

## Biography



- 1981: B.S. Chemistry  
Advisor: [Prof. William R. Roush](#) (Synthesis)  
“Antibiotic X-14547A: Total Synthesis of the Right-Hand Half”
- 1981-1986: Ph.D., Chemistry, Harvard University  
Advisor: [Prof. E. J. Corey](#)  
6 publications, limonoid system and antheridium-inducing factor

### Independent Career:

- 1986-1994: Assistant and Associate Professor, Caltech
- 1994-1998: Full Professor, Caltech
- 1998-2002: Full Professor, Harvard
- 2007-2010: Department Chair, Harvard  
Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
- Now: Amory Houghton Professor of Chemistry
- 2006: Opening of Tetrphase Pharmaceuticals

### Awards (not listed online):

- Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award (1993)
- ACS Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry (2002)

### 154 Total Publications, 9 Patents

### Research Program:

“Chemical synthesis directed towards amelioration of problems in human health”

### Five classes of molecules currently being pursued:

1. Avrainvillamides and Stephacidin B - antiproliferative
2. Cortistatins - anti-angiogenic
3. Daphniglaucins - anti-cancer
4. Tetracyclines - antibiotic
5. Trioxacarcins - antiproliferative

### Students in academia:

David Gin (Sloan Kettering), Mo Movassaghi (MIT), Seth Herzon (Yale), Scott Schaus (Boston U.) Ian Seiple (UCSF), Dionicio Siegel (UCSD)

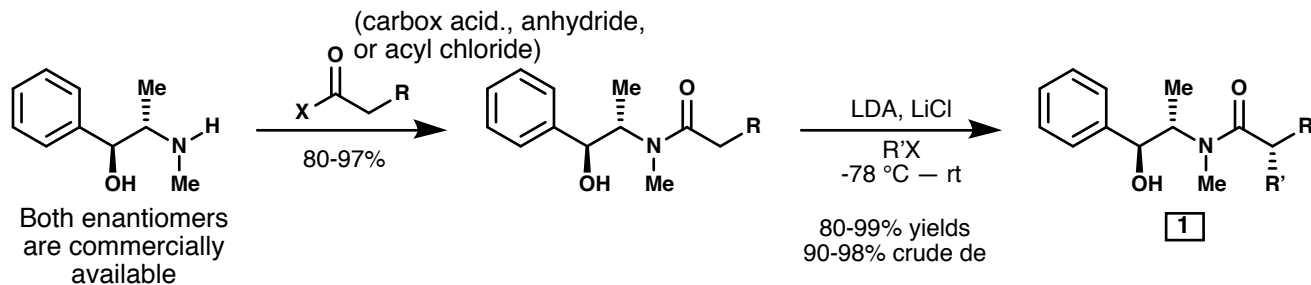
### Current Group (according to group website):

6 postdocs; 5 graduate students, 1 masters

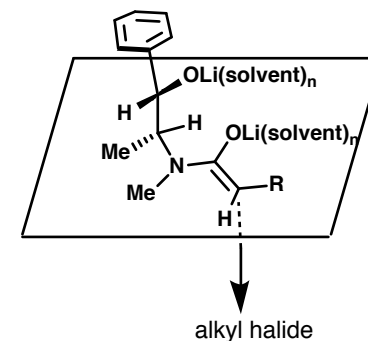
### Top five cited papers:

1. “Pseudophedrine as a practical chiral auxiliary for the synthesis of highly enantiomerically enriched carboxylic acids, alcohols, aldehydes, and ketones”  
*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1997**, 118, 28, 6496-6511
2. “Development of a decarboxylative palladation reaction and its use in a Heck-type olefination of arene carboxylates”  
*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, 124, 38, 11250-11251
3. On the mechanism of the palladium(II)-catalyzed decarboxylative olefination of arene carboxylic acids  
*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, 127, 29, 10323-10333
4. A Mechanism for the Nucleophilic Activation of Neocarzinostatin  
*Tett. Lett.* **1987**, 28, 39, 4493-4496
5. New and Stereospecific Synthesis of Allenes from Propargylic Alcohols  
*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1996**, 118, 18, 4492-4493

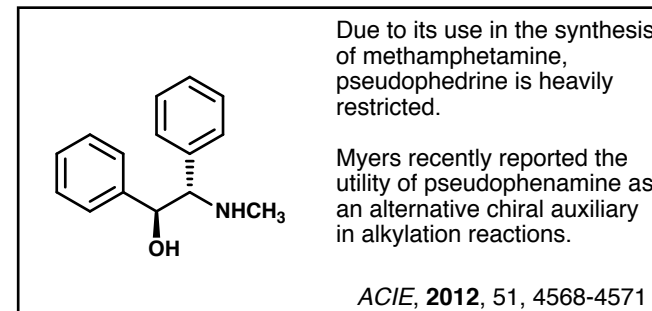
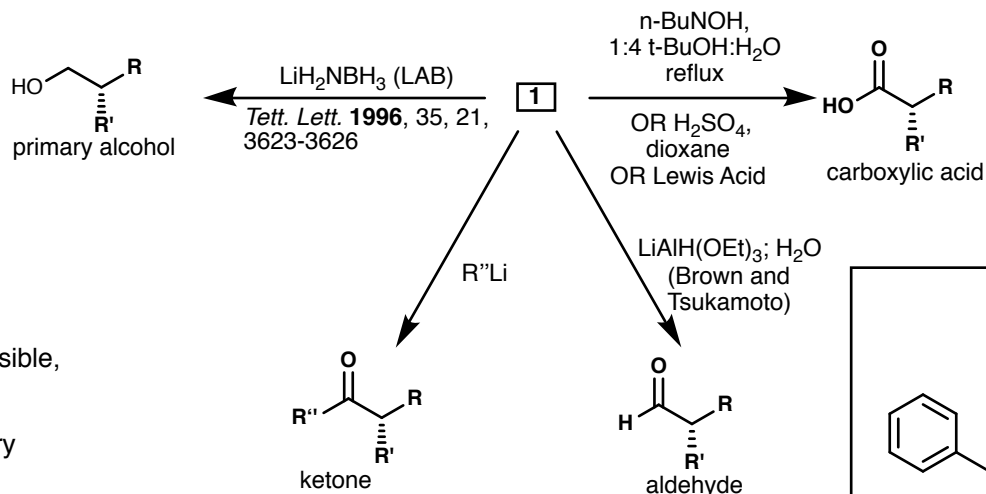
# Pseudoephedrine-A Practical Chiral Auxiliary for Asymmetric Synthesis



## Proposed Reactive Conformation

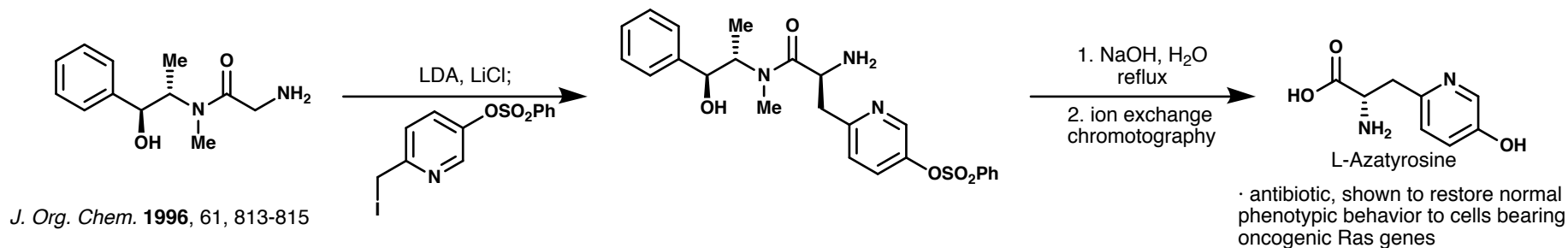


- Pseudoephedrine amides are easily prepared and frequently crystalline.
- LiCl is essential to accelerate the reaction and to prevent *O*-alkylation.
- Alkylation with *beta*-branched primary alkyl iodides and secondary alkyl iodides for the formation of quat. centers is possible, although they are quite slow.
- After cleavage, the chiral auxiliary can be reused.

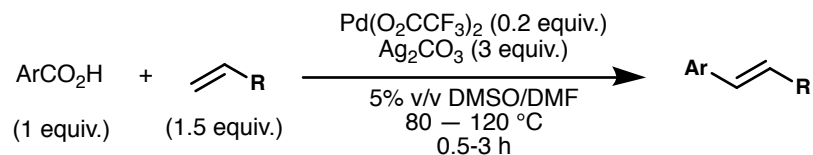


*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1997, 119, 6496-6511  
(#1 Most Cited Paper - Web of Science)

## Application to a Practical Synthesis of L-Azatyrosine

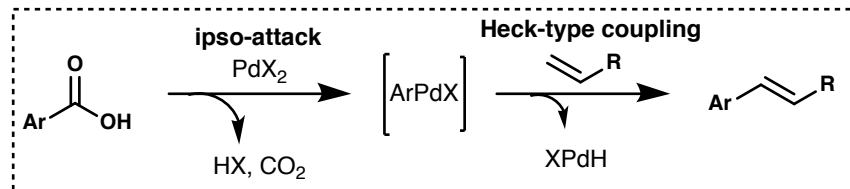


## DECARBOXYLATIVE OLEFINATION METHOD:

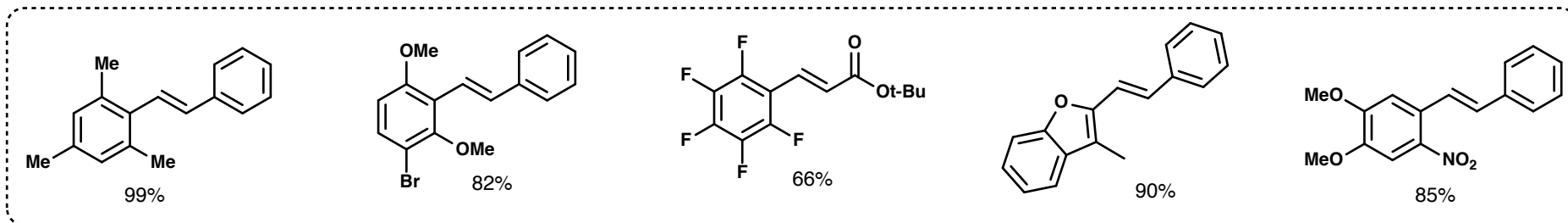


- At least one ortho substituent is necessary
- Common side reactions occur through *ortho*-palladation and C-H insertion.
- Use of small quantity of DMSO in DMF accelerates reaction and prevents *ortho*-palladation.
- Reaction can be conducted in air and small amounts of water.

