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The Endiandric Acid Cascade. Electrocyclizations in Organic Synthesis. 1. Stepwise, Stereocontrolled Total Synthesis of Endiandric Acids A and B

J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1982**, *104*, 5555–5557.

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The Endiandric Acid Cascade. Electrocyclizations in Organic Synthesis. 2. Stepwise, Stereocontrolled Total Synthesis of Endiandric Acids C–G

J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1982**, *104*, 5557–5558.

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The Endiandric Acid Cascade. Electrocyclizations in Organic Synthesis. 3. "Biomimetic" Approach to Endiandric Acids A–G. Synthesis of Precursors

J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1982**, *104*, 5558–5560.

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The Endiandric Acid Cascade. Electrocyclizations in Organic Synthesis. 4. Biomimetic Approach to Endiandric Acids A–G. Total Synthesis and Thermal Studies

J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1982**, *104*, 5560–5562.

Total Synthesis of Endiandric Acids

Significance: Nicolaou and co-workers describe the total synthesis of the endiandric acids. Their approach exploits a cascade of pericyclic reactions, which allow assembly of the carbon skeletons in one step. This pathway had been hypothesized to be the biosynthetic origin of these natural products.

Comment: Aldehyde **C** was chosen as a common intermediate for the synthesis of alkynes **E** and **G**. Glaser coupling, oxidation, and elimination results in the formation of dialkyne **H**. Partial reduction to polyolefin **I** results in a series of electrocyclizations and cycloadditions giving rise to the target structures.

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