

(+)-asteriscanolide

[4+4] cycloaddition

Brinkmeyer reduction

Claisen rearrangement

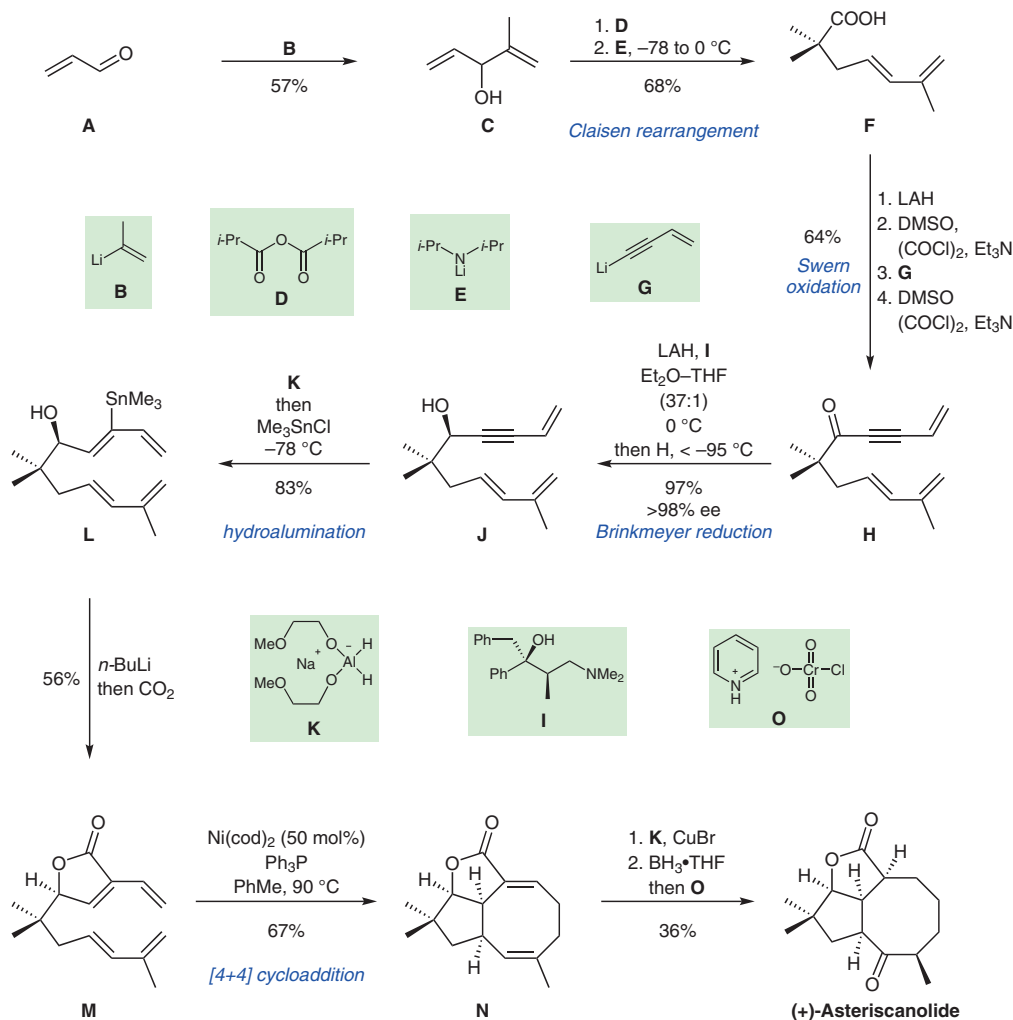
cyclooctadiene synthesis

hydroalumination

Swern oxidation

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Nickel-Catalyzed Intramolecular [4+4] Cycloadditions. 4. Enantioselective Total Synthesis of (+)-Asteriscanolide  
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## Synthesis of (+)-Asteriscanolide



**Significance:** Wender and co-workers report the first total synthesis of sesquiterpinoid lactone (+)-asteriscanolide. Key to their approach is a nickel-catalyzed [4+4]-cycloaddition methodology, which was developed in their group. They successfully establish the first asymmetric synthesis of a cyclooctane-containing terpenoid.

**Comment:** The synthesis commences with construction of acid **F** through a Claisen rearrangement. Asymmetric Brinkmeyer reduction of ketone **H** with LAH in presence of Darvon alcohol (**I**) as a chiral ligand gives rise to **J** with excellent enantioselectivity. Tetraene **M** was accessed by a hydroalumination stannylation sequence followed by lithiation and carboxylation. The key nickel-catalyzed intramolecular [4+4] cycloaddition forged cyclooctadiene **N**.