Short Enantioselective Synthesis of (-)-Sclerophytin A by a Stereoconverging Epoxide Hydrolysis

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General Information

 $^{1}\mathrm{H}$ NMR spectra were recorded on Varian VNMRS 600 MHz. Varian VNMRS 500 MHz, Varian Unity Inova 500 MHz and Varian Gemini 400 MHz spectrometers. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm with the solvent resonance as the internal Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, integration, standard (CDCl₃: 7.26 ppm). multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, br = broad, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz) and assignment. ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{}NMR$ spectra were recorded on Varian VNMRS 600 MHz, Varian VNMRS 500 MHz, Varian Unity Inova 500 MHz and Varian Gemini 400 MHz spectrometers. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm with the solvent resonance as the internal standard (CDCl₃: 77.23 ppm). Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker α -P Spectrometer or a Galaxy series FTIR 5000 of Madison Instrument, Inc. Frequencies are reported in wavenumbers (cm⁻¹) as follows: strong (s), broad (br), medium (m), and weak (w). High-resolution mass spectrometry (ESI) was performed at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. Elemental analysis was performed by Robertson Microlit Laboratories. Melting points are reported uncorrected.

Liquid chromatography was performed using forced flow (flash chromatography) on silica gel (SiO₂, 230 x 450 Mesh) purchased from Silicycle. Thin layer chromatography was performed on 25 μ m silica gel glass backed plates from Silicycle. Visualization was performed using ultraviolet light (254 nm), phosphomolybdic acid (PMA), and potassium permanganate (KMnO₄).

All reactions were conducted in oven- or flame-dried glassware. Benzene, acetonitrile, methylene chloride, and diethyl ether were purified using commercial solvent purification systems, by passing the solvent through two activated alumina columns after being purged with argon unless it was mentioned. Pentane, triethyl amine, and diisopropylamine were distilled from calcium hydride under nitrogen immediately prior to use. Tetrahydrofuran is purified by distillation from sodium with benzophenone as color indicator immediately prior to use.

Magnesium turnings, (+)-B-methoxydiisopinocampheylborane, methylallyl chloride, (-)menthol, 1,10-phenanthroline, tert-butyl vinyl ether, palladium(II) acetate, copper(II) acetate, diisopropylamine, iodine, n-butyllithium in hexane, hydrogen chloride in diethyl ether, triphenyltin hydride, 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile, indium(III) chloride, sodium borohydride, DIBAL-H, DMAP, triethylamine, acetic anhydride, scandium trifluoromethanesulfonate, cvanide. 4-bromo-1-butene, DMSO, *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic trimethylsilyl acid. and dimethylsulfide was purchased from Aldrich and used without further purification. methylmagnesium chloride was purchased from Acros. The 2nd generation Grubbs catalyst (G2) was from Materia and used without further purification. All other reagents were purchased from Aldrich or Fisher and used without further purification.

Geranial (S12) was prepared from geraniol (Aldrich) based on a literature procedure to prepare neral.¹ Jones reagent was prepared based on a literature procedure.²

¹ Piancatelli, G.; Leonelli, F.; Do, N.; Ragan, J. Org. Synth. 2006, 83, 18.

² Freeman, F. In *Encyclopedia of Reagents for Organic Synthesis*; Paquette, L. A., Ed.; Wiley: New York, **1995**; Vol. 2, p 1261.

Experimental Procedures



Magnesium turnings (7.05 g, 290 mmol) were crushed with a mortar and pestle and transferred to a Schlenk tube together with a Teflon-coated stirrer bar. The system was sealed with a pressure-equalized addition funnel, flame-dried under vacuum, and filled with N₂. The turnings were stirred vigorously for 3 d over which time some of the magnesium turned black. Diethyl ether (15 mL) was added to cover the magnesium, the solution cooled to 0 °C under N₂, and a solution of methylallyl chloride (7.10 mL, 72.5 mmol) in diethyl ether (120 mL) was added dropwise to the center of the vortex over 4.5 h. The resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h at 0 °C and the clear solution then transferred to a dry reagent bottle by cannula and titrated (versus menthol with 1,10-phenanthroline as a color indicator). The titration indicated that the concentration of methylallyl magnesium chloride was $0.37 \text{ M}.^3$