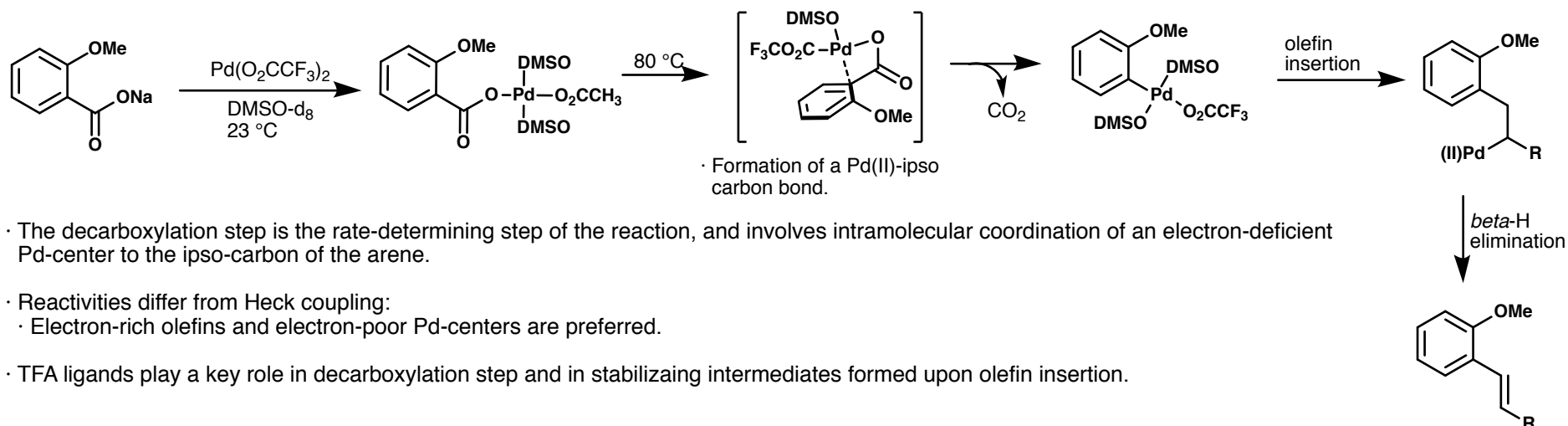
## INITIAL MECHANISTIC INSIGHT



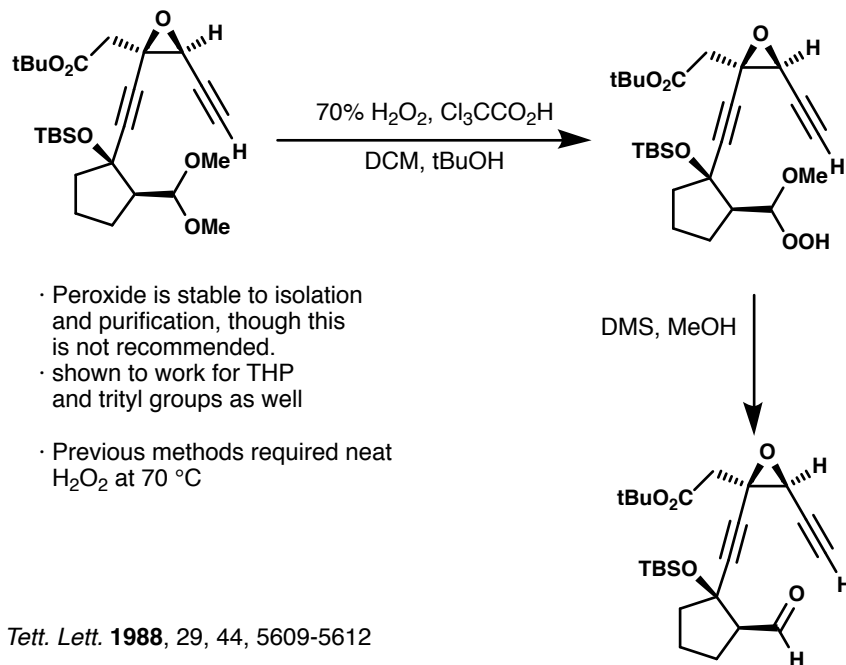
- Evidence in support of proposed mechanism:
  - Heating of a solution of ArCO<sub>2</sub>H with Pd(O<sub>2</sub>CCH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in DMSO leads to evolution of CO<sub>2</sub> and disappearance (by NMR) of ArCO<sub>2</sub>H starting material. Subsequent addition of styrene led to coupling product.
  - Heating the supposed arylPd species with excess TFA leads to protonolysis.



## Mechanistic Studies:



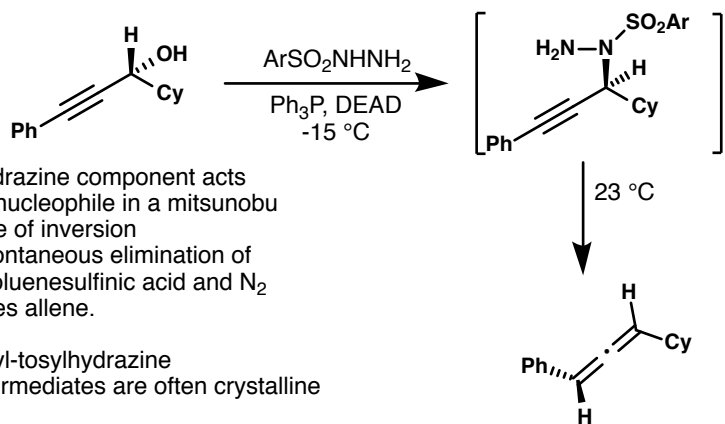
1. Mild Conditions for the Removal of Acid-Labile Protective Groups



- Peroxide is stable to isolation and purification, though this is not recommended.
- shown to work for THP and trityl groups as well
- Previous methods required neat H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> at 70 °C

*Tett. Lett.* **1988**, 29, 44, 5609-5612

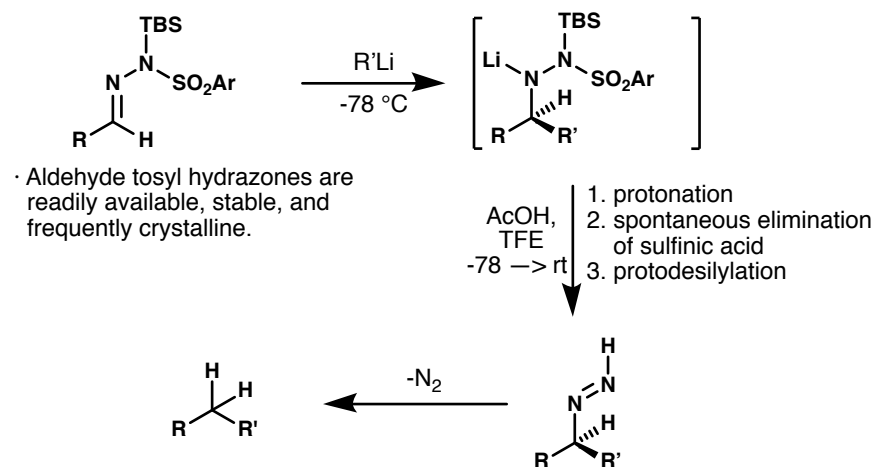
2. One-step Stereospecific Synthesis of Allenes from Propargylic Alcohols



- Hydrazine component acts as nucleophile in a Mitsunobu type of inversion
- Spontaneous elimination of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid and N<sub>2</sub> gives allene.
- alkyl-tosylhydrazine intermediates are often crystalline
- *O*-nitrobenzenesulfonylhydrazine is best.

*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1996**, 118, 4492-4493

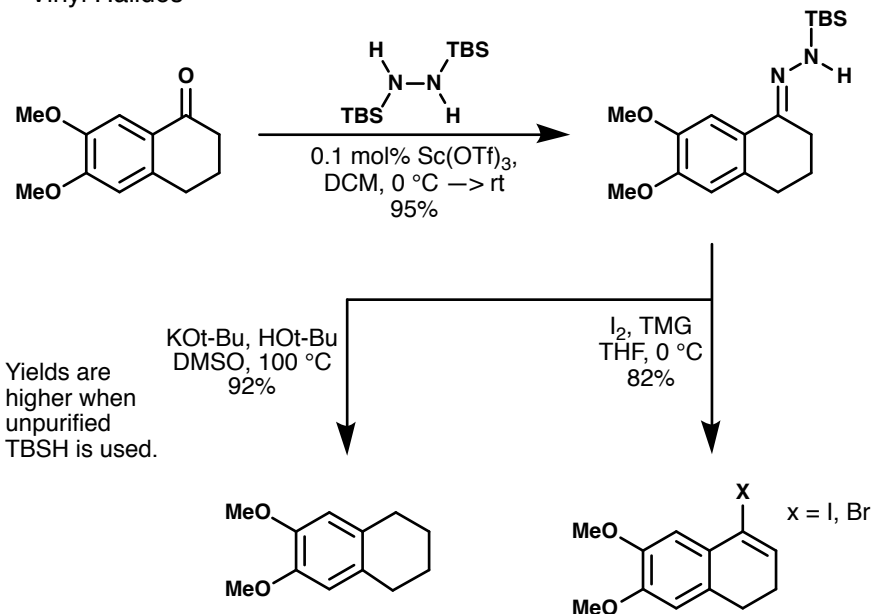
3. Reductive Coupling of Aldehyde Tosylhydrazones and Alkylolithium Reagents



- Aldehyde tosyl hydrazones are readily available, stable, and frequently crystalline.

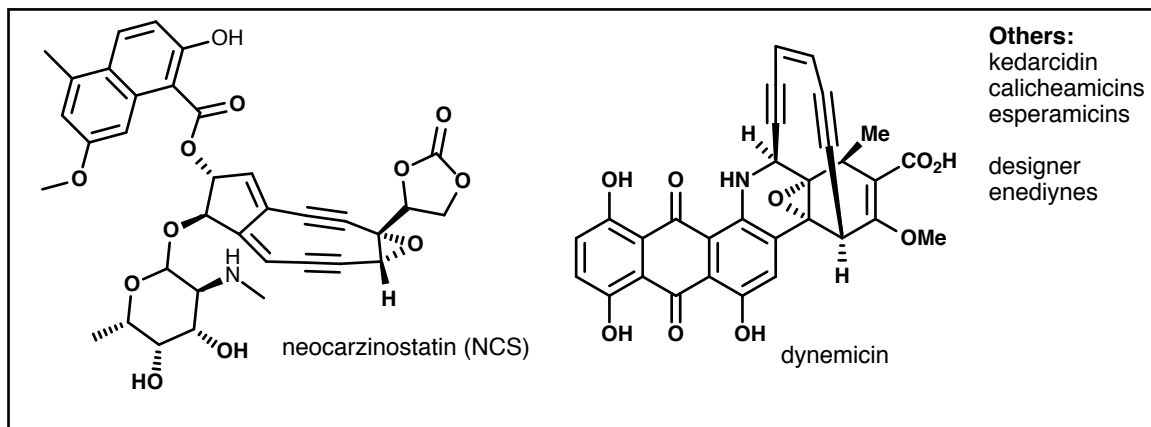
*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, 120, 34

4. Use of TBHS in Modified Wolff-Kishner Reductions and in Synthesis of Vinyl Halides

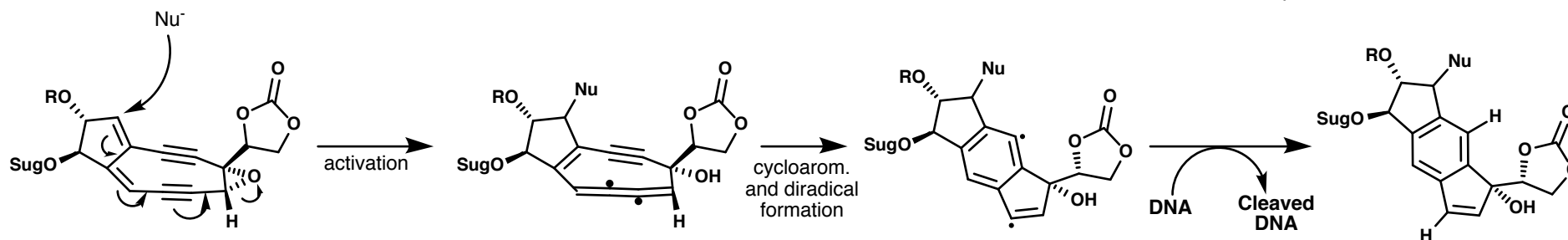


- Yields are higher when unpurified TBHS is used.

