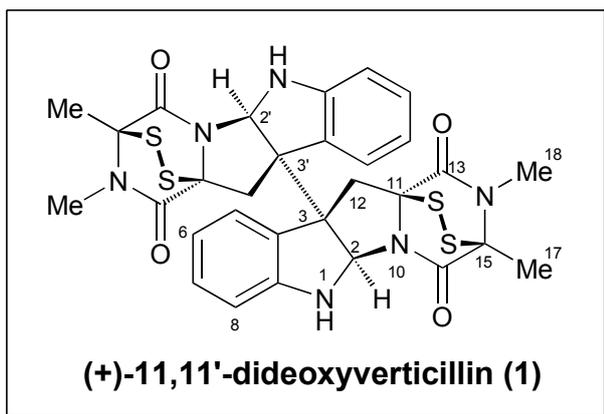
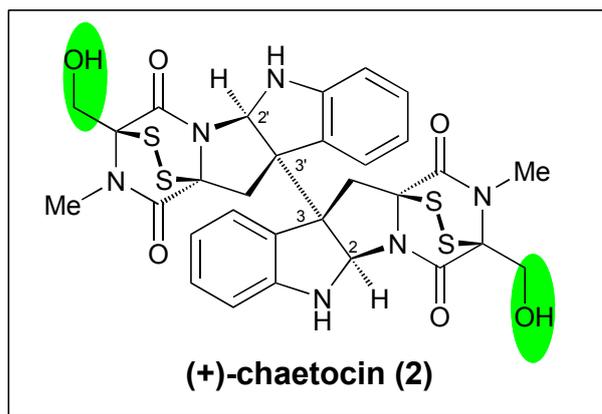


Epidithiodiketopiperazine



Movassaghi, M. *et al.*
Science **2009**, 324, 238.



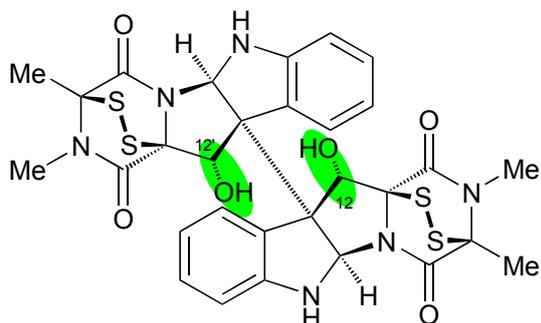
Sodeoka, M. *et al.*
JACS **2010**, 132, 4078.

Isolation: isolated from a marine *Penicillium* sp.
(W. Fenical *et al. Nat. Prod. Res.* **1999**, 13, 213.)

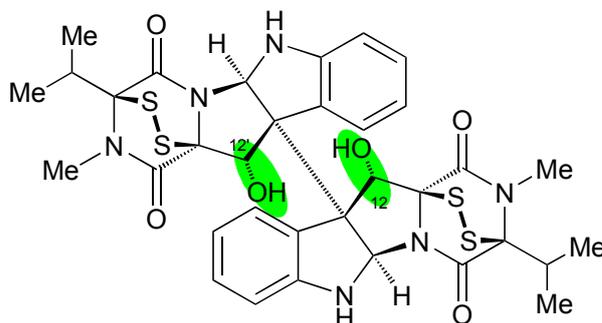
isolated from *chaetomium minutum*
(D. Hause *et al. Helv. Chim. Acta* **1970**, 53,1061.)

(+)-11,11'-dideoxyverticillin (1): potently inhibits the tyrosine kinase activity of the epidermal growth factor receptor, exhibits antiangiogenic activity, and has efficacy against several cancer cell lines

(+)-chaetocin (2): in addition to its antibacterial and cytostatic activity, **2** is known to be a potent inhibitor of lysine-specific histone methyltransferases (HMTs).



isolated from a basidiocarp of *Coltricia cinnamomea*
(Katagiri, K. *et al. J. Antibiot.* **1970**, 23, 420.)

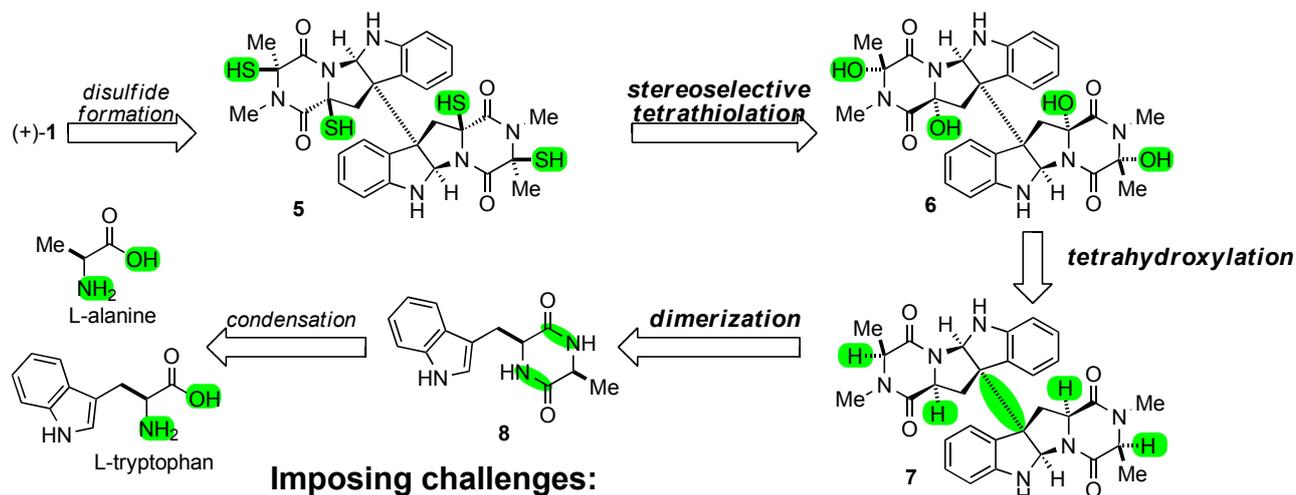


isolated from a strain of *Leptosphaeria* sp.
(Numata, A. *et al. Tetrahedron*, **1995**, 51, 3483)

0. Retrosynthetic Analysis

1. Strategies for The Synthesis of Hexahydropyrroloindole Alkaloids
2. Quadruple C α -Methine Hydroxylation
3. Stereoselective Tetrathiolation and Disulfide Formation
4. Synthesis of Dimerization Precursor (+)-12
5. Over View
6. Sodeoka's Route

0. Retrosynthetic Analysis



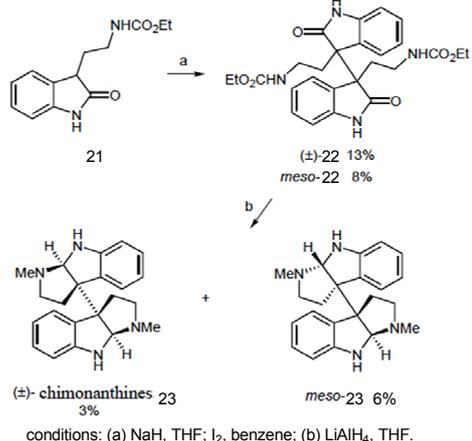
Imposing challenges:

- ◆ Absolute and relative stereochemical control of the six tetrasubstituted carbons of (+)-1 posed noteworthy strategic concerns.
- ◆ highly acid-, base-, and redox-sensitive functional groupings
- ◆ Quadruple α -methine hydroxylation of 7 and the tetrathiolation of intermediate 6.