Methylallyl magnesium chloride in ether prepared above (95 mL, 0.37 M, 35.1 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of the (+)-B-methoxydiisopinocampheylborane (11.59 g, 36.6 mmol) in Et₂O (33 mL) at 0 °C. Following addition, the reaction mixture was vigorously stirred under N₂ at rt for 1 h during which time a white slurry formed. The Et₂O was removed under vacuum and the residue was treated with pentane (62 mL). The resulting suspension was filtered under nitrogen using Schlenk line techniques, the solids washed with pentane (40 mL), and the pentane removed under high vacuum. The residue was dissolved in Et₂O (54 mL) to form a clear solution which was cooled to -130 - -120 °C in an ethanol and liquid N₂ bath. To the borane solution (cloudy at low temperature), a cooled (ethanol/liquid N₂) Et₂O (46 mL) solution of geranial (S12) (4.61 g, 30.3 mmol) was added slowly dropwise via cannula down the side of the flask (if the geranial solution solidified upon prolonged cooling, it was slightly warmed to liquify). After addition was complete, the reaction mixture was stirred at -130 - -120 °C for 1 h. Methanol (2 mL) and water (2 mL) were added at -120 °C and the flask allowed warming to rt. Then reaction mixture was then treated with aqueous NaOH solution (16 mL, 3 M) and 30% aqueous H₂O₂ (32 mL). and the mixture heated to reflux for 3 h. The mixture was cooled to ambient temperature and the aqueous and organic layers were separated. The aqueous layer was washed with Et₂O (20 mL, 3 times) and the combined organic layers washed with water (10 mL), brine (10 mL), and dried over MgSO₄ After filtration and removal of solvent, the mixture was purified by flash chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / EtOAc (30/1 to 20/1) as eluent] to give allylic alcohol 4 (5.8 g, 27.8 mmol, 92 % yield) as a colorless oil.⁴

Allylic alcohol 4: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.22 – 5.17 (m, 1H), 5.12 – 5.05 (m, 1H), 4.89 – 4.85 (m, 1H), 4.82 – 4.79 (m, 1H), 4.55 – 4.47 (m, 1H), 2.25 (ddd, *J* = 13.6, 8.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 2.16 (dd, *J* = 13.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.13 – 2.06 (m, 2H), 2.05 – 1.98 (m, 2H), 1.78 (s, 3H), 1.70 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 1.68 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 1.60 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.6, 138.8, 131.9, 127.4, 124.2, 113.7, 66.3, 46.5, 39.7, 26.6, 25.9, 22.8, 17.9, 16.8. IR (neat): 3365

³ Baker, K. V.; Brown, J. M.; Hughes, N.; Skarnulis, A. J.; Sexton, A. J. Org. Chem. 1991, 56, 698.

⁴ Racherla, U. S.; Brown, H. C. J. Org. Chem. **1991**, 56, 401.

(br s), 1668 (w), 1647 (m); HRMS-(ESI+) for $C_{14}H_{23}$ [M+H - H₂O]: calculated: 191.1800, found: 191.1801; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +19.2$ (c = 6.5, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.19$ (hexanes / EtOAc = 20 / 1, stain in PMA).

Determination of Selectivity:



To a vial containing allylic alcohol 4 (0.03 g, 0.14 mmol) in dichloromethane (0.72 mL), was added DMAP (1.76 mg, 0.014 mmol), triethylamine (0.16 mL, 1.15 mmol), and acetic anhydride (0.054 mL, 0.57 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at rt overnight. The mixture was purified by flash chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / EtOAc (50 /1 to 20/1) eluent] to give allylic acetate **S13** as a colorless oil.

