## Asymmetric Synthesis of Seven-Membered Carbocyclic Rings via a Sequential Oxyanionic 5-Exo Dig Cyclization/Claisen Rearrangement Process. Total Synthesis of (–)-Frondosin B

Timo V. Ovaska\*, Jonathan A. Sullivan, Sami I. Ovaska, Jacob B. Winegrad

and Justin D. Fair  $^{\dagger}$ 

Connecticut College, Department of Chemistry, 270 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320, USA <sup>†</sup> University of Connecticut, Department of Chemistry, Storrs, CT 06269-3060 <u>timo.ovaska@conncoll.edu</u>

## Supporting Information

## **Contents:**

General Experimental	page 2
Experimental Procedures	pages 2–10
<sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra	pages 11-26

#### General Experimental.

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were obtained using a Varian INOVA NMR 500 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in units of parts per million (ppm), relative to tetramethylsilane at  $\delta = 0.00$  ppm. Coupling constants *J* are reported in hertz (Hz).

Infrared spectra were recorded on a Pelkin Elmer 1600 series FT-IR and reported in cm<sup>-1</sup>. Melting points were observed using a Melt-Temp in an open Pyrex capillary tube and are uncorrected. High resolution mass spectra were analyzed by the Mass Spectrometry Laboratory at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, Illinois.

Optical rotations were measured at 589 nm on a Jasco P-1010 digital polarimeter. Sample concentrations are reported in g/100 mL (CHCl<sub>3</sub>). Enantiomer ratios were determined either by chiral HPLC or chiral GC. The HPLC measurements were done on an Agilent 1100 series instrument equipped with a DAICEL OD (cellulose tris-(3,5-dimethylphenyl) carbamate) chiral column and a diode array detector measured at 283 nm. Eluting solvent was a mixture of 2-propanol and hexane at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. The GC measurements were done on a Hewlett-Packard P 5890 II chromatograph equipped with a flame ionization detector, ChemStation software (version A.03.00), and Chiradex B-DM (*beta*-cyclodextrin) chiral column (30 m x 0.25 mm i.d., split ratio 100:1, He carrier gas average linear velocity at 60 cm/sec).

All microwave experiments were conducted in a CEM Focused Microwave<sup>TM</sup> Synthesis System, Model Discover microwave oven, equipped with an infrared temperature control system. All microwave reactions were performed in sealed 10 mL microwave vials.

Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was freshly distilled under  $N_2$  from dark blue solutions of sodium benzophenone ketyl. Phenetole (PhOEt),  $CH_2Cl_2$  (DCM), TMSCl, and  $Et_3N$  were freshly distilled from calcium hydride. Bulk solvents were purchased from Fisher or VWR.

All starting reagents were purchased from Aldrich, Acros or Strem. The concentrations of solutions of *n*-BuLi were determined by titrations with *sec*-butyl alcohol using 1,10-phenantroline as the indicator following the method of Watson and Eastham.<sup>1</sup> All glassware was flame-dried under an inert atmosphere and all reactions were performed under an atmosphere of dry argon or nitrogen.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> S. C. Watson, J. F. Eastham, J. Organomet. Chem. 1967, 9, 165-168.

#### **Experimental Procedures**

#### 1-Cyclopentenyl-4-pentyn-1-one (2a)

Following the general procedure of Bobbitt et al.,<sup>2</sup> silica gel (2.0 g) was added to a solution of 1cyclopentenyl-4-pentyn-1-ol (1.00 g, 6.66 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (65 mL), and the resulting slurry was stirred for 3 min. 4-Acetylamino-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxoammonium tetrafluoroborate (2.10 g, 7.00 mmol) was then added and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously at room temperature for 4h. The mixture was then filtered through a short pad (10 mm) of silica gel, washing with more CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The filtrate was concentrated under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (6% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford ketone **2a** as a pale yellow oil (0.937 g, 77%). IR (neat) 3291, 2953, 2115, 1668, 1612, 1432, 1378, 975 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  6.75-6.73 (m, 1 H), 2.92-2.88 (m, 2 H), 2.57-2.50 (m, 4H), 2.49-2.44 (m, 2H), 1.94-1.88 (overlapping patterns, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR 196.2, 145.2, 143.8, 83.5, 68.5, 37.7, 33.9, 30.5, 22.7, 13.2; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>11</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>–1) *m/z* 147.0810, found 147.0810.

