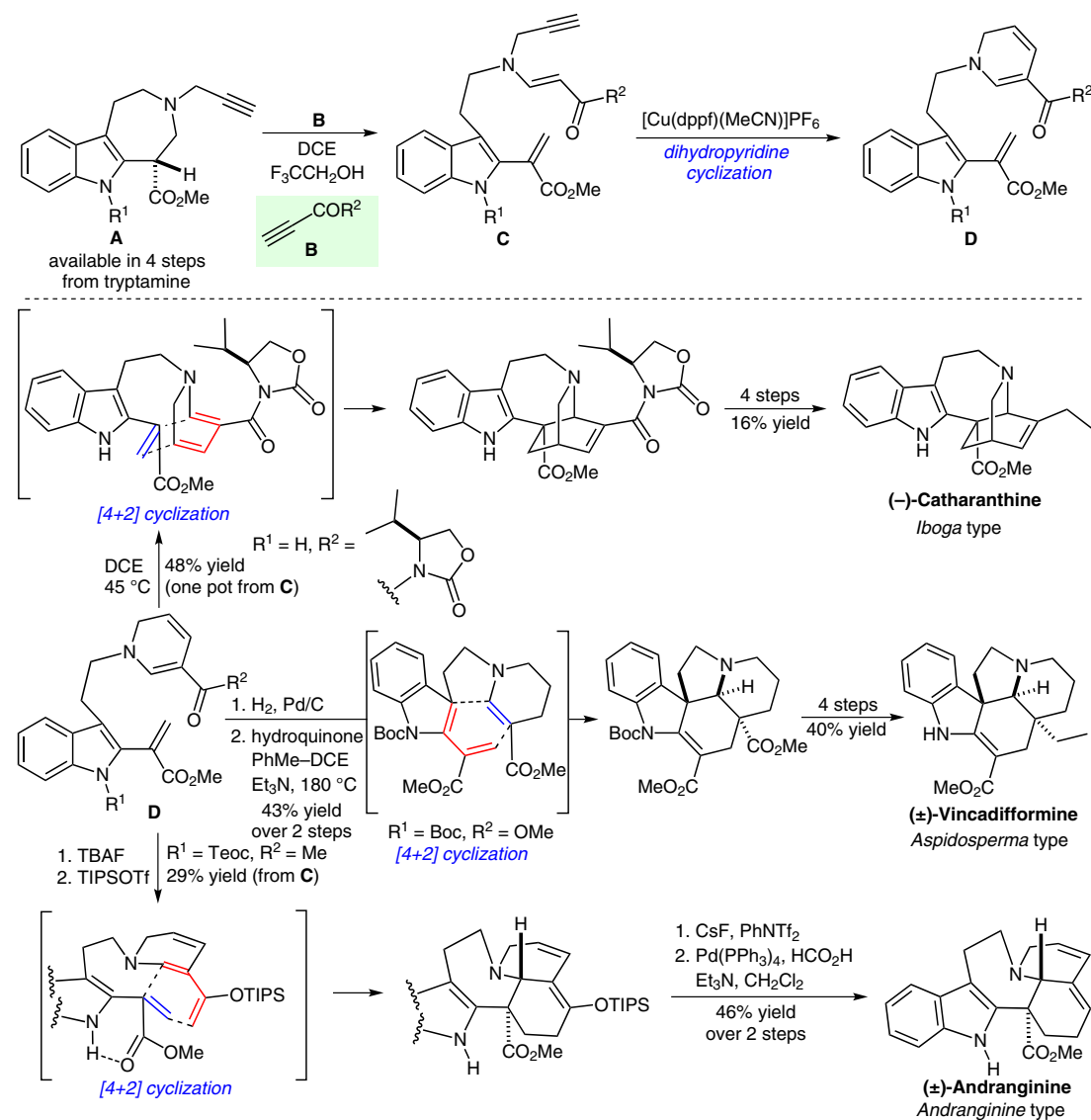


Biogenetically Inspired Synthesis of Indole Alkaloids



Significance: Oguri and co-workers report elegant and concise syntheses of several types of indole alkaloids. Their biogenetically inspired strategy relies on the use of a dihydropyridine intermediate that enables access to five skeletally distinct scaffolds.

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Comment: The key and multipotent intermediate **D** was prepared from **C** by copper-catalyzed dihydropyridine formation. By judicious choice of conditions, **D** could be converted into three structurally distinct natural products in very few steps.