Allylic acetate S13: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.67 (ddd, J = 8.8, 7.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.12 (ddd, J = 8.8, 2.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.09 – 5.03 (m, 1H), 4.77 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.74 – 4.68 (m, 1H), 2.37 (dd, J = 13.6, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (dd, J = 13.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.13 – 1.97 (m, 4H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.72 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 1.67 (s, 3H), 1.59 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.5, 141.6, 140.8, 131.9, 124.0, 123.6, 113.5, 77.6, 77.2, 76.9, 69.8, 43.7, 39.7, 26.5, 25.9, 22.9, 21.5, 17.9, 17.0; IR (neat): 1733 (s), 1670 (w), 1651 (w); HRMS-(ESI+) for C₁₆H₂₇O₂ [M+H]: calculated: 251.2011, found: 251.2009; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +23.75$ (c = 0.8, CHCl₃); R_f= 0.29 (hexanes / EtOAc = 50 / 1, stain in PMA). Enantioselectivity was determined by comparison to racemic material prepared from Grignard addition to geranial and acetylation.

Chiral GLC (CD-GTA, Supelco, 70° C for 80 min, ramp 0.1° C/min to 130° C, 130° C for 10 min, 20 psi) analysis of **S13**.







To a round bottom flask containing allylic alcohol 4 (4.28 g, 20.54 mmol) was added *tert*butyl vinyl ether (10.83 mL, 82 mmol) and acetonitrile (20.54 mL). Then palladium (II) acetate (0.462 g, 2.054 mmol) and copper (II) acetate (9.33 g, 51.4 mmol) were added to the flask. The mixture was purged with nitrogen for 15 min and vigorously stirred for 22 h at 75-80°C (oil bath temperature). At the end of this time period, the reaction mixture was diluted with 400 mL of pentane-ether (v/v, 3/1). The resulting precipitate was filtered through celite. The filtration cake was washed with 300 mL of pentanes-ether (v/v, 3/1). After solvent was removed by rotovap, the crude mixture was purified by column chromatography [silica gel, first pentane, then pentane / Et₂O (100/1 \rightarrow 50/1 \rightarrow 30/1 \rightarrow 10/1) was used as eluent] to give lactal **3** (3.9 g, 12.73 mmol, 61.9 % yield) as a mixture of two epimers (ratio = 1/1) containing some solvent and trace impurity.

Lactal 3: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.41 and 5.36 (dd, J = 5.6, 3.6 Hz and dd, J = 4.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.15 – 5.07 (m, 1H), 4.90 and 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.85 – 4.81 (m, 1H), 4.81 – 4.75 (m, 2H), 4.07 and 3.96 (td, J = 8.8, 2.8 Hz and td, J = 8.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.75 and 2.18 – 1.91 (dt, J = 10.4, 8.0 Hz and m, 6H), 2.37 – 2.25 (m, 3H), 1.77 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.61 (s, 3H), 1.24 and 1.23 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.4, 143.8, 131.9, 124.3, 111.8, 110.9, 98.1, 78.8, 74.2, 51.7, 42.2, 40.8, 34.3, 29.2, 28.3, 27.1, 25.9, 23.2 (149.0, 144.0, 132.0, 124.2, 112.2, 110.3, 98.4, 81.9, 74.0, 49.8, 45.1, 40.7, 34.5, 29.3, 28.2, 27.0, 23.0, 18.0); IR (neat): 1643 (w); Anal. Calcd. For C₂₀H₃₄O₂: C, 78.38; H, 11.18. Found: C, 78.36; H, 11.03. HRMS-(ESI+) for C₂₀H₃₅O₂ [M+H]: calculated: 307.2637, found: 307.2631; R_f= 0.58 (hexanes / EtOAc = 10 / 1, stain in PMA).

To a stirred solution of above lactal **3** (3.9 g, 12.73 mmol) in acetone (118 ml) at 0 °C, Jones reagent (chromic acid) (6.58 ml, 2.9 M, 19.09 mmol) was added dropwise. The resulting mixture was stirred for 10 min at 0 °C. The reaction was then quenched by slow addition of 2-propanol (4.90 ml, 63.6 mmol) and sat. sodium bicarbonate solution (85 mL, 76 mmol) (caution – vigorous reaction) and solid sodium bicarbonate (8.02 g, 95 mmol). The blue precipitate was removed by filtration and the filtration cake washed with EtOAc. The filtrate was diluted with EtOAc (400 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (100 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with brine (150 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated to give an oil. The crude product was purified by column chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / EtOAc (15/1) as eluent] to give lactone **S14** (2.134 g, 8.66 mmol, 67.5 % yield) as colorless oil.

