Total Synthesis of (+)-Peganumine A

Significance: (+)-Peganumine A, isolated from the seeds of *Peganum harmala* L., is a dimeric tetrahydro-β-carboline alkaloid displaying significant selective cytotoxic activity against HL-60 cells (IC₅₀ = 5.8 μM). The first enantioselective synthesis by Zhu and co-workers relies on an early Liebeskind–Srogl cross-coupling and a thiourea-catalyzed Pictet–Spengler reaction to form the unprecedented octacyclic scaffold.

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Comment: Liebeskind–Srogl cross-coupling of stannane B and thioester C provided N-formamide E in 95% yield. After dehydration, a three-center-two-component Passerini reaction followed by oxidation furnished tetracycle H. The synthesis was completed by an enantioselective Pictet–Spengler reaction of H and 6-methoxytryptamine (A) to give (+)-peganumine A in a total of 7 steps and 33% overall yield.