#### 1-Cyclohexenyl-4-pentyn-1-one (2b)

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **2a**, ketone **2b** was prepared from 1cyclohexenyl-4-pentyn-1-ol as a pale yellow oil in 94% yield. IR (neat) 3299, 2934, 2120, 1667, 1638, 1434, 1389, 990 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  6.92-6.90 (m, 1H), 2.91-2.86 (m, 2H), 2.50-2.45 (m, 2H), 2.26-2.20 (m, 4H), 1.94 (t, *J*=2.68 Hz, 1H), 1.64-1.56 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  198.6, 140.3, 138.9, 83.7, 68.4, 35.9, 26.0, 23.0, 21.9, 21.5, 13.4; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* 162.1045, found 162.1046.

#### 1-Cyclohexenyl-5-phenyl-4-pentyn-1-one (2c)

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **2a**, ketone **2c** was prepared from 1cyclohexenyl-5-phenyl-4-pentyn-1-ol as a pale yellow oil in 77% yield. IR (neat) 2931, 2286, 1666, 1490, 1189, 756, 692 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.41-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.29-7.27 (m, 3H), 6.96 (t, *J*=1.7 Hz, 1H), 2.99-2.96 (m, 2H), 2.73-2.70 (m, 2H), 2.28-2.25 (m, 4H), 1.67-1.64 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  198.9, 140.2, 139.0, 131.5, 128.1, 127.5, 123.7, 89.2, 80.8, 36.1, 26.0, 23.0, 21.8, 21.5, 14.5; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* 238.1358, found 238.1359.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> J. M. Bobbitt. J. Org. Chem. **1998**, 63, 9367–9374.

#### 1-Cyclohexenyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-pentyn-1-one (2d)

To a solution of oxalyl chloride (0.25 mL, 2.9 mmol) in 8 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added DMSO (0.41 mL, 5.8 mmol) at -78°C and the resulting mixture was stirred for 20 minutes. 1-Cyclohexenyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-pentyn-1-ol (345 mg, 1.15 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) was then added via cannula at -78°C and the resulting mixture was allowed to stir for an additional 30 min. Triethylamine (1.60 mL, 11.5 mmol) was then added dropwise to the reaction mixture and stirring was continued thereafter for 1h at -78°C. Upon warming to room temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the resulting yellow slurry was passed through a short pad of Celite, washing the solids several times with diethyl ether (3 x 30 mL). The ethereal solution was then washed with saturated aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (1 x 100 mL), the layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (1 x 100 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (16% EtOAc in hexane) to give ketone 2d as a pale yellow solid (307 mg, 90%). Mp. 68-71°C; IR (neat) 2933, 1666, 1500; 1464, 1417, 1270, 1232, 1046, 804, 740 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) δ 6.85-6.93 (m, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J*= 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.78 (d, *J*= 2.9 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.00-2.96 (m, 2H), 2.77-2.73 (m, 2H), 2.25-2.21 (m, 4H), 1.63-1.58 (m, 4H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz) δ 199.0, 154.3, 153.2, 140.3, 139.0, 118.4, 114.9, 113.3, 111.9, 93.5, 76.9, 56.4, 55.7, 36.3, 26.1, 23.1, 21.9, 21.5, 14.9; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{19}H_{22}O_3$  (M<sup>+</sup>) *m/z* 298.1569, found 298.1569.

#### 1-Cyclopentenyl-5-phenyl-4-pentyn-1-one (2e)

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **2d**, ketone **2e** was prepared from 1cyclopentenyl-5-phenyl-4-pentyn-1-ol as a pale yellow oil in 89% yield. IR (neat) 2914, 1661, 1614, 1490, 1428, 1377, 1179, 984, 758 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.38-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 3H), 6.80 (br. s, 1H), 3.02-2.97 (m, 2H), 2.74-2.69 (m, 2H), 2.59-2.54 (m, 4H), 1.93 (quin., *J*=7.56 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  196.6, 145.3, 144.0, 131.5, 128.2, 127.6, 123.7, 89.0, 80.9, 38.0, 34.0, 30.6, 22.7, 14.4; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>) m/z 224.1201, found 224.1200.