*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, 126, 17, 5436-5445

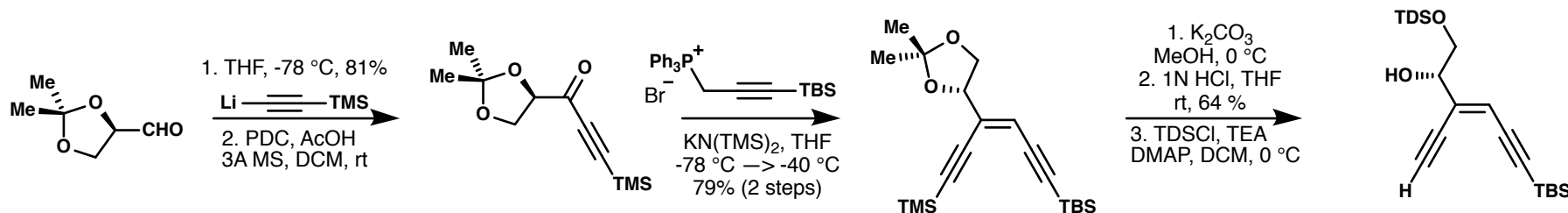


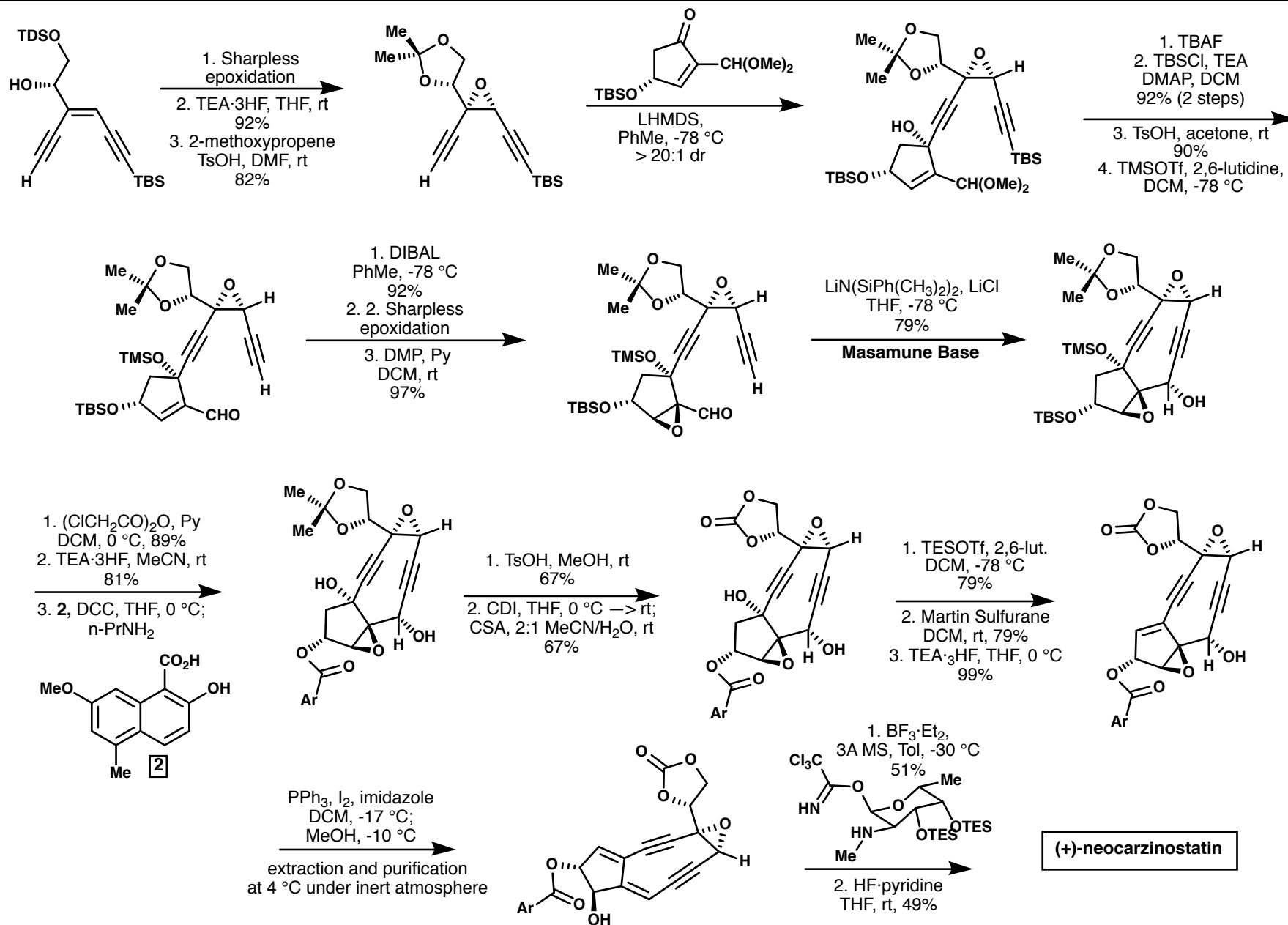
- The enediynes share many common properties:
  - they are noncovalently associated complexes between unstable chromophores and stable proteins.
  - they exhibit potent antitumor properties
  - and they possess DNA-cleaving properties
- The enediynes are characterized by the high reactivity of their "enediynes" chromophore components.
- This high reactivity makes the enediynes a synthetic challenge, but it is also a driving force in their DNA-cleaving abilities.
- *in situ*, they are hypothesized to undergo an activation event leading to cycloaromatization and formation of a diradical that would be positioned to cleave DNA.

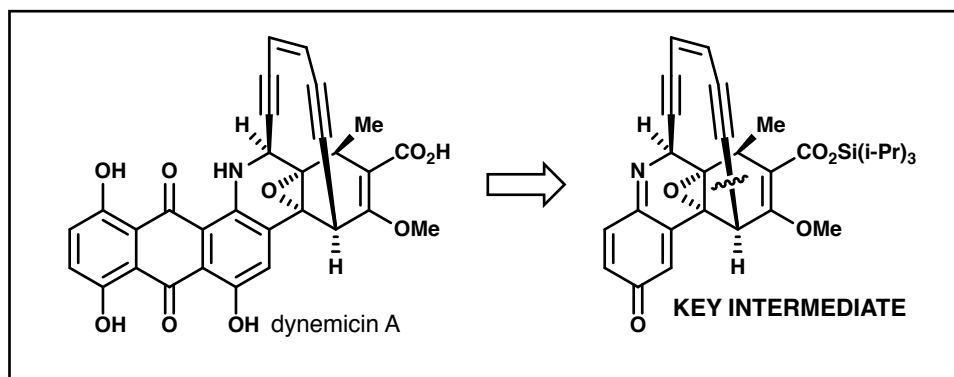


## Neocarzinostatin

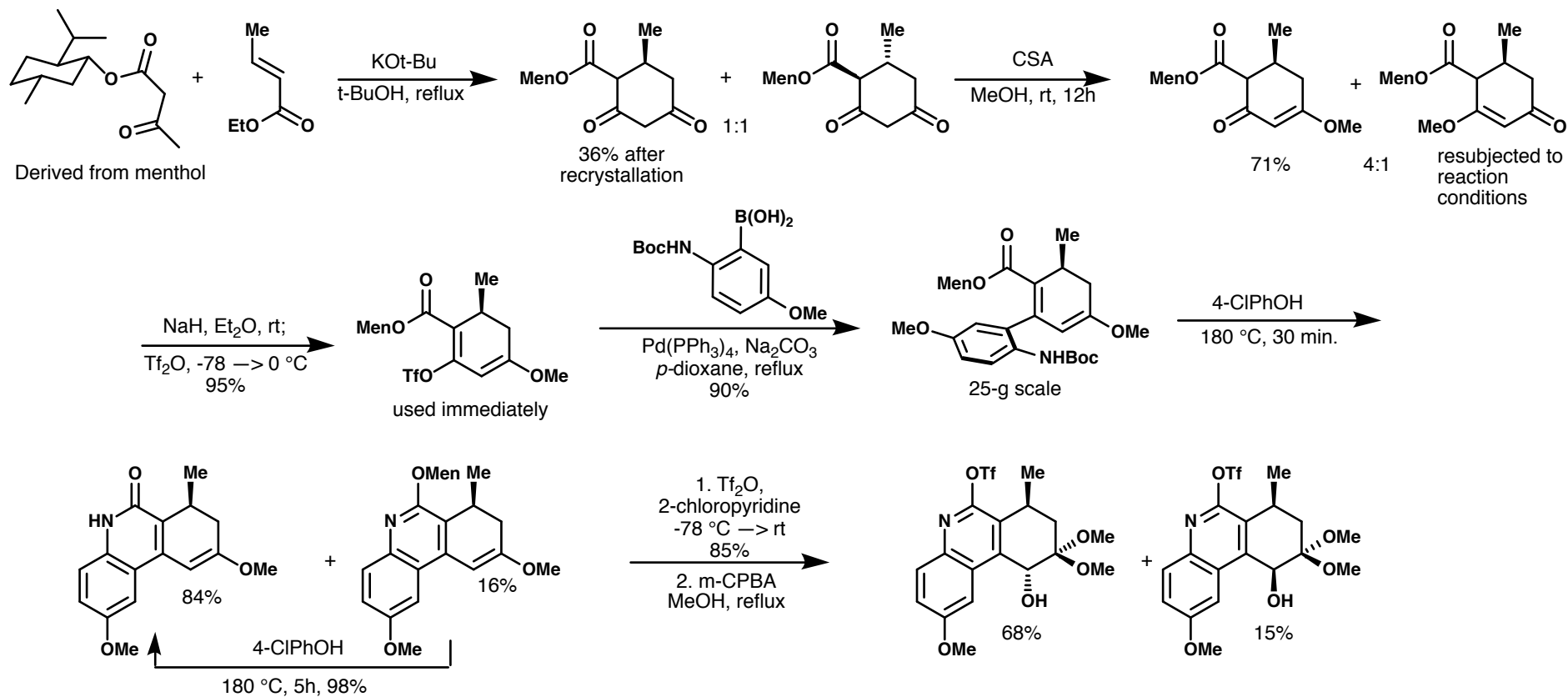
- NCS was isolated as a non-covalently associated mixture of the chromophore shown above and a 113 amino acid apoprotein. NCS itself is rather unstable.
- The Myers group has published 22 papers detailing their biological and synthetic studies of neocarzinostatin.

