-)$ -228			Time (hrs)
	Yield(%)	α_{578}^{25} CHCl ₃	%ee	Yield(%)	α_{578}^{25} MeOH	%ee	
BLAP	33	-40.0	78	37	-178.6	>95	3.0
BCLS	53	-40.0	78	45	-175.6	>95	0.25
BTLS	55	-40.5	78	31	-179.4	>95	0.25
BPLS	62	-30.8	65	36	-175.8	>95	0.25
BY	70	-10.0	21	14	-140.0	80	14.0

- Enzymes are also expensive, but can be obtained from cheap source and used immediately (BBLS = Buffered Beef Liver Solution)
- Process used for initial deliveries of Taxolog's first two drug candidates (in Phase II)

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