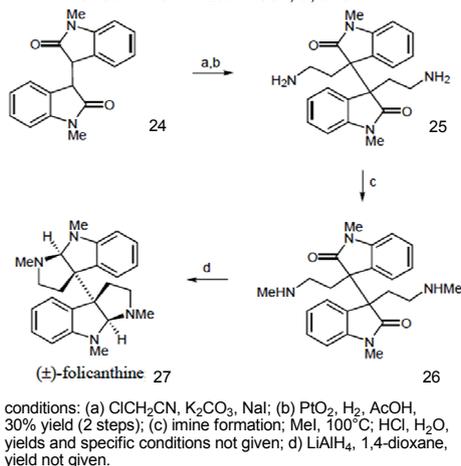
1. Strategies for The Synthesis of Hexahydropyrroloindole Alkaloids

1.1 Background

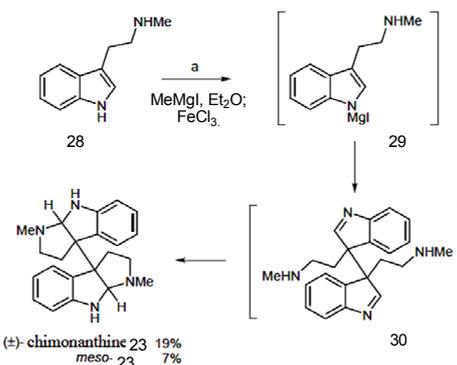
Hendrickson et al.'s synthesis of chimonanthines
Proc. Chem. Soc., London **1962**, 383.



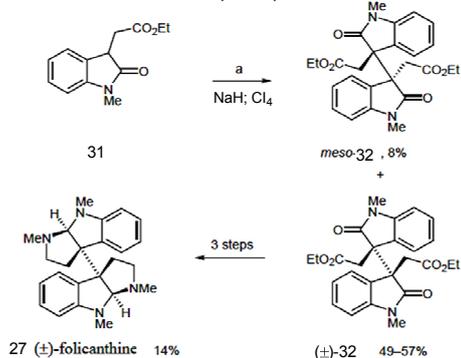
Hino's synthesis of (±)-folicanthine
Chem. Pharm. Bull. **1961**, 9, 979.



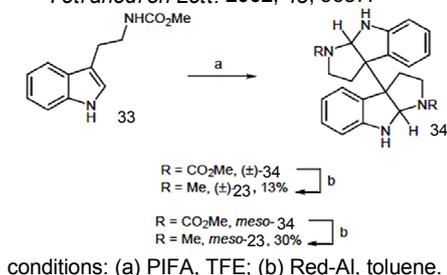
Scott et al's elegant synthesis of chimonanthines
JACS **1964**, 86, 302.



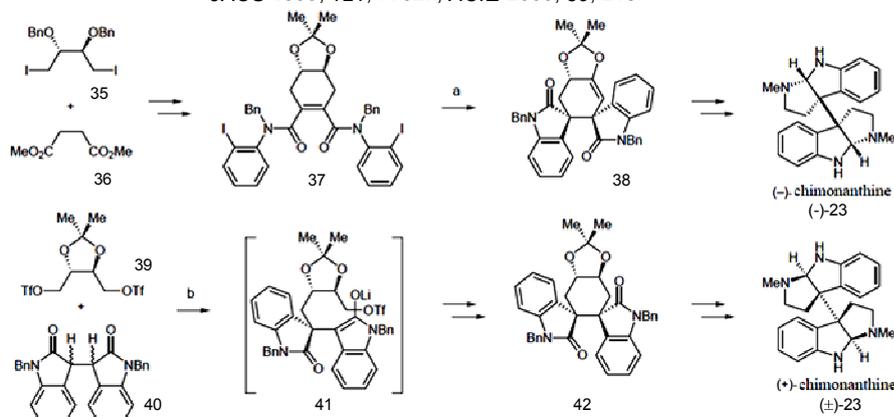
Rodrigo and co-workers' synthesis of (±)-folicanthine
JACS. **1994**, 116, 9480.



Takayama's synthesis of chimonanthines
Tetrahedron Lett. **2002**, 43, 5637.



Overman's enantioselective total syntheses of (-)- and (+)-chimonanthine
JACS **1999**, 121, 7702.; *ACIE* **2000**, 39, 213.



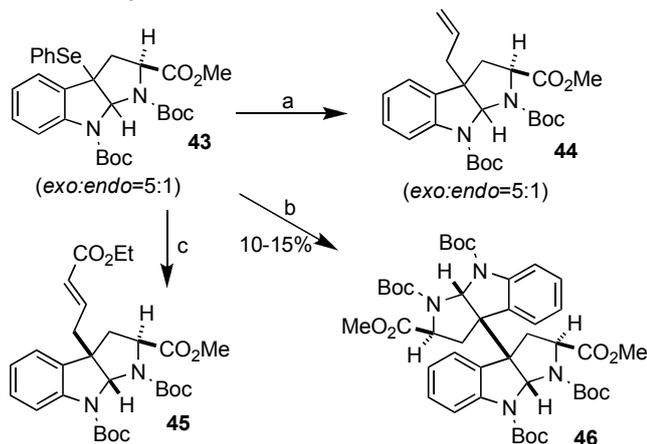
conditions: (a) 10 mol% $Pd(PPh_3)_2Cl_2$, Et_3N , DMA, $100^\circ C$, 90% yield; (b) $LiHMDS$ (2.1 equiv), THF, DMPU, $-78^\circ C$, 55% yield.

- ◆ In the first enantioselective total synthesis of chimonanthine the key transformation proceeded via two intramolecular Heck cyclizations to sequentially secure the two quaternary stereocenters.
- ◆ Second approach relied on two alkylation reactions to sequentially introduce the vicinal quaternary stereocenters

1.2 Cobalt(I)-Promoted Reductive Dimerization Strategy

1.2.1. Related works

Danishefsky, S. J. *et al. JACS.* **1994**, *121*, 11953.



♦ observed dimerization products during the radical prenylation.

♦ Compound **46** represents a potential solution toward natural products of the dimeric tryptamine and tryptophan class of indole alkaloids.

(a) allyl-Sn(*n*-Bu)₃, (*n*-Bu)₆Sn₂, toluene, *hν*, 23 °C, 94%;
 (b) (*n*-Bu)₆Sn₂, toluene, *hν*, 23 °C;
 (c) (*n*-Bu)₆Sn₂, ethyl β-tri(*n*-butyl)stannylacrylate, toluene, *hν*, 23°C, 21%.

Reductive coupling of benzylic halides by CoCl(PPh₃)₃

Yamada, Y. *et al. Chem. Lett.* **1981**, 1277.

Benzylic chloride	Reaction condition	Product	Yield(%) ^b
	r. t. 1.5 h		70
	r. t. 1 h		69 ^c
	r. t. 2 h		75 ^d
	r. t. 2 h		83
	r. t. 17 h		67

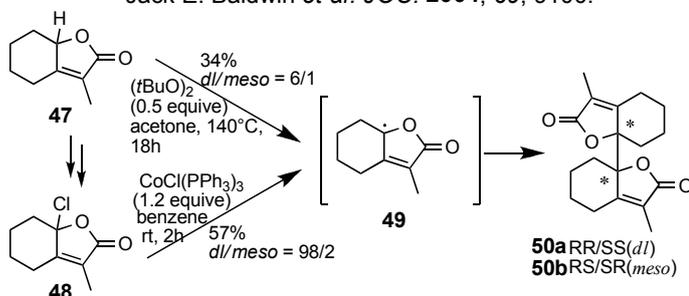
^a Carried out in benzene by the use of 1.2 equiv. of the reagent. ^b Isolated yield.

^c Both *meso* (mp 124-125°C)⁵ and *dl* (oil)⁵ isomers were yielded in a ratio of 1:1 and were separated by silica gel column chromatography. ^d Both *meso* (mp 96-97°C)⁶ and *dl* (oil) isomers were formed in a ratio of 2:3 and were separated by silica gel column chromatography.