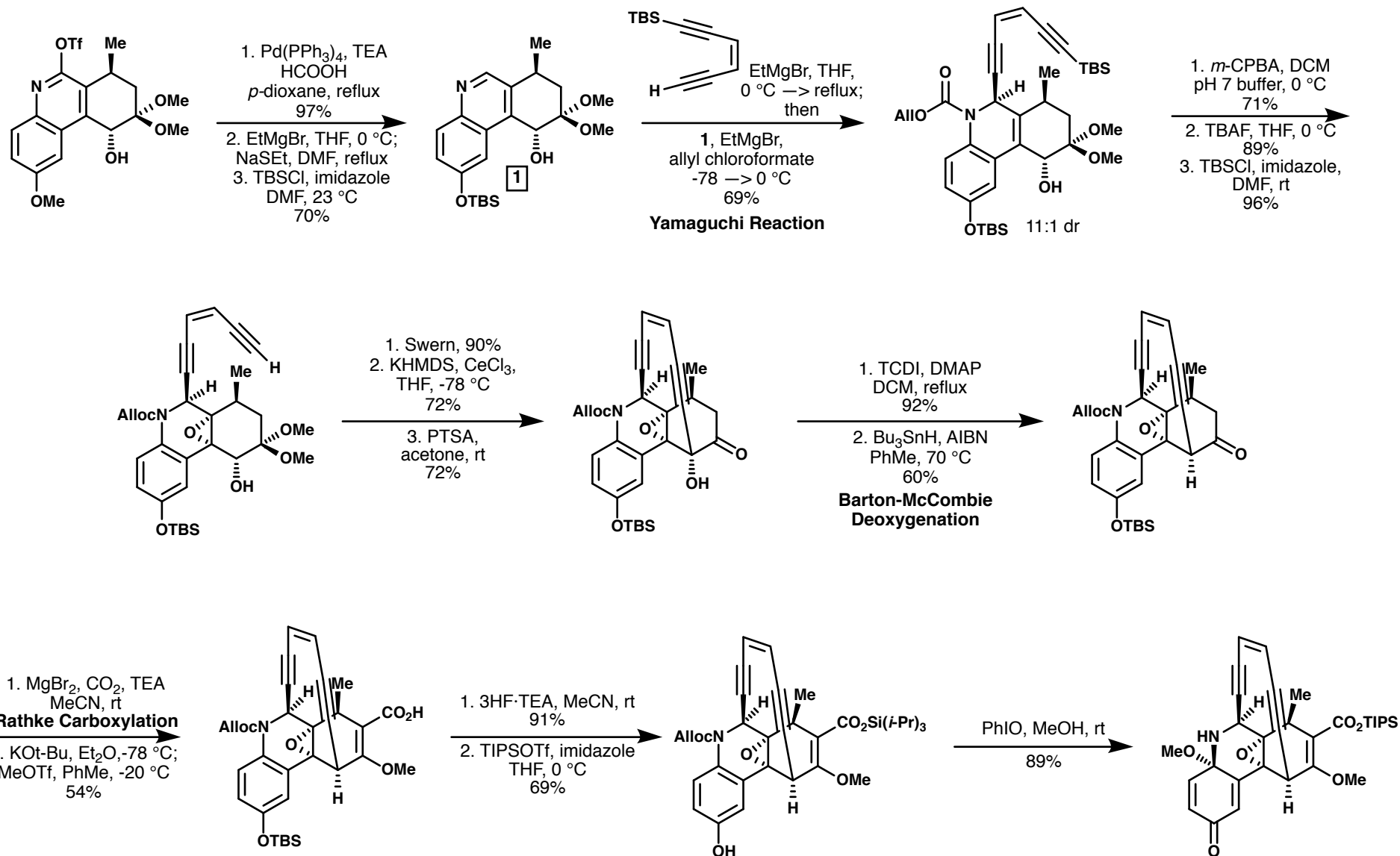




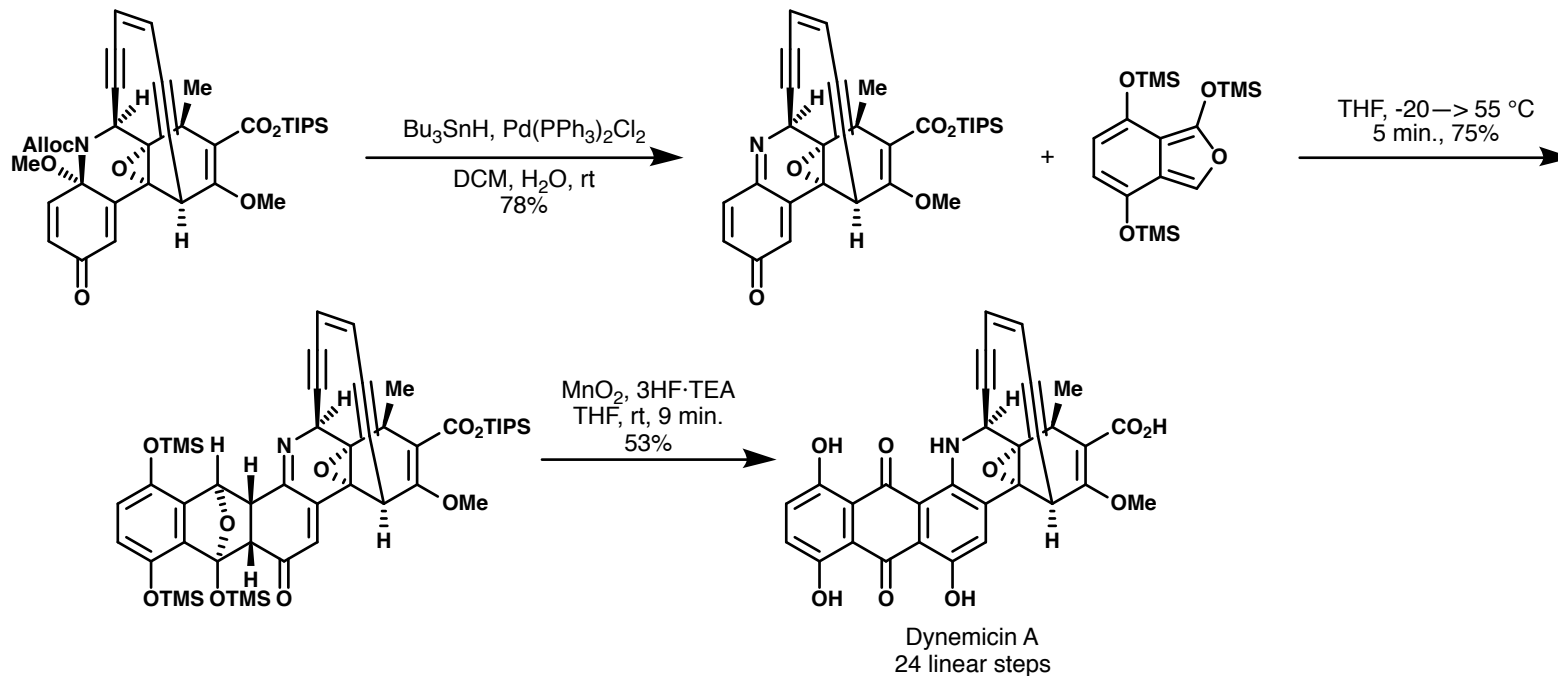


- Dynemicin A displays potent *in vitro* and *in vivo* cytotoxicity against many murine and human tumor cell lines, and it exhibits potent antibacterial activity *in vivo* with low levels of toxicity.
- Dynemicin A is distinctive amongst the ene-diyne natural products due to its anthraquinone functionality that is believed to aid in the molecules' anticancer properties by intercalating the DNA that it is bound to.
- The anthraquinone moiety is also believed to be the initial site of reduction in the activation of dynemicin for DNA-cleavage.

