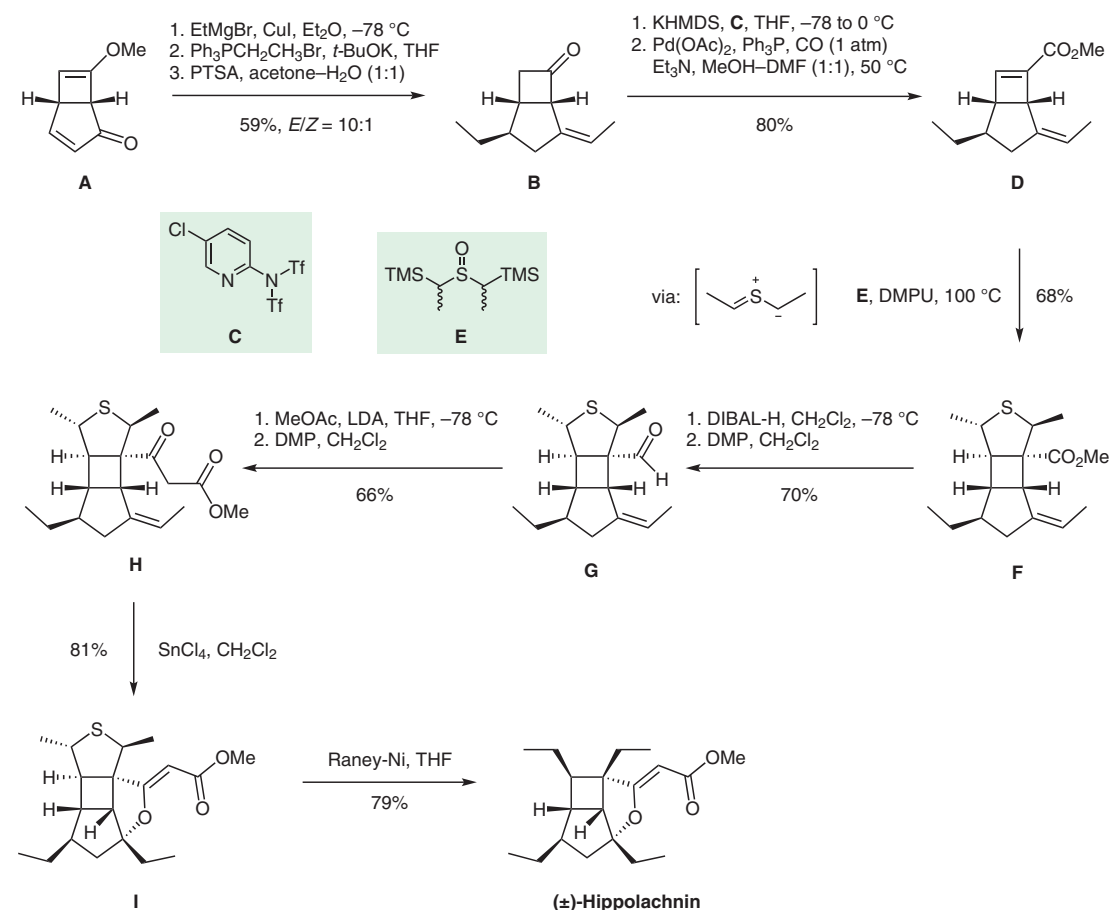


Total Synthesis of (±)-Hippolachnin A



Significance: Hippolachnin A is a polyketide isolated from a marine sponge showing potent anti-fungal activity against the opportunistic fungus *C. neoformans*. The Trauner group reports a concise route to this synthetic target, which is attractive both in terms of bioactivity and a unique molecular scaffold.

Comment: Known compound **A** is accessible through a photochemical route. Few synthetic manipulations yield **D**, which undergoes an ylide cycloaddition as a way to install the two *exo*-positioned ethyl groups. Tin-catalyzed O-alkylation of **H** followed by desulfation delivers (±)-hippolachnin A.