- ♦ CoCl(PPh₃)₃ is a rather stable complex to manipulate and can be easily prepared.
- ♦ The reaction can be under mild non-basic conditions and can be accomplished in various organic solvents.
- ♦ In the case of benzyl bromide the reaction was completed, within 5 minutes, faster than the reaction of the corresponding chloride under same conditions to give bibenzyl in a similar yield.

Cobalt-Mediated Dimerization of Chloro Lactone

Jack E. Baldwin *et al. JOC.* **2004**, *69*, 9100.



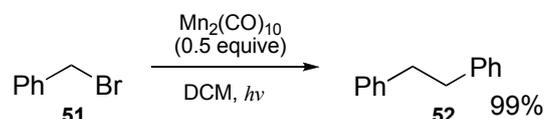
- ♦ Although **48** was a successful dimerization agent for butenolide **47**, the reaction yield could not be further optimized.

TABLE 1. Metal-Mediated Dimerization of Chloro Lactone **47 To Generate Dimer **50****

coupling agent	temperature (°C)	reaction time (h)	solvent	yield of 50 (%)
copper	90–100	1	benzene	2
activated copper	90–100	1	benzene	2
zinc	20–25	24	EtOAc	no reaction
Co(PPh ₃) ₃ Cl	20–25	2	benzene	57

Radical Coupling of Organobromides Using Mn₂(CO)₁₀

B. C. Gilbert *et al. Synth. Commun.* **1999**, *29*, 2711.



- ♦ The photolytic cleavage of the weak Mn-Mn bond in dimanganese decacarbonyl complex [Mn₂(CO)₁₀] could lead to bromide abstraction by {Mn(CO)₅} under mild reaction conditions.

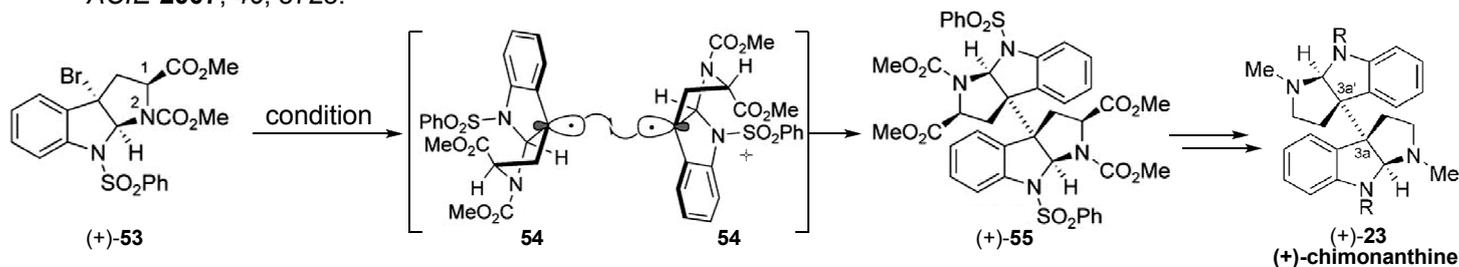
Bromide	Product(s) ¹	Yield (%)
		88
		92
		86
		71 ¹⁵
		83

- ♦ This method was found to work well using a variety of substrates containing a number of functional groups. (included alcohols, esters and acids)

- ♦ Allylic radicals, which could couple in more than one position, reacted predominantly at the least hindered position.

1.2.2. Movassaghi's Total Synthesis of (+)-Chimonanthine.

ACIE 2007, 46, 3725.



◆ A variety of reduction conditions were explored for the generation of the C3 radical center, including the use of magnesium, lithium, samarium(II) iodide, a wide range of reducing copper complexes, iron(III) chloride, magnesium systems, and hexabutyldistannane, along with heat or photochemical activation.

◆ First successful dimerization:

$[\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]$ (0.5 equiv), DEM, 16h. \rightarrow 18% yield (single diastereomer), >99% ee.

$[\text{Mn}_2(\text{CO})_{10}]$ (1.0 equiv) \rightarrow 33% yield (single diastereomer), >99% ee.

◆ No further improvement was observed after an extensive survey of the reaction conditions

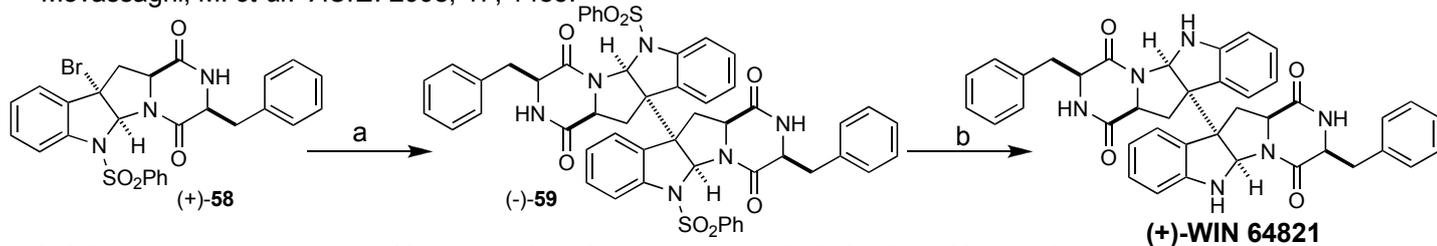
◆ Given the expected second-order dependence of the dimerization rate on the concentration of the activated monomer.

◆ Cobalt(I) complex $\text{CoCl}(\text{PPh}_3)_3$ as a potential solution because of its ability to perform more rapid halogen abstraction from benzylic chlorides in benzene.

$[\text{CoCl}(\text{PPh}_3)_3]$ (1.2 equiv), acetone, 23°C, 15 min \rightarrow 60% yield (single diastereomer), >99% ee. (3-g scale)

1.2.3. Total Synthesis of (+)-WIN 64821 (a nonpeptide neurokinin antagonist).

Movassaghi, M. et al. ACIE. 2008, 47, 1485.



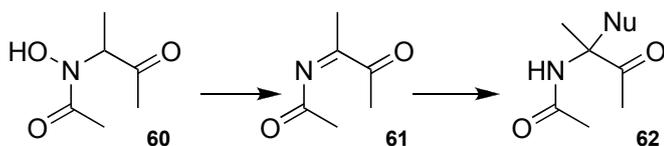
a) $[\text{CoCl}(\text{PPh}_3)_3]$ (1.8 equiv), acetone, 23°C, 30 min, 48%. b) SmI_2 (6.0 equiv), NMP, *t*BuOH, THF, 0°C, 1 h, 75%.

2. Quadruple C α -Methine Hydroxylation

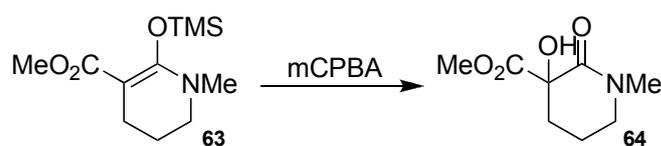
2.1 Methods for C α -oxidation.