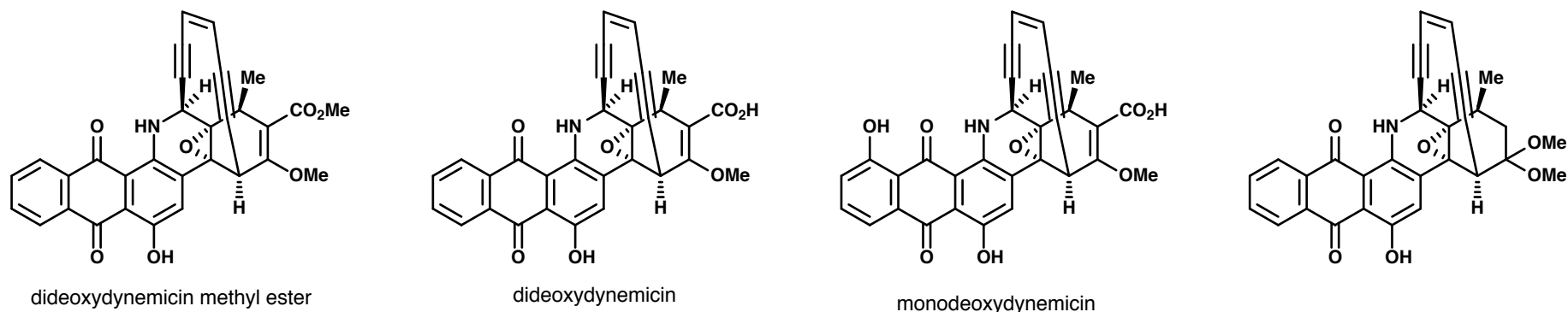




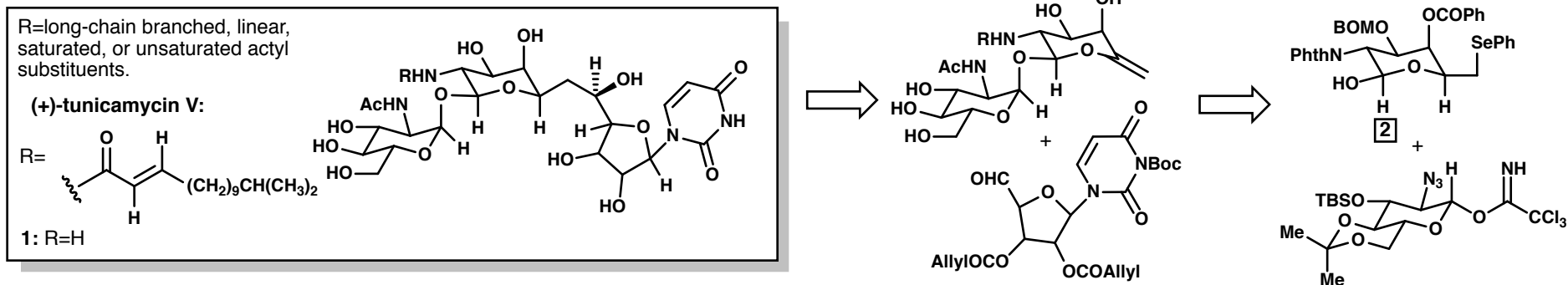




## ANALOGUES

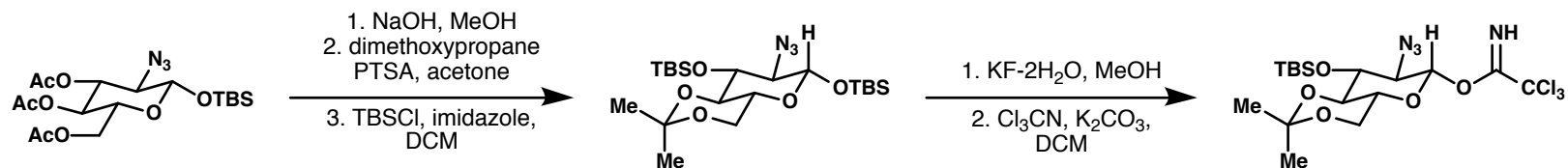
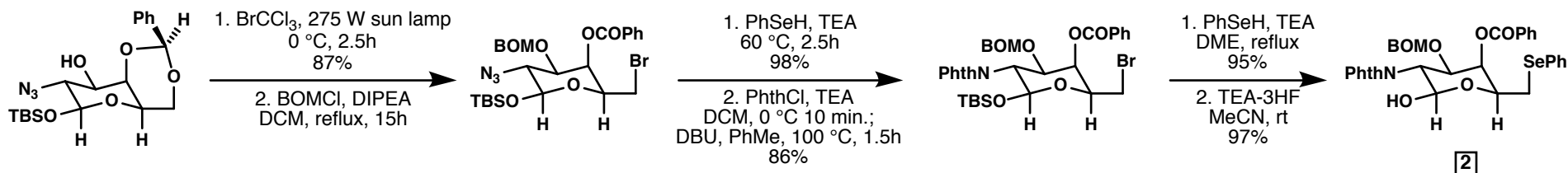


- The tunicamycins inhibit various enzymatic processes involving the formation of phospholipid-linked intermediates.
- As a result, the tunicamycins elicit a range of biological responses including antimicrobial, antifungal, antiviral, and antitumor activities.
- Studies of the tunicamycins have led to the proposal that they function as bisubstrate analogues for the enzymes they inhibit.
- Due to their ability to inhibit oligosaccharide synthesis in eukaryotic cells, they have been used as biochemical probes to study the roles of glycosylation on protein structure and function.



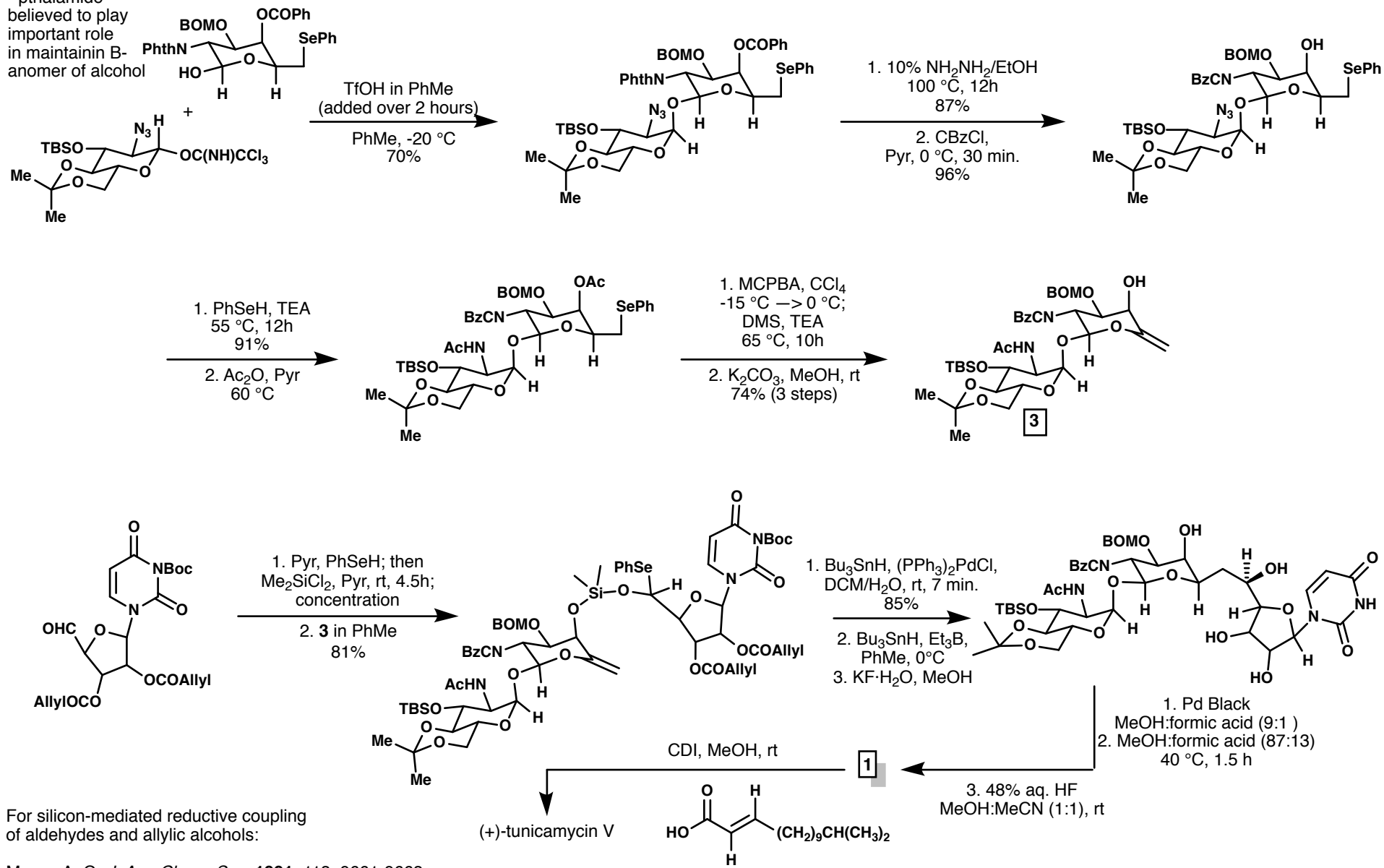
## A concise synthesis of (+)-tunicamycin V

Synthesis of the undecose core (tunicaminylluracil) were described in a previous publication.<sup>1</sup>



1. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1991**, 113, 9661
2. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, 115, 2036-2038
3. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1994**, 116, 4697-4718

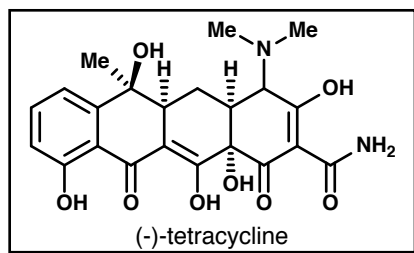
- phthalamide  
believed to play  
important role  
in maintainin B-  
anomer of alcohol



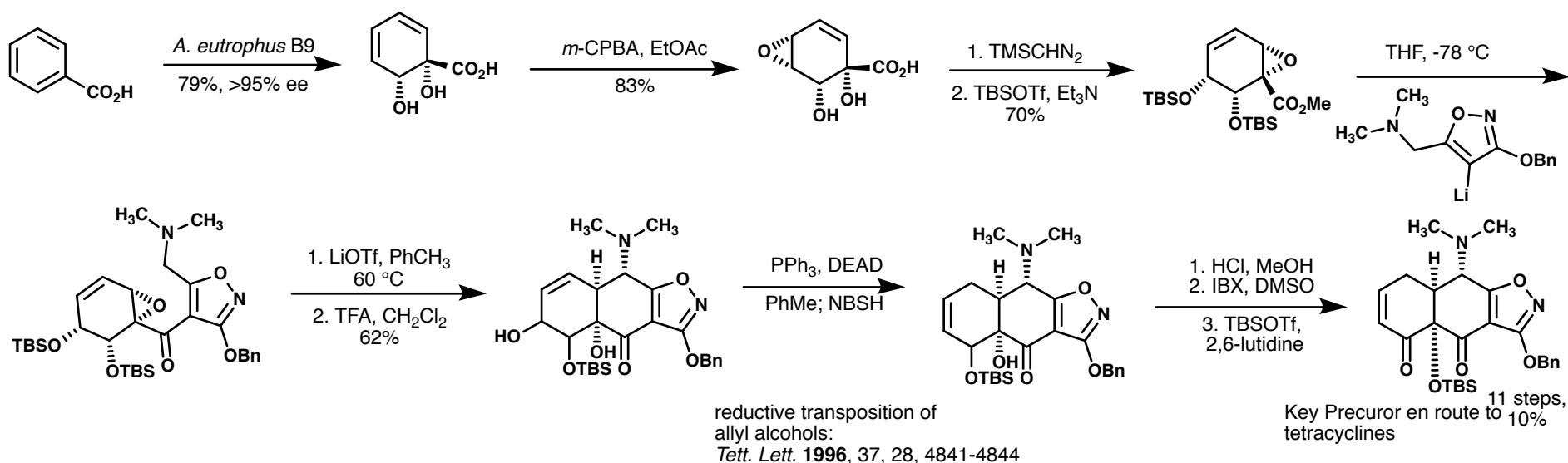
For silicon-mediated reductive coupling  
of aldehydes and allylic alcohols:

Myers, A. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1991**, 113, 9661-9663

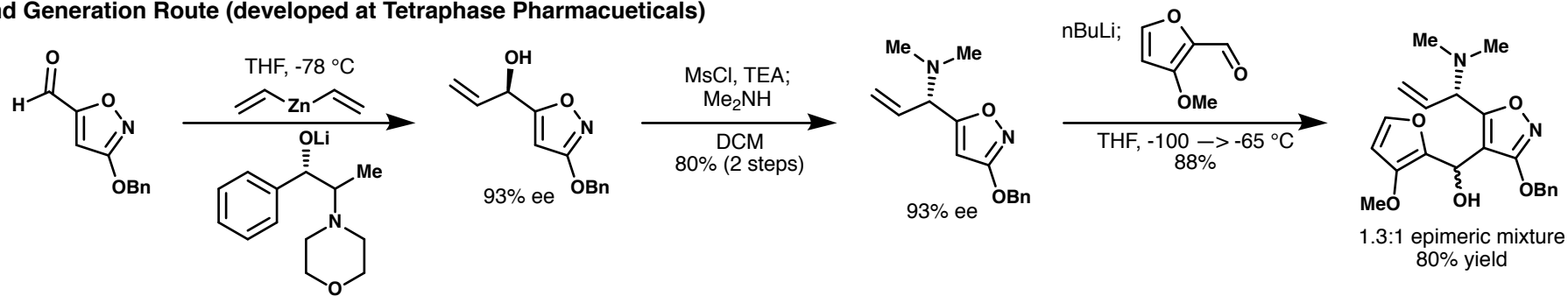
1. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1991**, 113, 9661
2. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, 115, 2036-2038