Lactone S14: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.09 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 1H), 4.95 (s, 1H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 4.88 (s, 1H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 4.51 (td, J = 7.5, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, J = 16.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (dd, J = 17.5, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (dd, J = 17.5, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.42 – 2.31 (m, 2H), 2.15 (dd, J = 14.5, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.07 – 2.00 (m, 2H), 1.78 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.61 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.0, 141.0, 132.7, 123.4, 114.0, 111.8, 82.7, 47.1, 42.6, 35.0, 34.4, 26.5, 25.9, 23.0, 18.0; IR (neat): 1781 (s), 1646 (w); HRMS-(ESI+) for C₁₆H₂₅O₂ [M+H]: calculated: 249.1855, found: 249.1851; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +43.6$ (c = 1.0, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.3$ (hexanes / EtOAc = 10 / 1, stain in PMA).



To a solution of freshly distilled diisopropylamine (0.705 mL, 4.95 mmol) in THF (31.2 mL) at 0 °C was added *n*-butyllithium in hexane (2.00 mL, 2.27 M, 4.55 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 min and then cooled to -78 °C. Lactone **S14** (0.983 g, 3.96 mmol) in THF (6 mL) was added dropwise at -78 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 90 min. The resulted mixture was then transferred by cannula to a cooled (-78 °C) solution of iodine (1.507 g, 5.94 mmol) in THF (22 mL) over 15 min. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h. The reaction was quenched by sequential dropwise addition of 2 M HCl in Et₂O (5 mL), EtOAc (5 mL), and water (10 mL) at -78 °C. After the mixture was allowed to warm to rt, it was further diluted with EtOAc (100 mL) and 1M HCl (10 mL); the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with 20% aqueous sodium thiosulfate (25 mL), saturated NaHCO₃ (5 mL), and brine (20 mL); they were then dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. Purification by flash chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / EtOAc (20/1) as eluent] afforded iodo lactone **5** (1.293 g, 3.45 mmol, 87 % yield) (a mixture of (3*S*)-**5** and (3*R*)-**5**; dr=2.4/1) as a colorless oil.



Iodo lactone (3S)-5: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.12 – 5.07 (m, 2H), 5.05 (s, 1H), 4.91 – 4.89 (m, 1H), 4.84 – 4.81(m, 1H), 4.63 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (td, *J* = 8.0, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd, *J* = 9.5, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.52 – 2.44 (m, 2H), 2.21 – 2.16 (m, 2H), 2.09 – 2.06 (m, 2H), 1.77 (t, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 3H), 1.70 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 3H), 1.63 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.3, 144.4, 140.5, 133.1, 123.1, 114.8, 114.5, 82.9, 59.5, 42.1, 33.5, 26.6, 25.9, 22.9, 18.1, 16.3; IR (neat): 1775 (s), 1645 (w); HRMS-(ESI+) for C₁₆H₂₄IO₂ [M+H]: calculated: 375.0821, found: 375.0824; R_f= 0.48 (hexanes / EtOAc = 10 / 1, stain in

PMA).



Iodo lactone (3R)-5: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.17 (q, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.13 – 5.09 (m, 1H), 4.93 (t, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 4.77 (s, 1H), 4.66 – 4.62 (m, 1H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.23 – 2.05 (m, 4H), 1.99 – 1.91 (m, 1H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 1.72 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 3H), 1.65 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.2, 144.5, 141.1, 132.9, 123.3, 114.4, 113.1, 80.7, 51.6, 40.3, 36.4, 26.0, 25.9, 23.9, 23.3, 18.0; IR (neat): 1765 (s), 1648 (w); HRMS-(ESI+) for C₁₆H₂₄IO₂ [M+H]:

calculated: 375.0821, found: 375.0813; $R_f = 0.46$ (hexanes / EtOAc = 10 / 1, stain in PMA).