#### 5-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-(6,6-dimethylcyclohexenyl)-4-pentyn-1-one (2f)

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **2a**, ketone **2f** was prepared from 5-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-(6,6-dimethylcyclohexenyl)-4-pentyn-1-ol as an off-white solid in 92% yield. Mp 54-55°C; IR (neat) 2930, 2191, 1707, 1610, 1499, 1463, 1272, 1209, 1176, 1046 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  6.89 (d, *J*=2.69 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J*=2.69 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.74 (app t, *J*=3.91 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.95-2.92 (m, 2H), 2.73-2.70 (m, 2H), 2.20-2.17 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.58 (m, 2H), 1.45-1.42 (m, 2H), 1.18 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  200.2, 154.3, 153.1, 147.1, 139.4, 118.4, 114.9, 111.8, 93.5, 76.9, 56.4, 55.7, 40.4, 38.4, 33.4, 27.9, 26.6, 18.1, 15.0; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>) m/z 326.1882, found 326.1884.

#### (R)-1-Cyclopentenyl-4-pentyn-1-ol (3a).

#### General procedure for the asymmetric reduction of enones<sup>3</sup> 3a-f:

A solution of ketone 2a (701 mg, 4.72 mmol) in 49 mL of toluene was added to (-)-(S)-CBS reagent (1M, 0.708 mL, 0.708 mmol) in toluene (21 mL) and the resulting mixture was cooled to -78°C. After 15 min, catecholborane (849 mg, 7.08 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred for an additional 40 h at -78 °C. Methanol (3.6 mL) was then added to quench the reaction. Upon warming warm to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (400 mL) and transferred to a beaker along with 1M aq. NaOH/saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2:1 by volume) solution (300 mL). The resulting heterogeneous mixture was stirred vigorously for 15 minutes, the layers were separated and the organic layer was washed again with the 1M NaOH/ saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2:1) solution until the aqueous layers remained clear. The dark aqueous layers were extracted with ether (2 x 100 mL), the combined organic layers were washed with brine (200 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated in vacuo to a volume of ~40 mL. A solution of HCl/MeOH (1.25 M, 0.76 mL, 0.95 mmol) was then added and the resulting precipitate was removed by filtration. After solvent removal under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (15% EtOAc in hexane) to give alcohol **3a** as a pale yellow oil (612 mg, 86%). The observed enantiomer ratio of 93.5% : 6.5% (87% *ee*) was determined by chiral GC.  $[\alpha]^{21}_{D} = +8.6$  (*c* 0.465, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic **3a**.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> E. J. Corey, C. J. Helal, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 1998, 37, 1986-2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> X. Li, R. E. Kyne, T. V. Ovaska, J. Org. Chem. 2007, 72, 6624-6627.

#### (*R*)-1-Cyclohexenyl-4-pentyn-1-ol (3b).

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **3a**, alcohol **3b** was prepared from **2b** as a pale yellow oil in 66% yield. The observed enantiomer ratio of 94.5% : 5.5% (89% *ee*) was determined by chiral GC.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = -3.9$  (*c* 1.50, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic **3b**.<sup>4</sup>

#### (R)-1-Cyclohexenyl-5-phenyl-4-pentyn-1-ol (3c).

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **3a**, alcohol **3c** was prepared from **2c** as a pale yellow oil in 95% yield. The observed enantiomer ratio of 95.5% : 4.5% (91% *ee*) was determined by chiral GC.  $[\alpha]^{21}_{D} = -23.8$  (*c* 0.875, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). IR (neat) 3368, 3056, 3032, 2926, 2857, 2234, 1599, 1491, 1263, 1054, 756, 692; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.34-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 3H), 2.76-2.75 (m, 1H), 4.19 (t, *J*= 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.55-2.45 (m, 2H), 2.15-2.06 (m, 2H), 2.01-1.93 (m, 1H), 1.85 (app. q, *J*=6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.75-1.56 (m, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  139.3, 131.5, 128.2, 127.6, 123.8, 123.5, 89.7, 80.9, 75.5, 33.8, 25.0, 23.6, 22.6 (two peaks), 16.1; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>) m/z 240.1514, found 240.1514.

#### (R)-1-Cyclohexenyl-5-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-pentyn-1-ol (3d).

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **3a**, alcohol **3d** was prepared from **2d** as pale yellow semi-solid in 81% yield. The observed enantiomer ratio of 95.5% : 4.5% (91% *ee*) was determined by chiral HPLC.  $[\alpha]^{22}_{D} = -12.9$  (*c* 0.605, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic **3d**.<sup>4</sup>

#### (R)-1-Cyclopentenyl-5-phenyl-4-pentyn-1-ol (3e).

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **3a**, alcohol **3e** was prepared from **2e** as a pale yellow liquid in 52% yield. The observed enantiomer ratio of 94.5% : 5.5% (89% *ee*) was determined by chiral GC.  $[\alpha]^{23}_{D} = -11.5$  (*c* 1.70, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic **3e**.<sup>4</sup>

