**Synthesis of (–)-Virosaine A**

*Significance:* Virosaine A is a highly congested, polycyclic member of the Securinega alkaloid family. In their elegant synthetic approach towards (–)-virosaine A, Gleason and Hughes rely on an epoxide opening to trigger the intramolecular [3+2] cycloaddition proposed in its biosynthesis.

*Comment:* Epoxide opening in oxabicycle **F** afforded nitrone **G**, which underwent an intramolecular cycloaddition reaction to give the pentacyclic core structure **H**. Subsequent alcohol protection and regioselective lithiation/bromination afforded intermediate **I**, which was converted to (–)-virosaine A by a sequence of five more transformations.