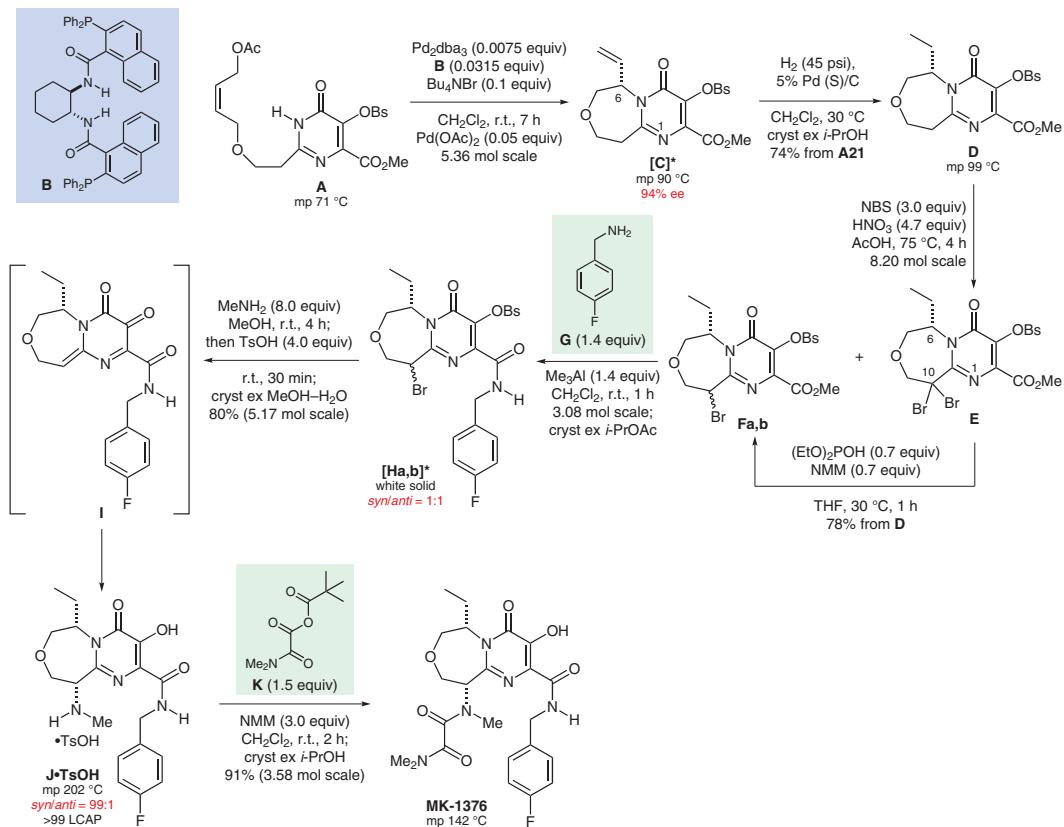


Synthesis of HIV Integrase Inhibitor MK-1376



Significance: MK-1376 is an HIV integrase inhibitor that is of interest for the treatment of AIDS. The key step in the synthesis of MK-1376 is the Trost palladium-catalyzed asymmetric π -allylation reaction that installed the stereogenic center at C-6 in the 1,4-oxepane ring of C. Prolonged reaction times led to erosion of ee from reversible ring closure. This is the first example of reversibility in a π -allylation reaction. The epimerization processes were suppressed by addition of 1.5 mol% palladium acetate prior to workup.

Comment: Introduction of the stereogenic center at C-10 was accomplished by reaction of methylamine with the amides Ha,b (*syn/anti* = 1:1) that gave the *syn*-isomer J (*syn/anti* = 97:3), independent of the original stereochemistry at C-10, consistent with the diastereoselective addition of methylamine to quinone methide intermediate I.