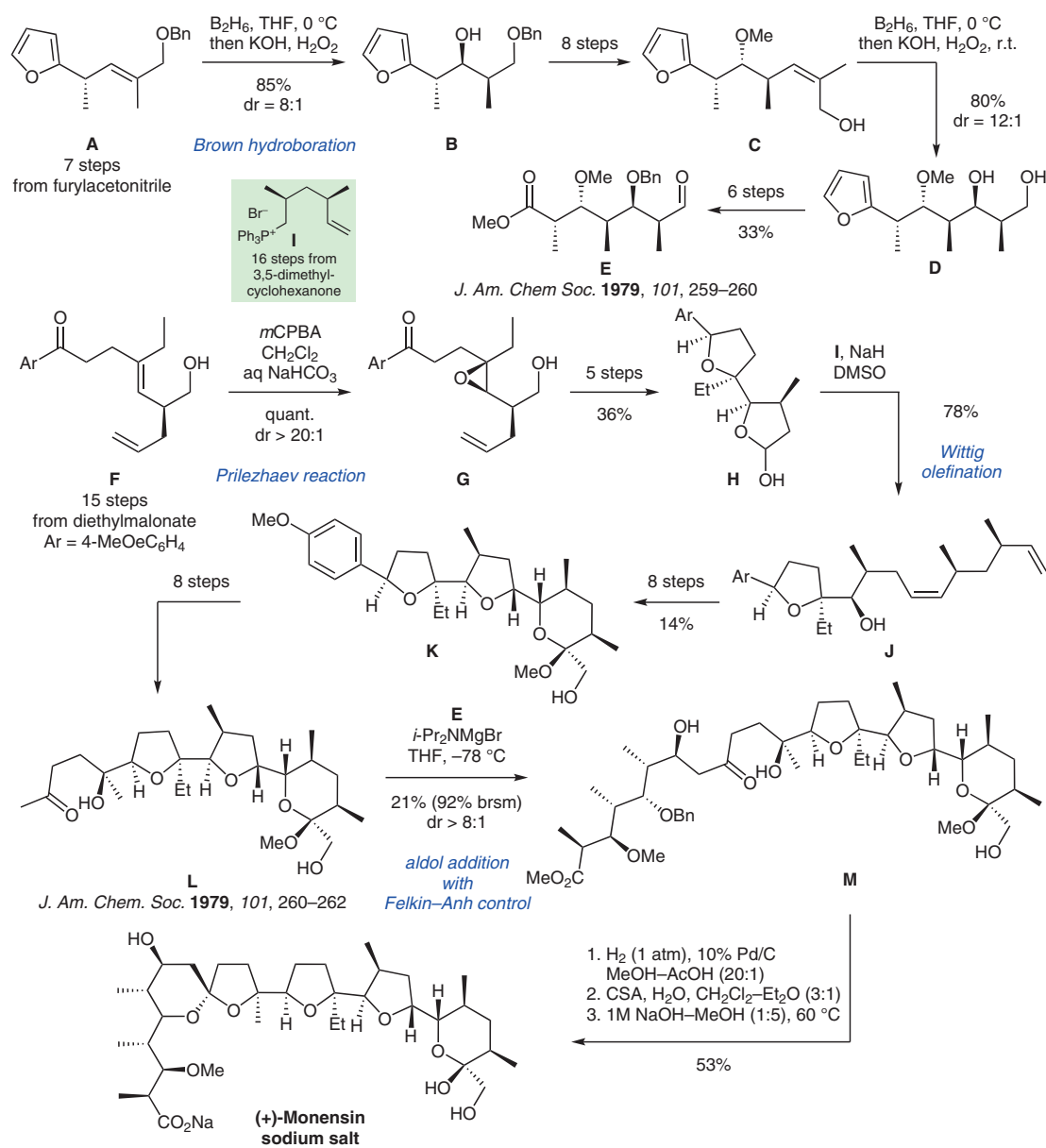


## Total Synthesis of (+)-Monensin



**Significance:** In their landmark synthesis of the stereochemically complex polyether antibiotic (+)-monensin, published in three consecutive communications, Kishi and co-workers showcase elegant use of allylic strain as stereocontrol element.

**Comment:** Coupling of left and right half **E** and **L** was, after considerable experimentation, achieved by aldol addition using a magnesium amide base. Deprotection of benzyl ether **M**, ketal equilibration, and saponification gave the (+)-monensin sodium salt.