N-hydroxylation-dehydration strategy

H. C. Ottenheijm, et al. *J. Org. Chem.* 1980, 45, 1880.

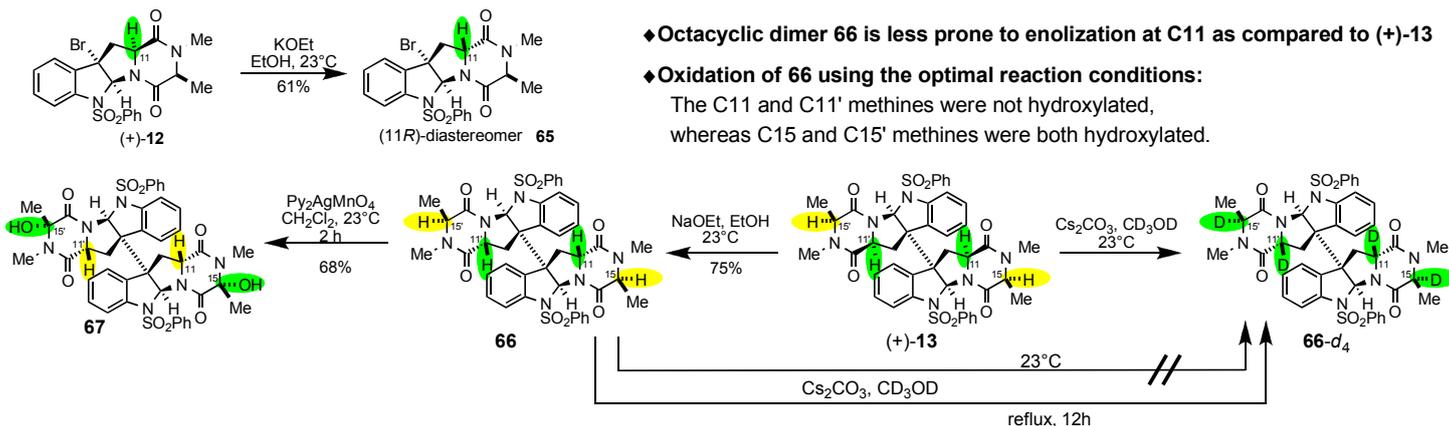


Oxidation of enol tautomers or corresponding enolates
Langlois, Y. et al. *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1985, 26, 3563.



◆ These strategies including electrophilic amide activation and soft-enolization were failed to provide the necessary C α -methine oxidation by formation of partially oxidized and diastereomeric products in addition to substantial competing decomposition.

2.2 Sensitivity and epimerization of tetracyclic and dimeric octacyclic diketopiperazines.



2.3 Radical-based abstraction of C α -methine

- ◆ The C α -methine of amino acids has an approximate bond dissociation energies (BDE) of 82-96 kcal/mol that varies as a function of the ϕ, ψ , angles.

Ruchardt, C. *et al. Tetrahedron Lett.* **1997**, *38*, 7721.

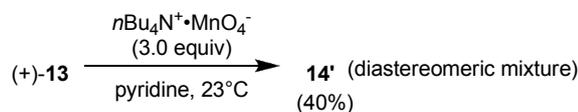
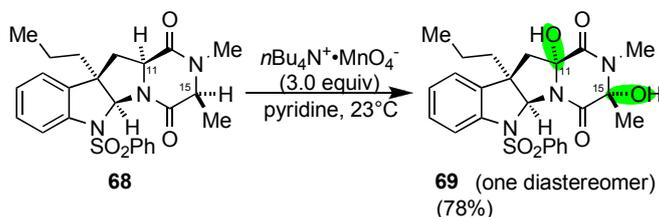
Rauk, A. *et al. Biochemistry* **1999**, *38*, 9089.

[The BDE of all the amino acid residues, modeled by HC(O)NHCH(R)C(O)NH₂ (PH(res)), were determined at the B3LYP/6-31G*//B3LYP/6-31G* level, coupled with isodesmic reactions.]

- ◆ Weak C α -H bonds resulting from stabilization of the ensuing C α -radicals in diketopiperazines.



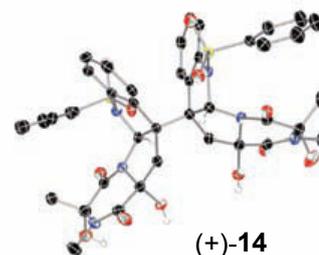
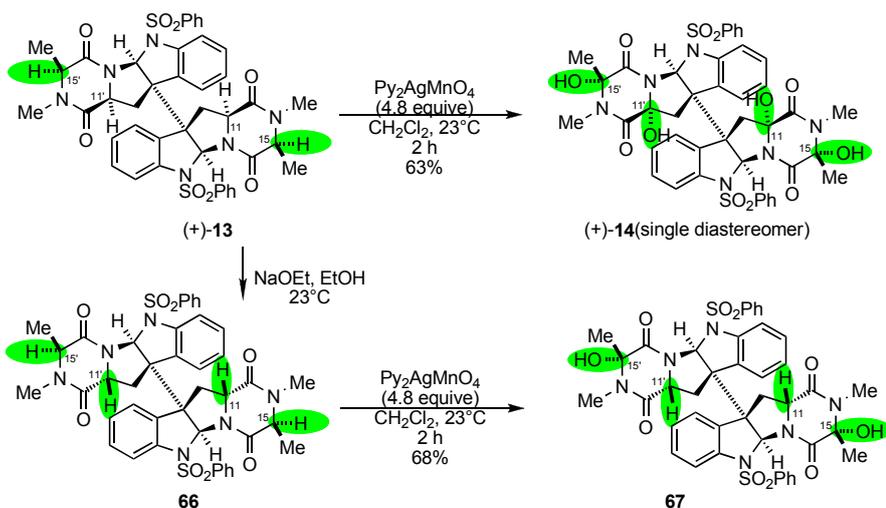
An effective strategy: using mild oxidants typically reserved for hydrogen atom abstraction from formyl groups.



- ◆ competing epimerization of C α -methines and incomplete oxidation occurred.

- ◆ A mild and selective oxidant \rightarrow bis(pyridine)-silver(I) permanganate (Py₂AgMnO₄)

H. Firouzabadi, *et al. Tetrahedron Lett.* **1982**, *23*, 1847.



- ◆ Oxidation of **66** using the optimal reaction conditions:

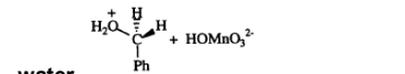
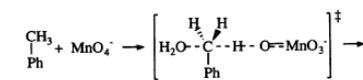
The C11 and C11' methines were not hydroxylated, whereas C15 and C15' methines were both hydroxylated. (only oxidated at the alanine C α (L-Ala)-methines, leaved the C α (D-Trp)-methines unchanged.)

- ◆ This observation, which has important consequences for the choice of natural or unnatural amino acid precursors, is attributed to a nonoptimal conformation of the C-H bond for abstraction and/or the sterically disfavored approach of the oxidant from the concave face of the 5,5-ring system.

2.4 Mechanism of Permanganate Oxidation: Hydrogen Abstraction and Oxygen Rebound

(i) H \cdot Transfer in the Oxidation of Toluene by Permanganate

J. M. Mayer *et al. Science* **1995**, *269*, 1849.



Scheme 5. Calculation of the O-H Bond Strength in [O₃MnO-H]^{-35,41}

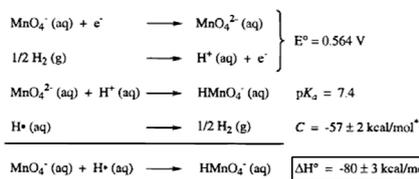


Table 2. X-H Bond Strengths for Hydrogen Atom Abstracting Agents³⁰

X	D(X-H) (kcal/mol)	X	D(X-H) (kcal/mol)
OH \cdot	119	Br \cdot	87
RO \cdot	105	[MnO ₄] ⁻	80
CF \cdot	103	I \cdot	71
ROO \cdot	89		

- ◆ In water, the reaction proceeds by hydride (H⁻) transfer from toluene to a permanganate oxygen.

- ◆ The oxidation in neat toluene is more than 1000 times slower than the reaction in water.

- ◆ Rate-limiting step of the oxidation in neat toluene is attack of MnO₄⁻ to cleave the benzylic C-H bond, as in the aqueous reactions. The nature of this bond cleavage is different in the two solvents.

- ◆ Oxidation in neat toluene most likely occurs by H \cdot transfer from toluene to MnO₄⁻.

- ◆ MnO₄⁻ can make a strong bond to a hydrogen atom, and reactivity correlates with bond strengths and ΔH° for H-atom transfer.

- ◆ Permanganate abstracts H \cdot at essentially the rates expected for an oxygen radical that would make an 80 kcal/mol O-H bond.

This occurs even though permanganate is not a radical.

