

## Synthesis of (-)-Asperchalasine A

### Category

Synthesis of Natural Products and Potential Drugs

### Key words

(-)-asperchalasine A

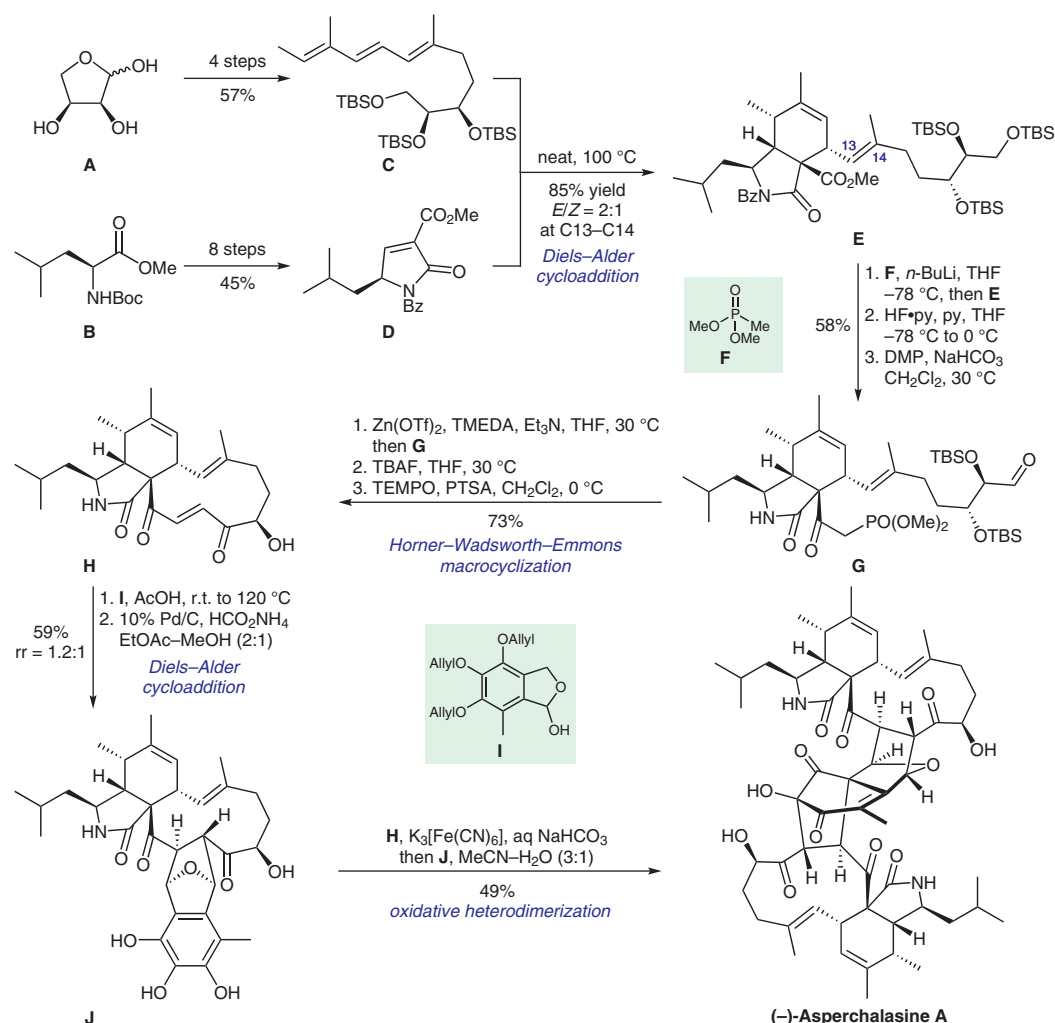
cytochalasan alkaloids

Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons reaction

Diels-Alder reaction

oxidative heterodimerization

Synfact  
of the month



**Significance:** The unique cytochalasan dimer asperchalasine A, which possesses a decacyclic ring system and twenty chiral centers, was among cytochalasan alkaloids recently isolated from the culture broth of *Aspergillus flavipes*. Deng and co-workers took on the synthetic challenges associated with the preparation of the structurally intriguing asperchalasines A in the laboratory and report its first total synthesis. Furthermore, asperchalasines D, E, and H were accessed from shared intermediates.

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Synfacts 2018, 14(11), 1111 Published online: 18.10.2018  
DOI: 10.1055/s-0037-1611235; Reg-No.: C06017SF

**Comment:** The enantioselective synthesis began with the preparation of triene segment **C** and dienophile **D** from L-arabinose and Boc-L-leucine, respectively. Diels–Alder cycloaddition crafted intermediate **E**, which was elaborated further to give 17-*epi*-aspochalasin B (**H**). Diels–Alder reaction of this tricycle with epicoccine-derived **I** provided hexacycle **J**, which was subsequently converted into the target structure by formal [5+2] cycloaddition with an additional equivalent of **H**.