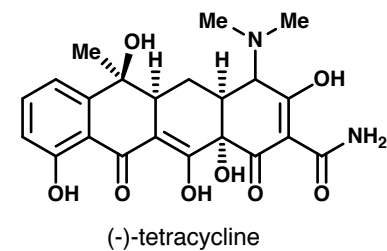
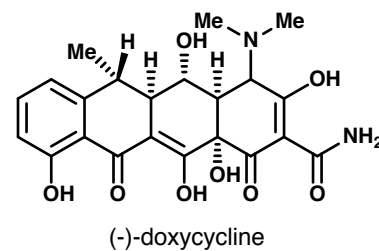
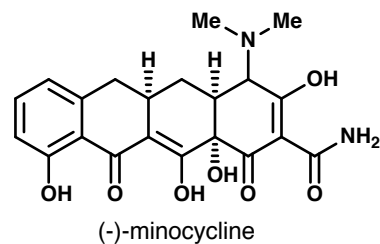
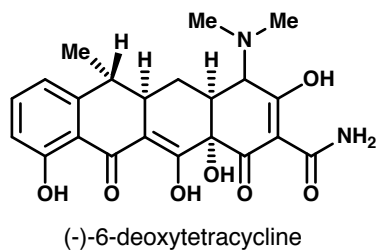
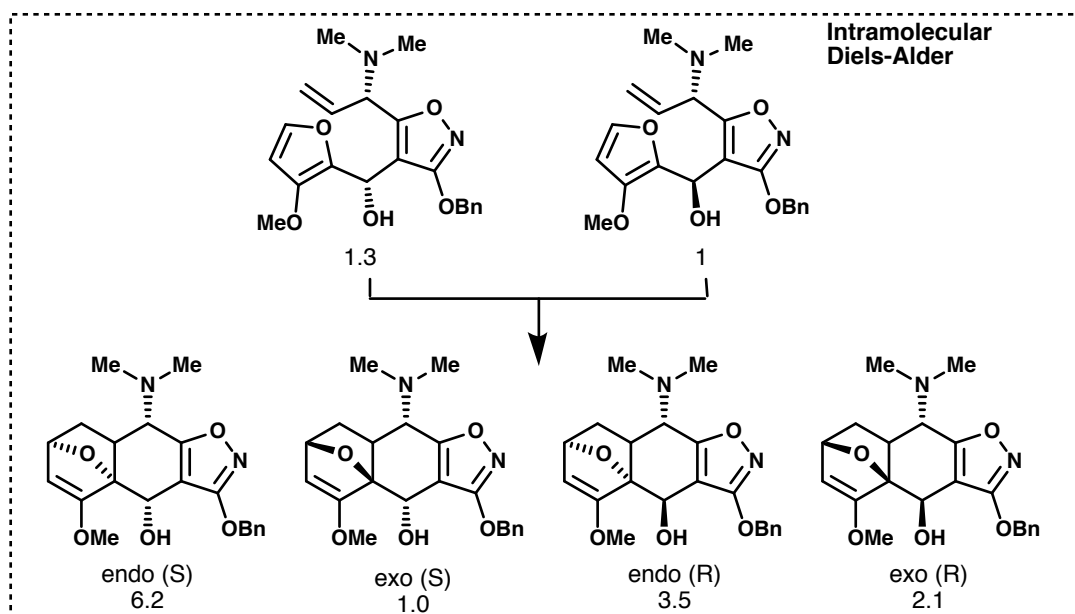
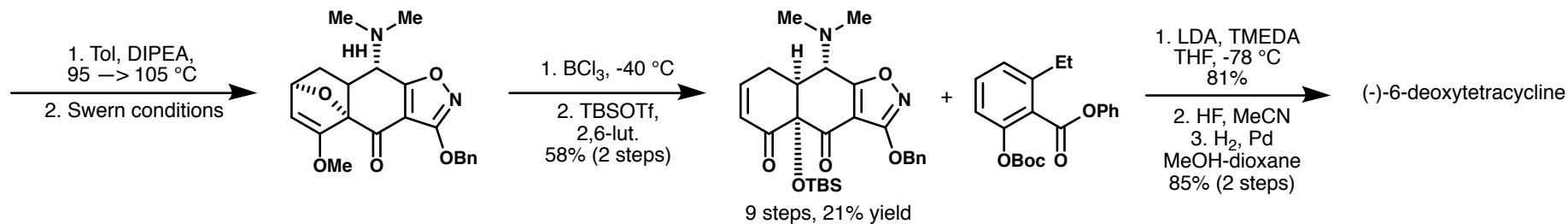


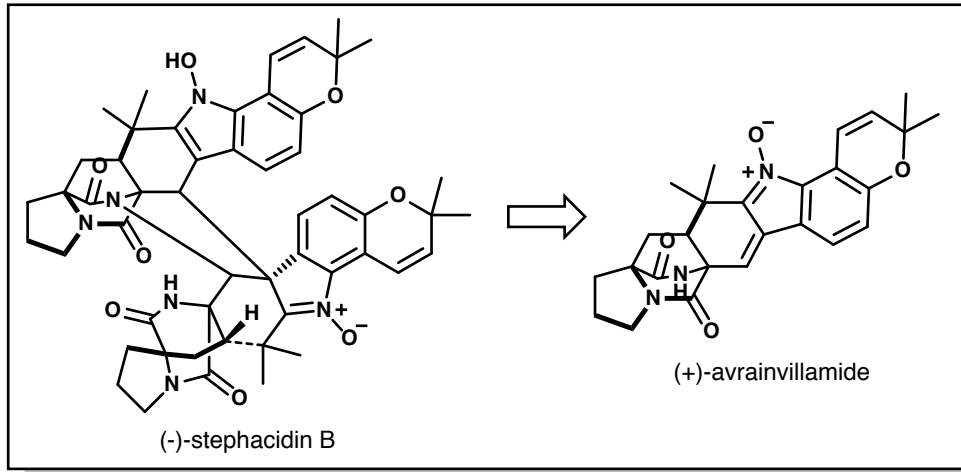
- The tetracycline antibiotics inhibit protein synthesis, specifically translation, by preventing attachment of aminoacyl-tRNA to the ribosome. They have been widely used in the treatment of bacterial infections, contributing to the emergence of widespread antibiotic resistance.
- To combat this, Myers first synthesized 6-deoxytetracycline and other analogues of tetracycline, introducing structural variability at the D ring as prior work had indicated that analogues with no C6 hydroxyl group are more resistant to degradation while showing equal or greater potencies.
- Since the initial synthesis, a 2nd generation route has been developed, and over 2000 analogues have been made, many with potent antibacterial activity.



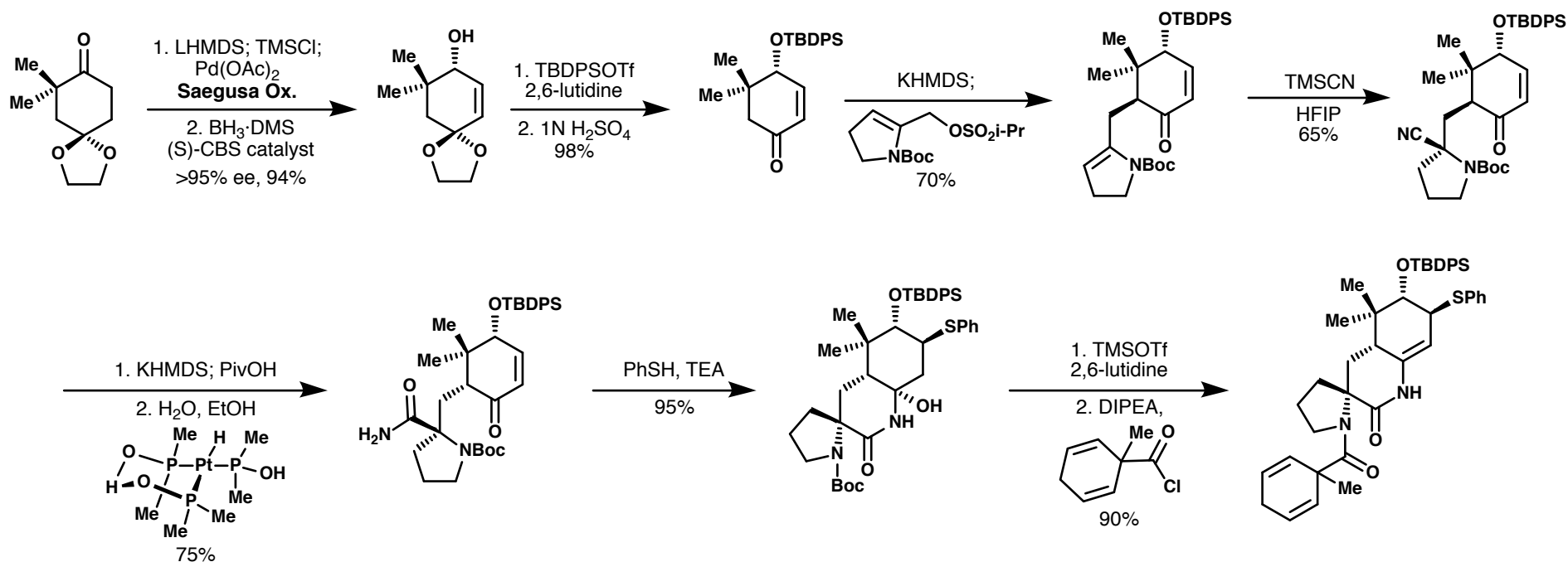
## 2nd Generation Route (developed at Tetraphase Pharmaceuticals)