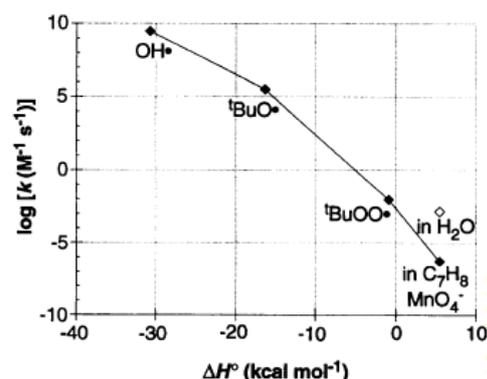
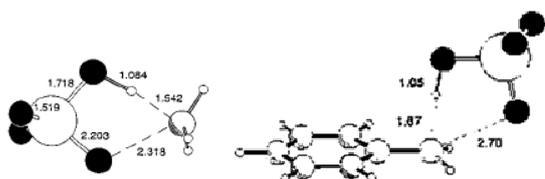


Fig. 2. Plot of the log of the rate constant k for hydrogen atom abstraction at 303 K versus ΔH° for hydrogen atom transfer [BDE(PhCH₂-H) - BDE(OH)]. [BDE(PhCH₂-H) = 88.5 \pm 1.5 kcal/mol]

(ii) Hydrogen Abstraction and Oxygen Rebound

K. N. Houk *et al.* JACS, 2000, 122, 7821



(a) CH₄/MnO₄⁻

(b) toluene/MnO₄⁻

Figure 3. UB3LYP/6-311+G** transition state for the hydrogen abstraction from CH₄ and toluene.

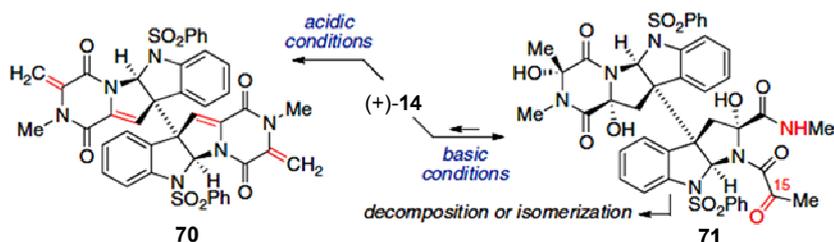
◆ The preferred mechanism is a hydrogen atom abstraction followed by immediate collapse (oxygen rebound) of the radical pair to alkyl manganate ester.

◆ The manganese(V) product of Mn(OH)(OMe)O₂⁻ is 20.7 kcal/mol more stable than the reactants.

◆ In both permanganate transition states, two oxygens of the permanganate are involved significantly in the transfer of the hydrogen. The hydrogen is clearly transferred to one, but a second oxygen is in the vicinity of the forming radical.

◆ The interaction between the permanganate O and the CH₂ group stabilizes the transition state. The activation energy of the reaction is calculated to be 21.8 kcal/mol.

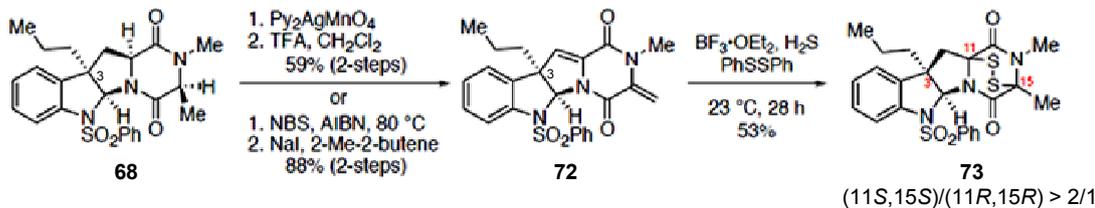
3. Stereoselective Tetrathiolation and Disulfide Formation



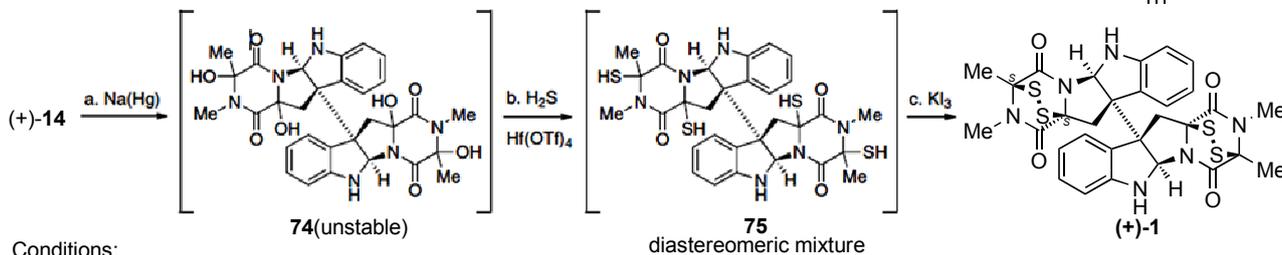
◆ The dimeric octacyclic tetraol (+)-14 proved highly acid- and base-sensitive.

◆ Even dissolution of (+)-14 in methanol at ambient temperature led to slow decomposition.

Synthesis of the pentacyclic epidithiodiketopiperazine 73. (tetracyclic model system)



◆ The level of diastereoselection favoring the desired and natural stereochemistry is greatly enhanced in the dimeric system with a larger C3 (and C3') substituent.

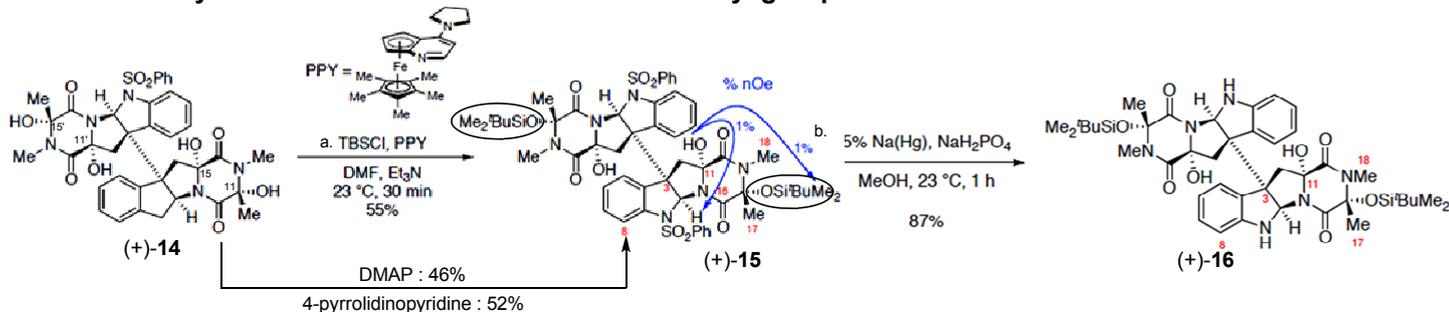


Conditions:

(a) 5% Na(Hg), Na₂HPO₄, MeOH, 23°C. (b) H₂S, CH₂Cl₂, [Hf(OTf)₄], -78→23°C, 14 hours. (c) KI₃, pyridine, CH₂Cl₂, 23°C, 2-15% for three steps.

◆ Low overall yields may be due in part to competing reduction of the tautomeric α -ketoamide 71 or the corresponding derivative from the highly sensitive diaminotetraol 74.

3.1 Selective silylation and Removal of the benzenesulfonyl groups



Conditions: (a) TBSCl (5.0 equiv), PPY (5 mole %), Et₃N (6.0 equiv), DMF, 23°C, 30 min.

(b) 5% Na(Hg), NaH₂PO₄ (40.0 equiv), MeOH, 23°C.