#### (R)-5-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-(6,6-dimethylcyclohexenyl)-4-pentyn-1-o1 (3f).

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **3a** (with the exception that the reaction time at -78 °C was 72h instead of 40h), alcohol **3f** was prepared from **2f** as a viscous pale yellow liquid in 68% yield. The observed enantiomer ratio of 99.0% : 1.0% (98% *ee*) was determined by

chiral HPLC.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} = +4.6$  (*c* 0.980, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic **3f**.<sup>5</sup>

#### (S)-2,3,3a,4,6,7-Hexahydroazulen-5(1*H*)-one (4a).

#### General procedure for the microwave-assisted cyclization/Claisen rearrangement:

Alcohol **3a** (213 mg, 1.42 mmol) was transferred to a 10 mL flame dried microwave vial along with anhydrous phenetole (1.5 mL) followed by the addition of 152 µl of MeLi in Et<sub>2</sub>O (1.4 M, 0.213 mmol). The solution was heated at 210 °C for 60 min in the microwave oven. The phenetole solvent was then removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (10% EtOAc in hexane) to give ketone **4a** as a pale yellow oil (132 mg, 62%). The observed enantiomer ratio of 92.3% : 7.7% (85% *ee*) was determined by chiral GC.  $[\alpha]^{22}{}_{\rm D}$  = +79.8 (*c* 0.705, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic **4a**.<sup>4</sup>

#### (S)-3,4,4a,5,7,8-hexahydro-1*H*-benzo[7]annulen-6(2*H*)-one (4b).

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **4a**, ketone **4b** was synthesized from alcohol **3b** as a pale yellow oil in 77% yield. The observed enantiomer ratio of 93.5% : 6.5% (87% *ee*) was determined by chiral GC.  $[\alpha]^{23}{}_{D} = -7.1$  (*c* 0.280, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic **4b**.<sup>4</sup>

#### (4a*S*,5*R*)-5-phenyl-3,4,4a,5,7,8-hexahydro-1*H*-benzo[7]annulen-6(2*H*)-one (4c).

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **4a**, ketone **4c** was synthesized from alcohol **3c** as a white solid in 78% yield (92:8 mixture of diastereomers). The observed enantiomer ratio (purified major diastereomer) of 92.5% : 7.5% (85% *ee*) was determined by chiral HPLC.  $[\alpha]^{21}_{D}$  = +73.9 (*c* 0.655, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). Mp. 75.5 – 77.0 °C. IR (neat) 3088, 3029, 2928, 2854, 1713, 1601, 1496, 1449, 1337, 1105, 739, 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.34-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H), 5.59 (dd, *J*=8.54 Hz, *J*=4.64 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (d, *J*=10.7 Hz, 1H), 2.86-2.77 (m, 1H), 2.72-2.60 (m, 2H), 2.49-2.42 (m, 1H), 2.21-2.17 (m, 1H), 2.13-2.06 (m, 1H), 1.99-1.91 (m, 1H), 1.80-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.70-1.65 (m, 1H), 1.58-1.53 (m, 1H), 1.31-1.24 (m, 2H), 1.15-1.06 (m 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  210.4, 144.3, 137.7, 129.0, 128.2, 127.0,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> X. Li, T. V. Ovaska, Org. Lett. 2007, 9, 3837-3840.

119.7, 58.7, 48.0, 45.4, 39.1, 34.0, 29.1, 26.7, 20.7; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{17}H_{20}O$  (M<sup>+</sup>) m/z 240.1514, found 240.1512.

# (4a*S*,5*R*)-5-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-3,4,4a,5,7,8-hexahydro-1*H*-benzo[7]annulen-6(2*H*)-one (4d).

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **4a**, ketone **4d** was synthesized from alcohol **3d** as a pale yellow solid in 82% yield (77:23 mixture of diastereomers). The observed enantiomer ratio (purified major diastereomer) of 94.5% : 5.5% (89% *ee*) was determined by chiral HPLC.  $[\alpha]^{22}_{D}$  = +39.6 (*c* 0.555, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). Mp. 94.5–96.5 °C. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic **4d**.<sup>4</sup>

#### (3aS,4R)-4-Phenyl-2,3,3a,4,6,7-hexahydroazulen-5(1H)-one (4e).

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **4a**, ketone **4e** was synthesized from alcohol **3e** as a pale yellow oil in 76% yield (92:8 mixture of diastereomers). The observed enantiomer ratio (purified major diastereomer) of 92.0% : 8.0% (84% *ee*) was determined by chiral HPLC.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} = +14.8$  (*c* 0.602 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic **4e**.<sup>4</sup>

### (*4aS*, *5R*,)-5-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-1,1-dimethyl-3,4,4a,5,7,8-hexahydro-*1H*-benzo[7]annulen-6(*2H*)-one (4f).

