N. SHIMADA, T. HANARI, Y. KUROSAKI, K. TAKEDA, M. ANADA, H. NAMBU, M. SHIRO, S. HASHIMOTO* (HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY, SAPPORO AND RIGAKU CORPORATION, TOKYO, JAPAN)

Catalytic Asymmetric Synthesis of the *endo*-6-Aryl-8-oxabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-en-2-one Natural Product from *Ligusticum chuanxing* via 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of a Formyl-Derived Carbonyl Ylide Using $\text{Rh}_2(\text{S-TCPTTL})_4$ *J. Org. Chem.* **2010**, 75, 6039-6042.

Synthesis of *endo*-6-Aryl-8-oxabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-en-2-one

Significance: This is the first example of an enantioselective 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of a cyclic formyl carbonyl ylide. This methodology was successfully applied to the synthesis of *endo*-6-aryl-8-oxabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-en-2-one, which was isolated from *Ligusticum chuanxing* Hort., a traditional Chinese medicine used to promote blood circulation.

Comment: The enantioselective 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition proceeds with impressive *er* (97.5:2.5) to form **E**. The reduced product **F** could then be recrystallized and the *er* upgraded to 99.5:0.5. The circular dichroism of the natural product differed from the synthetic sample, leading the authors to speculate that the natural product may be biosynthesized in racemic form.

SYNFACTS Contributors: Steven V. Ley, James R. Frost
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