◆ A simple tactical conversion of the tetraol (+)-14 to the diol (+)-15 imparted considerable stability to this structure. (prevent from undesired diketopiperazine ring opening)

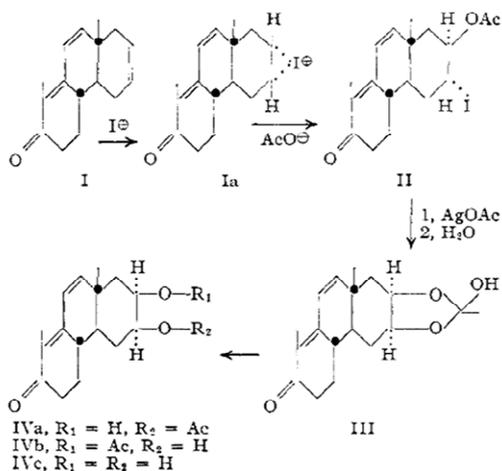
◆ Only one t-butyl dimethylsilyl group per diketopiperazine substructure is allowed, and the attenuation of the C15 alcohol reactivity is critical.

◆ Fu's (R)-(+)-4-pyrrolidinopyridinyl(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)-iron (PPY) catalyst (5 mole %) was optimal for the selective derivatization of both alanine-derived hemiaminals of (+)-14.

◆ Comparison of the base stability of octacyclic tetraol (+)-14 with octacyclic diol (+)-15.

3.2 Woodward-Prevost *cis*-dihydroxylation

R. B. Woodward, F. V. Brutcher, *JACS*. 1958, 80, 209.

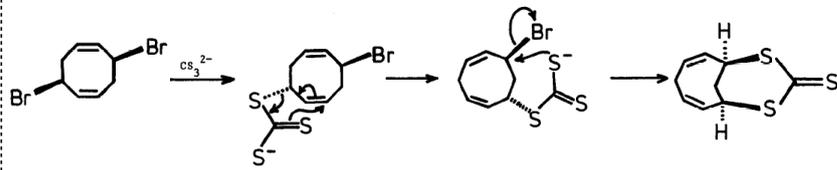


◆ It is important to note that simple exposure of the penultimate intermediate **5** to air leads to direct and rapid formation of (+)-**1**, suggesting the *cis*-dithiodiketopiperazine stereochemistry of **5** as illustrated. (page 2)

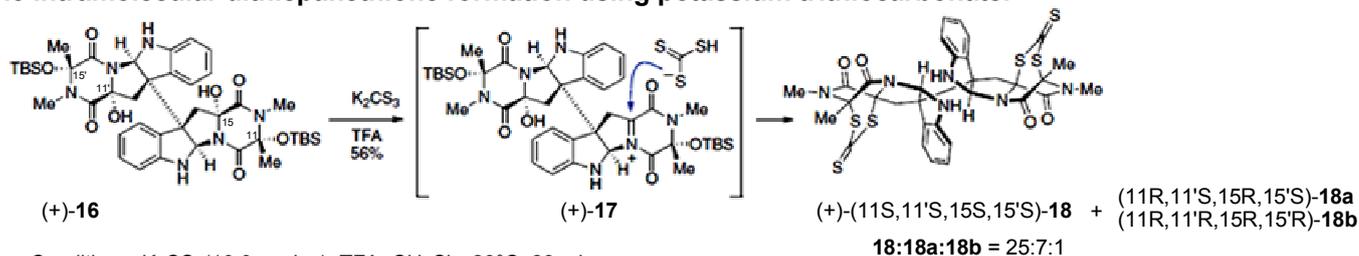
◆ A series of studies for the nucleophilic introduction of the carbon-sulfur bonds at C11 and C15, all point to a high preference for nucleophilic thiol addition at C11 favoring the (11*S*)-stereochemistry.

cis-three-atom bridge formation using trithiocarbonate

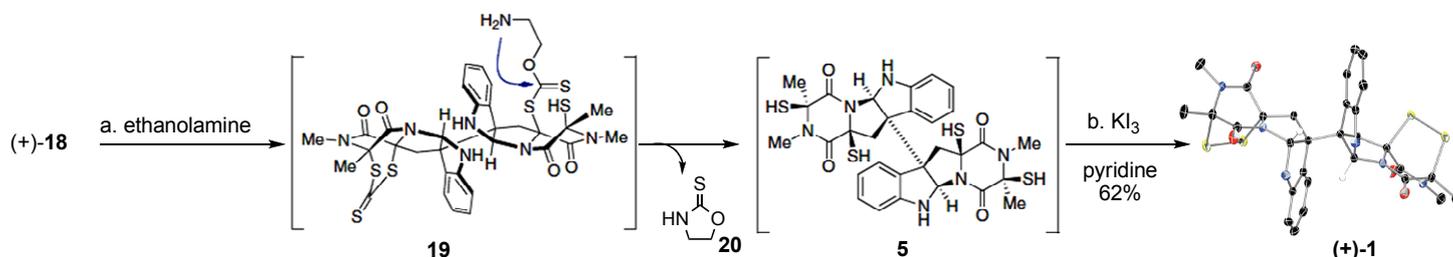
D. D. MacNicol *et al.* *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1975, 16, 1345.



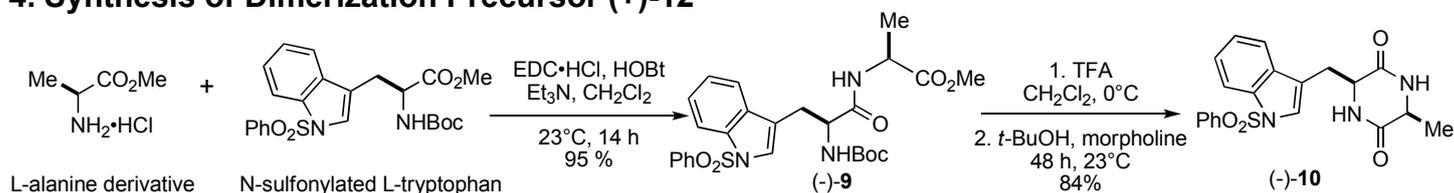
3.3 Intramolecular dithiepanethione formation using potassium trithiocarbonate.