Following the procedure described for the synthesis of **4a**, ketone **4f** was synthesized from alcohol **3f** as a viscous pale yellow oil in 79% yield (87:13 mixture of diastereomers). The observed enantiomer ratio (purified major diastereomer) of 97.5% : 2.5% (95% *ee*) was determined by chiral HPLC.  $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} = +48.9$  (*c* 2.24 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic **4f**.<sup>5</sup>

# (4a*S*,5*R*,7*S*)-5-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-1,1,7-trimethyl-3,4,4a,5,7,8-hexahydro-1*H*-benzo[7]annulen-6(2*H*)-one (5).

To a solution of ketone **4f** (534 mg, 1.62 mmol) in 31 mL THF was added LiHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 1.94 mL, 1.94 mmol) at -78 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred for 30 min at this temperature. Methyl iodide (690 mg, 4.86 mmol) was added and the mixture was subsequently stirred at -60 °C for 3 h. A solution of aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl was then added to quench the reaction

and the resulting mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. The THF solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was diluted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL). The layers were then separated and the ethereal layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Filtration and concentration under reduced pressure gave the crude product, which was purified by flash column chromatography (10% EtOAc in hexanes) to afford ketone **5** as a viscous colorless oil (474 mg, 85%). The observed enantiomeric excess (97% *ee*) was determined by chiral HPLC.  $[\alpha]^{23}_{D} = +71.4$  (*c* 0.620, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic **5**.<sup>5</sup>

### 2-((*4aS*, *5R*, *7S*)- 1,1,7-trimethyl-6-oxo-2,3,4,4a,5,6,7,8-octahydro-1H-benzo[7]annulen-5yl)cyclohexa-2,5-diene-1,4-dione (6).

To a solution of ketone **5** (466 mg, 1.36 mmol) in 13.5 mL CH<sub>3</sub>CN and 6.8 mL H<sub>2</sub>O was added cerium ammonium nitrate (1.87 g, 3.40 mmol) at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred for 45 min, then diluted with diethyl ether (100 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (60 mL). The aqueous layer was then extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 50 mL) and the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (15% EtOAc in hexane) to give quinone **6** as a yellow oil (397 mg, 93%).  $[\alpha]^{22}_{D} = +93$  (*c* 1.01, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic **6**.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Tetracyclic frondosin B analogue (7).**

Quinone **6** (197 mg, 0.630 mmol) was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (11 mL) and the solution was degassed with nitrogen for 10 min. A catalytic amount of 10% Pd/C (56 mg) was then added and the resulting mixture was stirred rapidly under an atmosphere of H<sub>2</sub> (balloon) at room temperature for 10 min. The solution was then sparged with nitrogen for 5 min and diluted with 45 mL of diethyl ether. The solution was filtered through a short pad of Celite and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the crude phenol, which was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30 mL). Upon cooling to 0 °C, BF<sub>3</sub>Et<sub>2</sub>O (1 M, 0.595 mL, 0.595 mmol) was added dropwise and the resulting mixture was stirred for 5 min. Saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (6 mL) was then added to quench the reaction. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (2 x 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by

column chromatography (10% EtOAc in hexane) to give phenol 7 as a pale yellow oil (140 mg, 75%, two steps).  $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} = -196$  (*c* 0.410, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic 7.<sup>5</sup>

#### (-)-Frondosin B

To a solution of 7 (39 mg, 0.132 mmol) in 10 mL benzene was added a catalytic amount of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (4.0 mg, 0.021 mmol) and the resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 5 h. The solvent was then removed under reduced pressure and the crude residue was purified by column chromatography using a Combiflash chromatography system (gradient run: 3-10% EtOAc in hexane) to give frondosin B (27 mg, 68%).  $[\alpha]^{21}{}_{\rm D} = -17.3$  (*c* 0.178, MeOH). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were identical to those previously reported for racemic frondosin B.<sup>5</sup>































