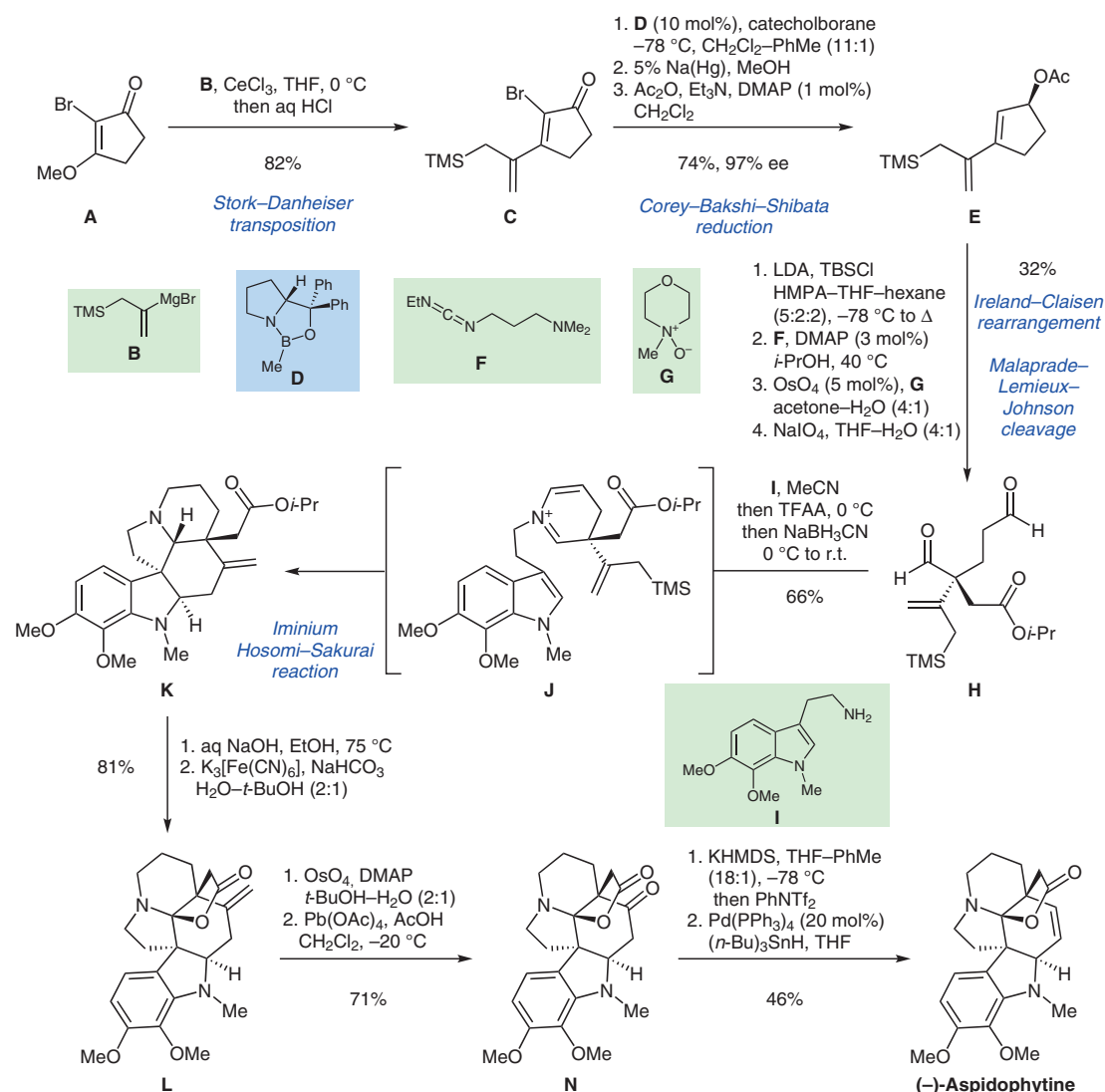


Synthesis of (–)-Aspidophytine



Significance: The authors present the enantioselective synthesis of (–)-Aspidophytine, isolated from *Haplophyton camicidum* leaves and used in Central America as an antickroach and insecticide. Despite of remarkable achievements towards the synthesis of apsidospermine alkaloids, the complex structure of (–)-aspidophytine remained a challenge for more than 20 years.

Comment: The synthesis commences with the preparation of key intermediate **H** using a Corey–Bakshi–Shibata reduction followed by Ireland–Claisen rearrangement. Intermediates **H** and **I** are combined to form the pentacyclic core structure **K** in an iminium Hosomi–Sakurai reaction. The synthesis of (–)-aspidophytine is finished via lactonization and installation of the last remaining olefin.