

(±)-ginkgolide B

[2+2] cycloaddition

homoenolate

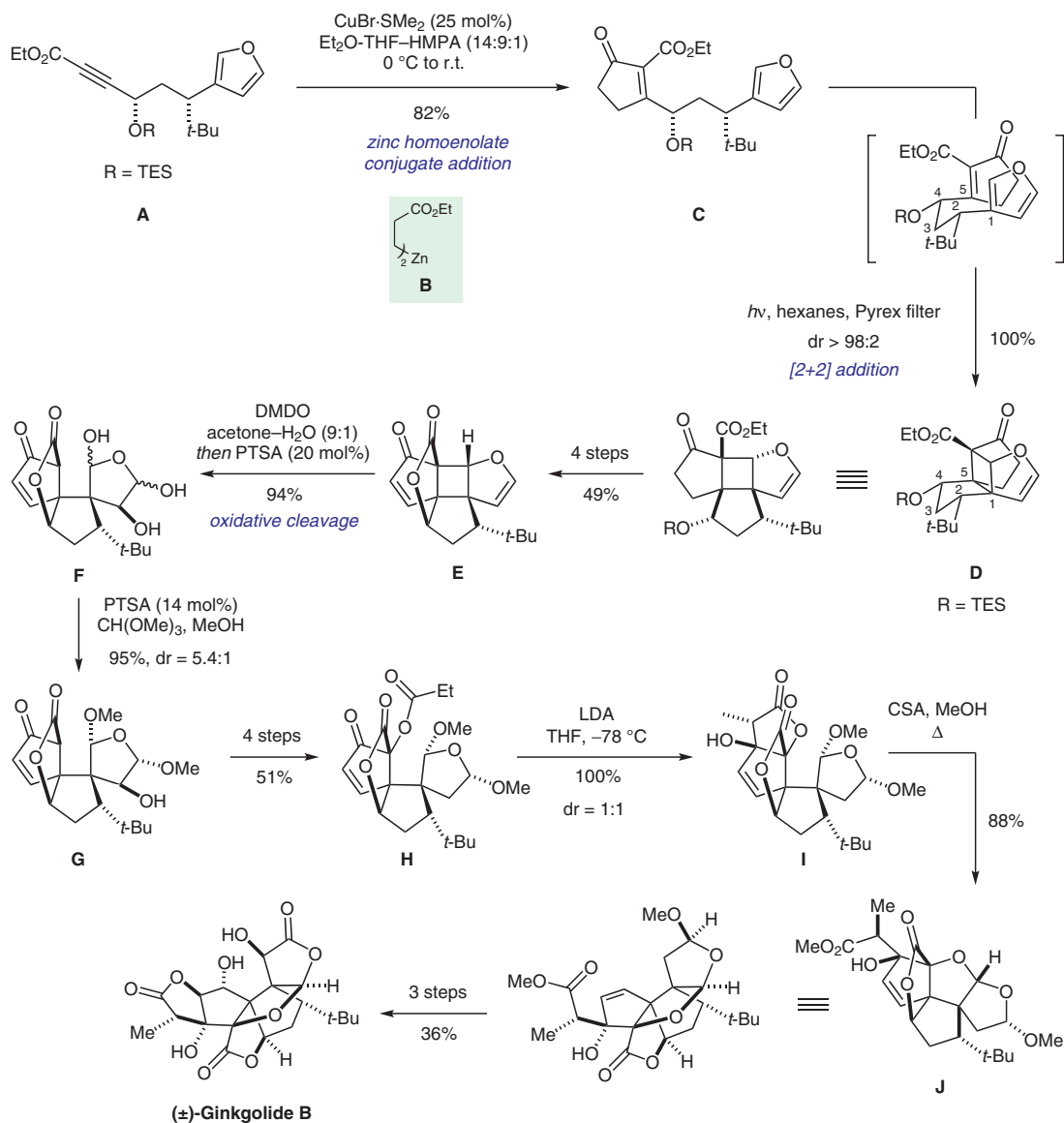
oxidative
fragmentation

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The Total Synthesis of (±)-Ginkgolide B

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Total Synthesis of (±)-Ginkgolide B



Significance: Ginkgolide B is a diterpenoid isolated from *Ginkgo biloba*. The structural complexity and the biological properties of this natural product have fascinated chemists for decades.

Comment: Zinc homoenolate conjugate addition to **A** followed by cyclization yielded enone **C**. Conformational analysis led the authors to the discovery of a high-yielding photocycloaddition. Oxidative fragmentation and furan installation granted access to this intriguing molecule.