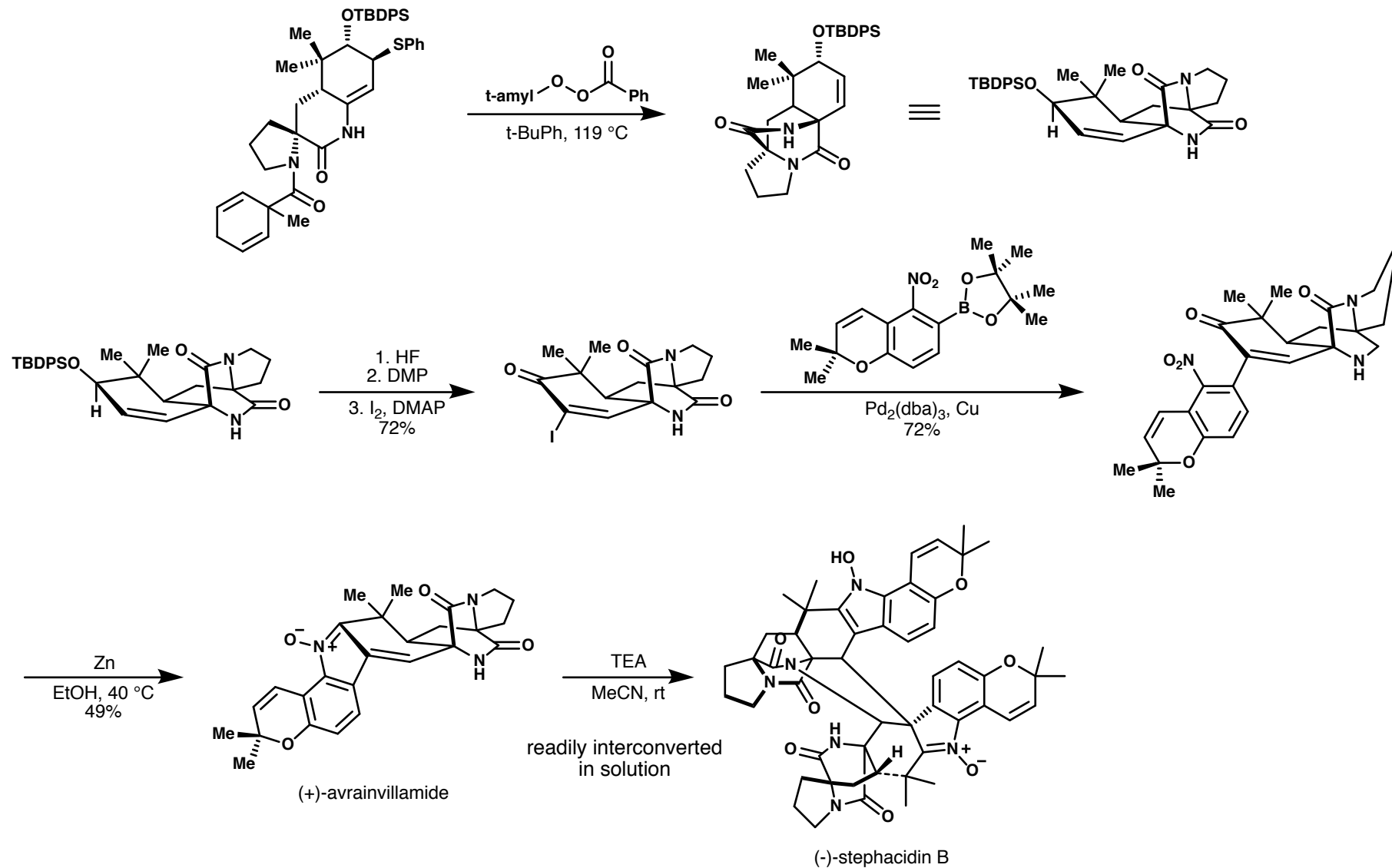




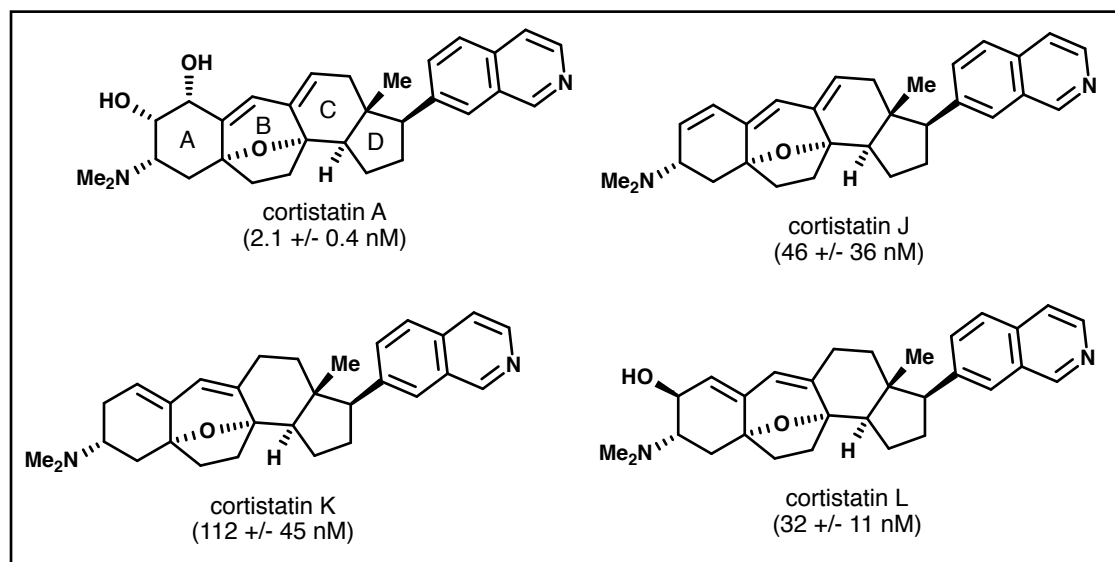


- Isolated from a fungal culture of *Aspergillus ochraceus*
- Both inhibit growth of cultured human cancer cells ( $IC_{50} \sim 50-100$  nM)
- Recent studies show that they readily interconvert in solution.
- The previously reported antiproliferative activity of stephacidin B may arise from its dissociation to form avrainvillamide, which may then bind to one or more proteins

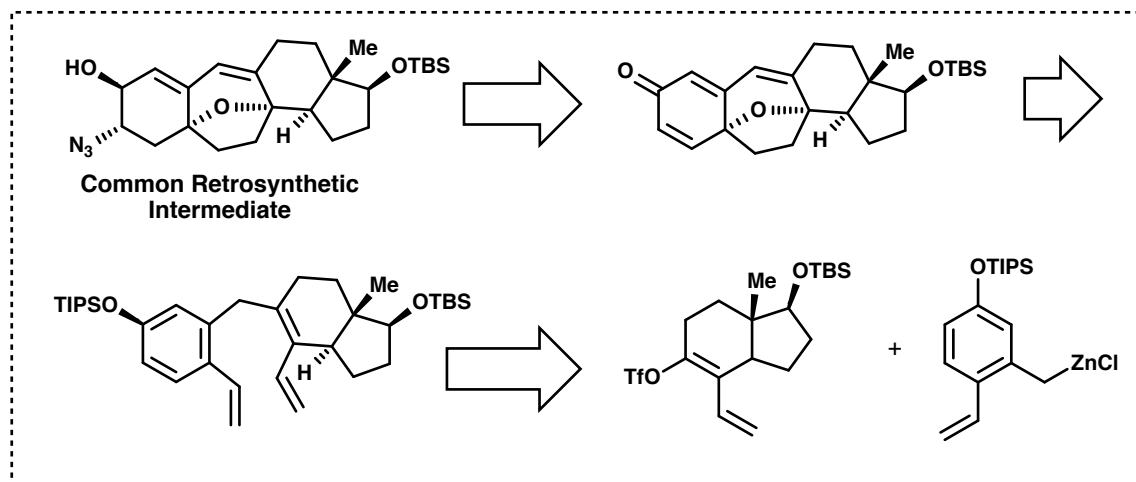
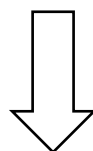




# Cortistatins

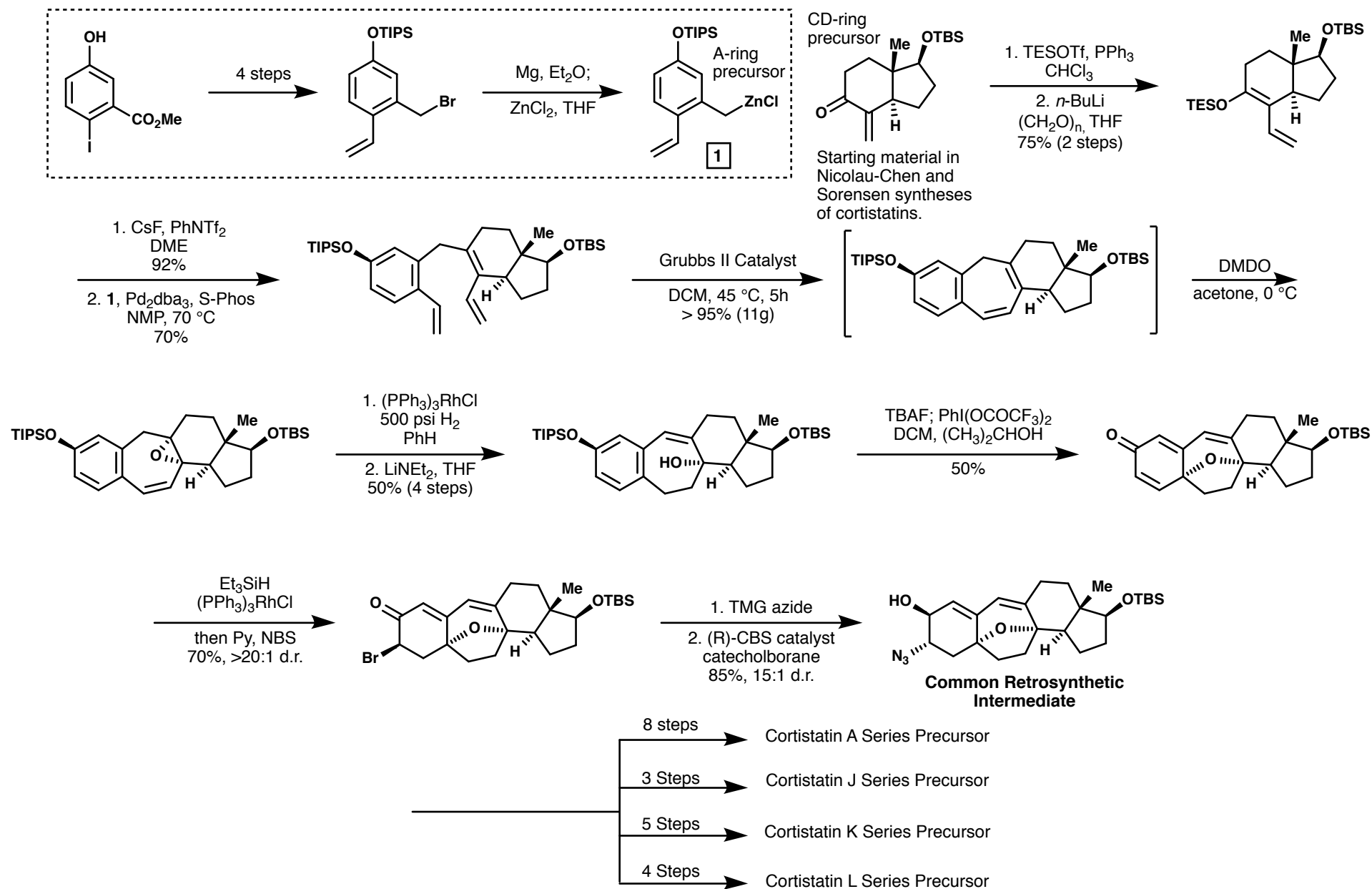


- More than 10 natural cortistatins have been described since the elucidation of cortistatin A structure in 2006.
- Some cortistatins exhibit potent and selective cytostatic activity against human umbilical vein endothelial cells.
- SAR studies have shown that the 7-substituted isoquinoline is a key determinant of these phenotypic effects.
- A 2015 Nature paper demonstrates that cortistatin A also inhibits mediator kinases, thereby upregulating super-enhancer genes and having anti-leukaemia activity.