3.4 Diaminotetrathiol formation and triiodide oxidation



4. Synthesis of Dimerization Precursor (+)-12

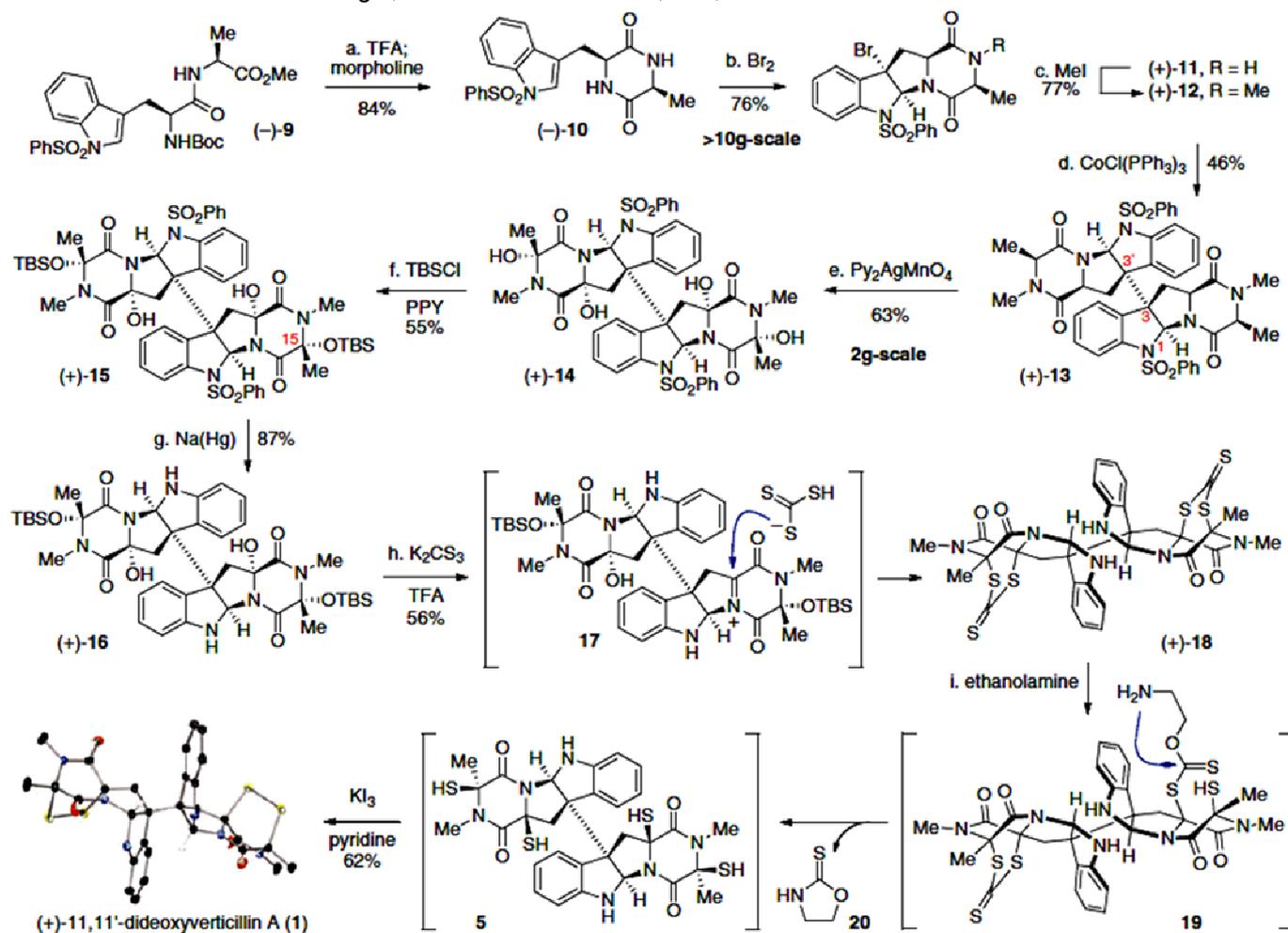


◆ Use of excess bromine was necessary for complete conversion of (-)-**10** to tetracyclic bromide (+)-**11**. The amount of bromine used did not affect the level of diastereoselection.

◆ Lower reaction temperatures (-40°C) resulted in a slightly higher level of diastereoselection (5:1) albeit with less efficient conversion.

◆ The use of several other less electrophilic halogenating agents was less effective.

5. Over View *Movassaghi, M. et al. Science 2009, 324, 238.*



Concise enantioselective total synthesis of (+)-11,11'-dideoxyverticillin A (1). Isolated yields are given for each step. Reaction conditions are as follows: (a) trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂), 23°C, 4 hours; tert-butanol (tBuOH), morpholine, 23°C, 48 hours. (b) Br₂, acetonitrile (MeCN), 0°C, 5 min. (c) methyl iodide (MeI), K₂CO₃, acetone, 23°C, 5 days. (d) tris(triphenylphosphine)cobalt(I) chloride [CoCl(PPh₃)₃], acetone, 23°C, 30 min. (e) bis(pyridine)silver(I) permanganate (Py₂AgMnO₄), CH₂Cl₂, 23°C, 2 hours. (f) tert-butyl(chloro)-dimethylsilane(TBSCl), PPY 5 mole %, triethylamine (Et₃N), N,N-dimethyl formamide (DMF), 23°C, 30 min. (g) 5% Na(Hg), NaH₂PO₄, methanol (MeOH), 23°C. (h) K₂CS₃, TFA, CH₂Cl₂, 23°C, 28 min. (i) ethanolamine, acetone, 23°C; KI₃, pyridine, CH₂Cl₂, 23°C. The thermal ellipsoid representation of synthetic (+)-1 from x-ray crystallographic analysis is shown with most hydrogens omitted for clarity.

◆ Cobalt(I)-Promoted Reductive Dimerization

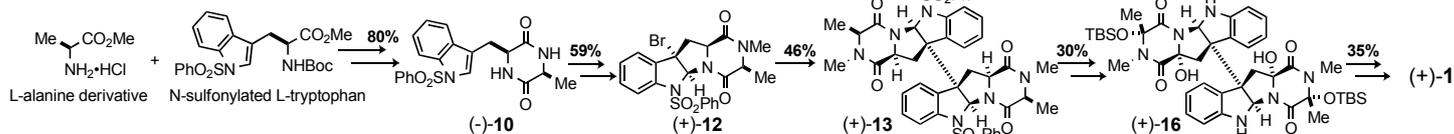
◆ Highly stereo- and chemoselective advanced-stage tetrahydroxylation and tetrathiolation reactions

◆ A mild strategy for the introduction of the epidithiodiketopiperazine core in the final step

6. Sodeoka's Route

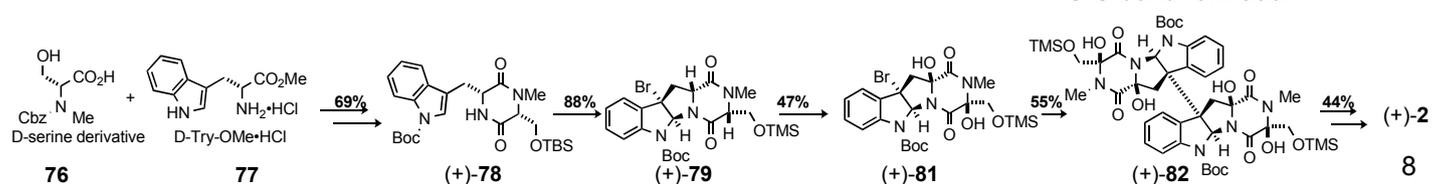
Movassaghi's strategy

natural amino acid ⇒ Dimerization ⇒ α-Hydroxylation of monomer ⇒ tetrathiolation (with inversion) and S-S bond formation

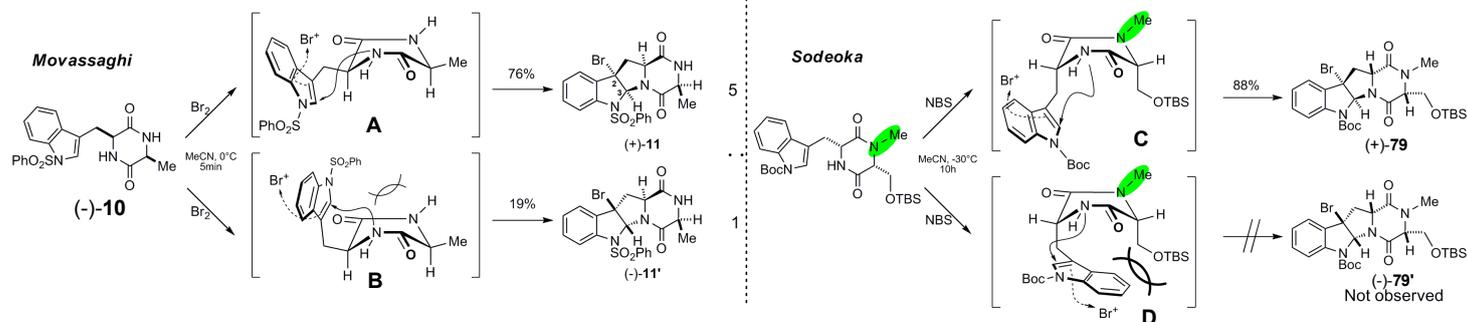


Sodeoka's strategy

unnatural amino acid ⇒ α-Hydroxylation of monomer ⇒ Dimerization ⇒ tetrathiolation and S-S bond formation



