Concise Synthesis of the Alkaloid (±)-Aspergilline A

Significance: Aspergilline A was isolated from the fungus *Aspergillus versicolor* and possesses activity against the tobacco mosaic virus as well as anti-cancer activity. The Wood group reports a synthesis relying on an elegant pyrrolinone formation and a formal [3+2] cycloaddition.

Comment: Acylation followed by addition to an alkyne and double-bond isomerization transforms **C** into **E**. Mukaiyama aldol reaction creates the core structure in **F**. Imide **G** undergoes formal cycloaddition with cyclopropanone to form **I** which is further transformed into the indole alkaloid aspergilline A through an oxidation–acetalization–decarboxylation sequence.

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Synfacts 2018, 14(03), 0221 Published online: 15.02.2018

DOI: 10.1055/s-0037-1609241; Reg-No.: C00518SF