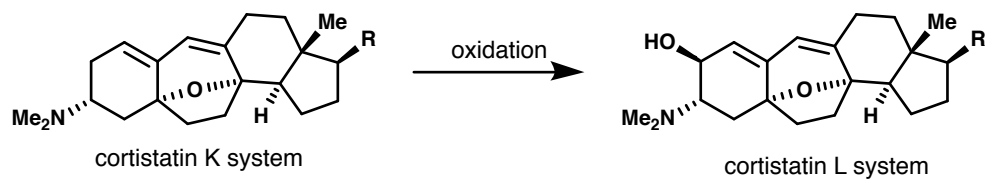




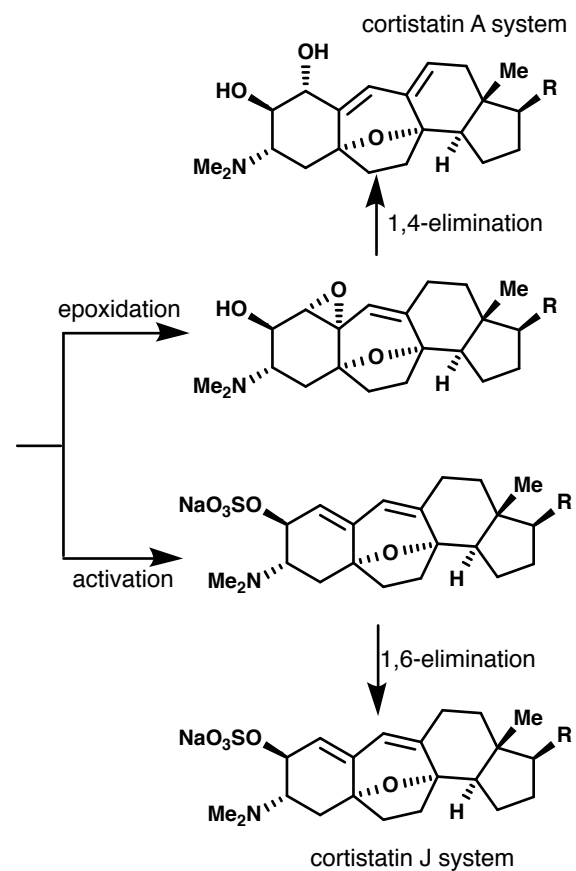
# Cortistatins

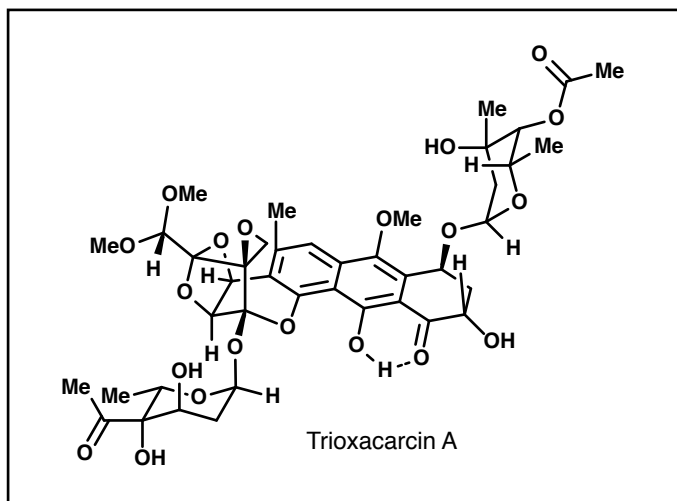


## Biosynthetic Hypothesis:



- Intermediates in the cortistatin L series have been found to undergo facile transformations to form intermediates of the other cortistatin series, possibly suggesting a sequence for late stages of cortistatin biosynthesis.





- The trioxacarcins are bacterial metabolites that potently inhibit the growth of cultured human cancer cells and bacterial cells. The most potent family member, trioxacarcin A, displays subnanomolar 70% growth inhibition against many human cancer cell lines.
- This is believed to be a result of efficient and irreversible alkylation of guanine residues in DNA

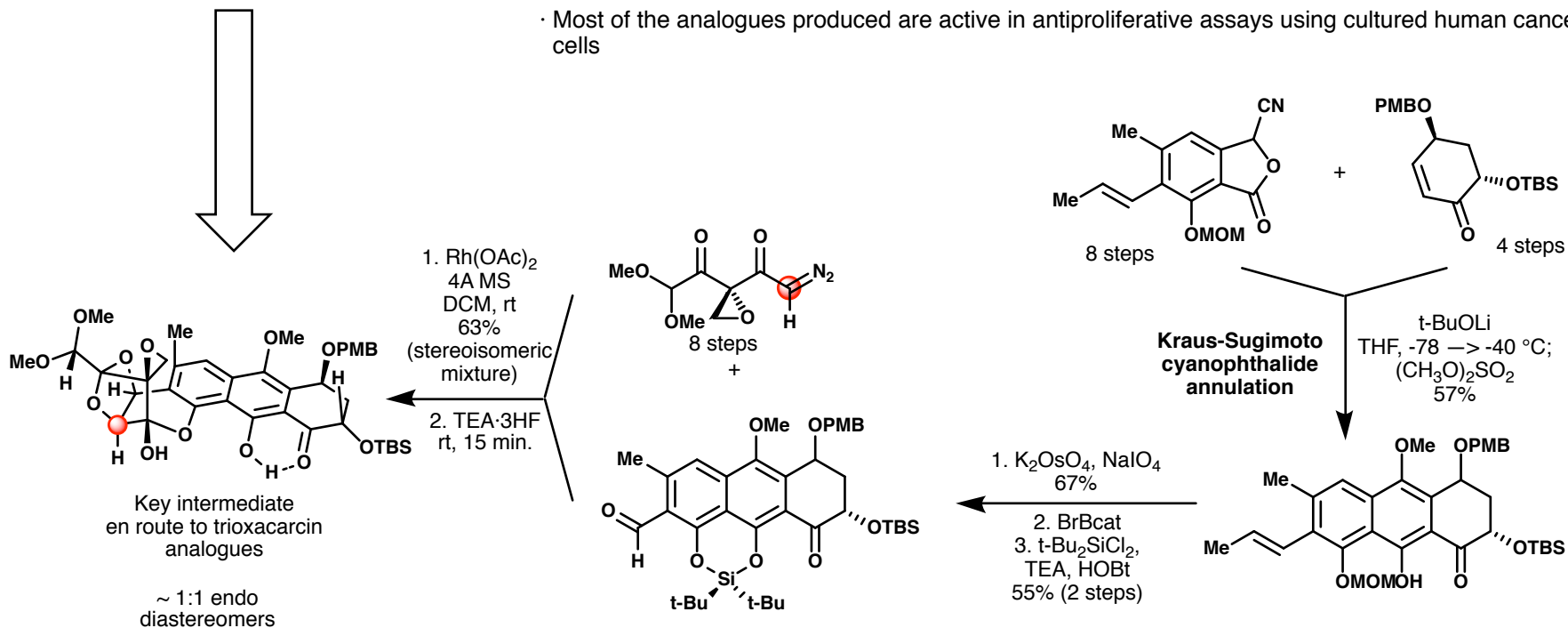
· Unusual Chemical Features:

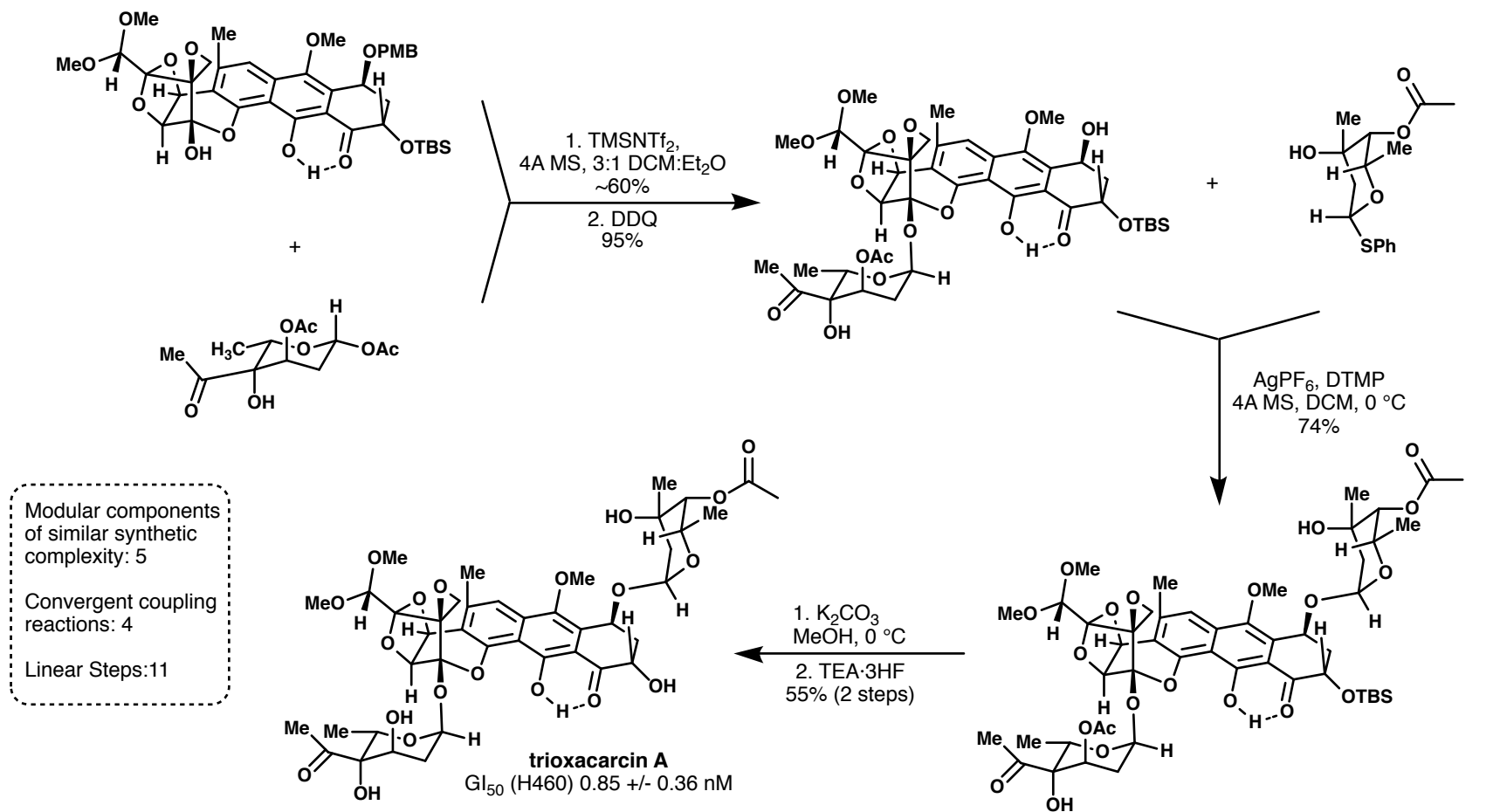
- Rigid, highly oxygenated skeleton
- Fused spiro epoxide
- five ketal or hemiketal groups
- At least one unusual glycosidic residue

· Key features of the synthesis:

- late-stage glycosylation reactions of differentially protected aglycon substrates allow for facile construction of analogues
- Identification of appropriate ways to activate and protect the two 2-deoxysugar components, trioxacarcinose A and B, and viable sequencing of glycosidic coupling.
- Modularity allows for rapid construction of structurally diverse synthetic analogues

- Most of the analogues produced are active in antiproliferative assays using cultured human cancer cells





## SOME ANALOGUES