A vial with a stirr bar was charged with anhydrous indium(III) chloride (0.165 g, 0.53 mmol) and sodium borohydride (14.1 mg, 0.37 mmol) in a drybox. The vial was sealed with a septum and removed from the drybox. Acetonitrile (4.8 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at rt for 5 min and then cooled to -78 °C. After cooling bath was removed, and the mixture was then slowly warmed to rt, stirred for 5 min, and iodolactone 5 (0.199 g, 0.53 mmol mixture of stereoisomers) in acetonitrile (0.5 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred at rt for 2 h at which time TLC analysis indicated the UV active iodo lactone 5 was consumed (UV inactive product lactone has same R_f as iodo lactone 5). The reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (25 mL) and water (25 mL). After separation of the organic layer, the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (25 mL, twice) and the combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to give an oil. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / EtOAc (20/1) as eluent] to give lactone S15 (74 mg, 0.30 mmol, 56% yield) as an oil. Lactone S15 (74 mg, 0.30 mmol) in a 20 mL vial with stir bar was flushed three times with Then CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL) was added and the solution was cooled to -78 °C. To this N₂. dichloromethane solution at -78 °C, was added dropwise DIBAL-H (0.16 mL, 0.89 mmol). After stirring at -78 °C for 3 h, the reaction mixture was guenched with a saturated aqueous sodium potassium tartrate (3 mL) at -78 °C and the solution allowed to warm to rt and stir overnight. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL, twice) and EtOAc (3 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated to a crude oil. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / EtOAc (15/1) as eluent] to give lactol 6 (63.1 mg, 0.25 mmol, 85% yield) as a white solid. The overall yield from iodolactone 5 to lactol 6 is 48%.

Alternative procedure for radical cyclization of lactone 5:



A solution of triphenyltin hydride (4.35 g, 12.38 mmol) in benzene (179 mL) was added to a 250 mL flask containing iodolactone **5** (2.317 g, 6.19 mmol) and a stir bar. 2, 2'-Azobisisobutyronitrile (0.712 g, 4.33 mmol) was added and the mixture was heated at 60 °C for 1.5 h. ¹HNMR of reaction mixture showed that iodolactone **5** has been consumed. After the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the remaining white solid was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (80 mL) cooled to -78 °C and treated with DIBAL (4.38 mL, 24.76 mmol) dropwise. After stirring at -78 °C for 5 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium potassium tartrate (41 mL) at -78 °C and then allowed to stir at ambient temperature overnight. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous solution was extracted three times with EtOAc (20 mL). The combined organic layers were concentrated, redissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) and EtOAc (25 mL) and treated with saturated KF (25 mL). The mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h and the white precipitate formed was then removed by filtration. The filtration cake was washed by EtOAc (30 mL) and the filtrate diluted with EtOAc (30 mL) and water (30 mL). The layers were separated, the aqueous layer washed with EtOAc (40 mL), and the organic layers combined, washed with brine (10 mL) and dried over MgSO₄, filtrated, and concentrated. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / DCM (3/2, 750 mL) until UV active organic stannane was eluted, then hexanes / EtOAc (20/1, 700 mL) and hexanes / EtOAc (15/1 900 mL)] to furnish lactol **6** (0.690 g, 2.76 mmol, 44.5 % yield) as a white solid.

Lactol 6: Mp = 62-63 °C (enantiomerically enriched); Mp = 85-86 °C (racemic); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.34 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 4.81 (s, 1H), 4.80 (s, 1H), 4.78 (s, 1H), 4.10 (td, J = 9.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (dd, J = 9.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (dd, J = 11.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (d, J = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 2.29 (d, J = 14.0 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (dd, J = 15.0, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (dd, J = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 1.87 – 1.79 (m, 1H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 1.75 – 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.31 (t, J = 12.5 Hz, 1H), 1.08 – 0.99 (m, 1H), 0.96 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.79 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.5, 143.8, 112.0, 111.6, 101.4, 80.1, 51.4, 50.3, 45.0, 40.2, 31.6, 29.0, 25.4, 23.2, 22.0, 16.2; IR (neat): 3418 (w), 1646 (w); HRMS-(ESI+) for C₁₆H₂₅O [M+H - H₂O]: calculated: 233.1905, found: 233.1897; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ = -8.8 (c = 0.9, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.19 (hexanes / EtOAc = 10 / 1, stain in PMA).