Comparison of bromocyclization reaction

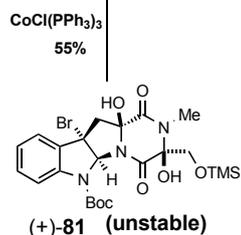
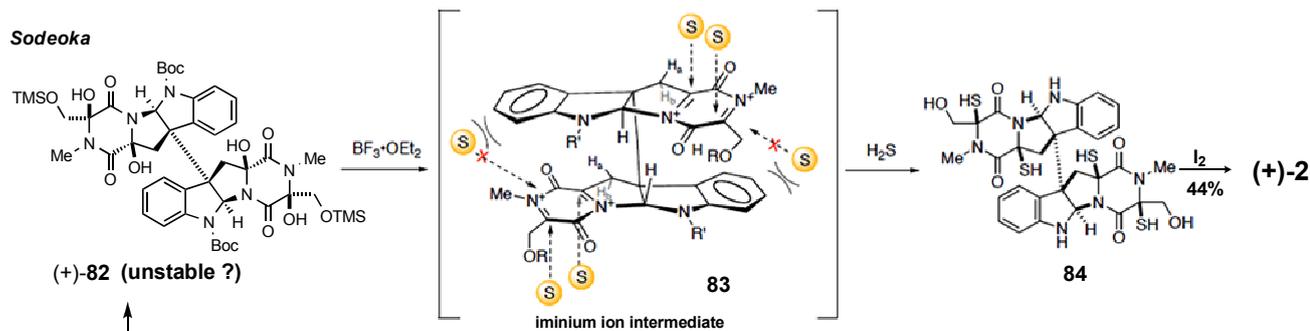
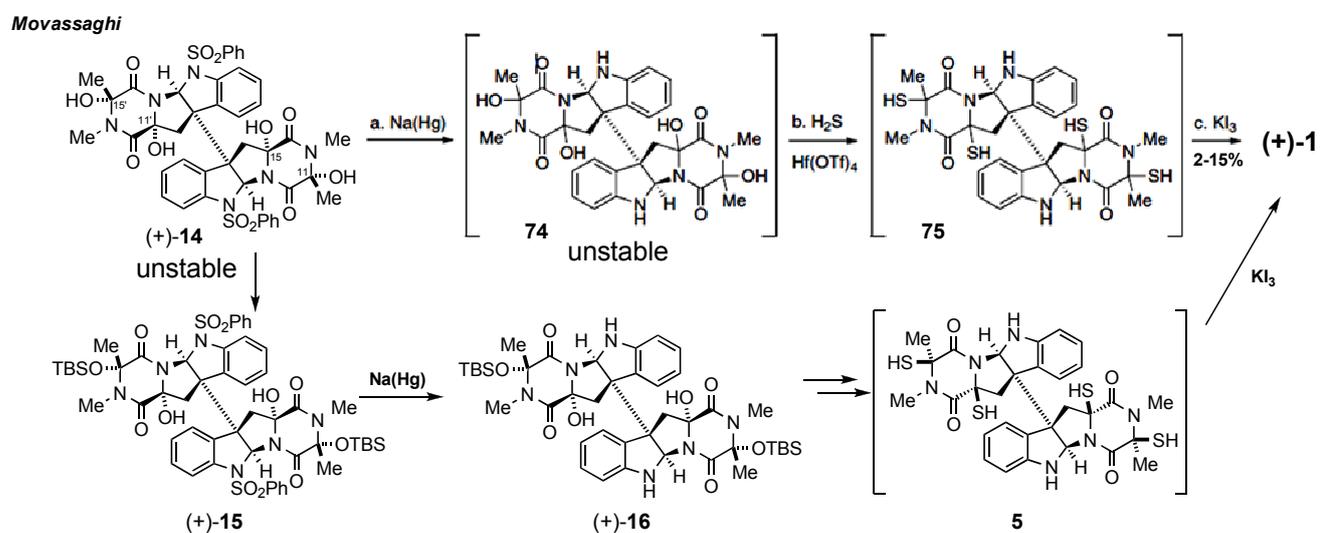


◆ The difference in stereoselectivity depends upon whether or not an *N*-methyl group is present.

◆ The diketopiperazine ring being co-planar, the *N*-Me group is considered to be on the same plane.

◆ TBS-oxymethyl group is located at the pseudo-axial position.
(In order to avoid steric interaction with the *N*-Me group)

Comparison of final-stage



◆ The diol (+)-81 was relatively unstable in CDCl_3 .

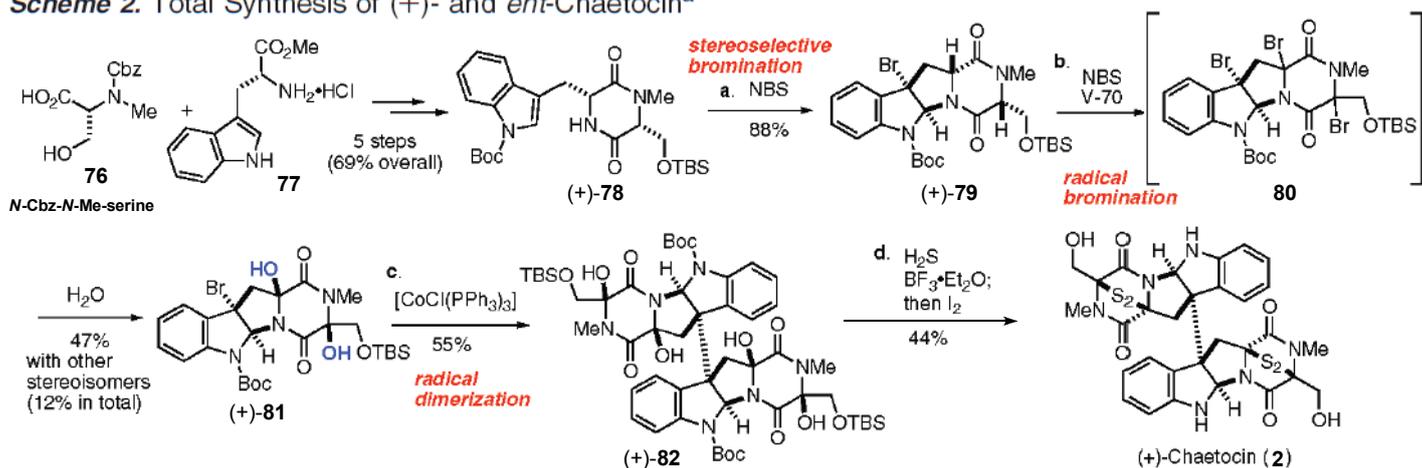
◆ However, the hemiaminal was not sensitive to a reductive coupling reaction using a Co(I) complex.

◆ The unprotected diol (+)-81 could be directly used to furnish the desired octacyclic tetraol (+)-82 as a single isomer in 55% yield

◆ The stereochemistry at the α -position would be cancelled by formation of the iminium ion.

◆ Hydrogen sulfide mainly attacked from the outer surface of the double-decker core structure, affording the tetrathiol precursor stereoselectively.

Scheme 2. Total Synthesis of (+)- and *ent*-Chaetocin^a



^a Conditions: (a) NBS, MeCN, -30°C, 10 h; (b) NBS, V70, CCl₄, rt, 5 h; then pH₇ phosphate buffer/MeCN) 1/1, rt, 3 h; (c) CoCl(PPh₃)₃, acetone, rt, 1.5 h; (d) H₂S, BF₃·Et₂O, CH₂Cl₂, -78°C to rt, sealed tube, 1.5 h; then I₂.

[α]_D²⁶ +537 (c = 0.2, CHCl₃) (synthetic)
[α]_D²⁴ +520 (c = 0.04, CHCl₃) (natural)

- ◆ In the final step, no less than ten bond-forming and cleaving events.
 - ◇ four substitution reactions (OH→SH)
 - ◇ deprotection of four Lewis acid-sensitive protecting groups (TBS and Boc groups)
 - ◇ two S-S bond formations
- ◆ The first total synthesis of (+)-chaetocin has been accomplished in only nine steps starting from the known *N*-Cbz-*N*-Me-serine.