To the solution of lactol **6** (0.610 g, 2.436 mmol), DMAP (0.060 g, 0.487 mmol), and triethylamine (2.105 mL, 15.11 mmol) in dichloromethane (18.74 mL) at -45 °C, acetic anhydride (0.690 mL, 7.31 mmol) was added dropwise. The resulting mixture was stirred at -45 °C for 3.5 h and quenched with MeOH (1 mL). After 0.5 h of continued stirring at -45 °C, the mixture was warmed to rt and diluted with 25 mL CH₂Cl₂ and washed with 10% KHSO₄ (15 mL), saturated NaHCO₃ (16 mL), and brine (15 mL). The organic layer was then was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated to give a crude product. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / EtOAc (50/1) as eluent] to give acetate **S16** (0.543 g, 1.857 mmol, 76 % yield) as a colorless oil.

Acetate S16: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.16 (s, 1H), 4.83 – 4.81 (m, 2H), 4.80 – 4.77 (m, 2H), 4.13 (td, J = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, J = 9.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (dd, J = 14.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (dt, J = 13.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 2.18 (dd, J = 14.0, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 2.13 (dd, J = 12.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.09 – 2.03 (m, 1H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 1.96 (dtd, J = 14.0, 7.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.79 – 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.35 (tt, J = 12.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 1.04 (ddd, J = 26.5, 13.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 0.96 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.78 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.4, 145.0, 143.1, 112.5, 112.0, 101.8, 81.2, 50.6, 50.0, 44.3, 40.2, 31.5, 28.7, 25.2, 23.2, 21.9, 21.8, 16.1; IR (neat): 1733 (s), 1648 (w); HRMS-(ESI+) for C₁₈H₃₂NO₃ [M+NH₄]: calculated: 310.2382, found: 310.2375; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +1.5$ (c = 0.8, CHCl₃); $R_f = 0.47$ (hexanes / EtOAc = 10 / 1, stain in PMA).



Scandium trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.024 g, 0.048 mmol) in acetonitrile (1 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of acetate **S16** (0.506 g, 1.730 mmol) and TMSCN (0.580 mL, 4.33 mmol) in acetonitrile (13.31 mL) at -22 °C. After being stirred for 10 h at -22 °C (TLC and ¹HNMR show complete reaction), the mixture was treated with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (12 mL) at -22 °C. The mixture was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) and the organic layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL, 3 times). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude product. The crude mixture was purified by flash chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / EtOAc (50/1) as eluent] to give nitrile 7 (0.395 g, 1.523 mmol, 88 % yield) as a colorless oil.

Nitrile 7: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.88 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (dd, J = 4.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 4.83 – 4.81 (m, 1H), 4.62 (s, 1H), 4.08 (td, J = 9.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.94 (dd, J = 10.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (dd, J = 12.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.36 – 2.24 (m, 3H), 2.11 – 2.03 (m, 1H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 1.82 – 1.68 (m, 2H), 1.39 (tt, J = 12.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 1.09 (ddd, J = 26.5, 13.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 0.99 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.80 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.7, 142.8, 120.0, 113.0, 112.8, 81.0, 69.4, 52.5, 50.9, 43.1, 41.3, 31.3, 29.1, 25.5, 23.2, 21.8, 16.1; IR (neat): 2236 (w), 1649 (s); HRMS-(ESI+) for C₁₇H₂₆NO [M+1]: calculated: 260.2014, found: 260.2016; $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +19.6$ (c = 0.52, CHCl₃); R_f= 0.51 (hexanes / EtOAc = 10 / 1, stain in PMA).



To an oven-dried two-neck flask equipped with a stir bar and condenser, freshly crushed magnesium turnings (6.70 g, 276 mmol) were added. The flask was flame-dried three times. Then iodine (5.00 mg, 0.020 mmol) was added and the system was flushed with N_2 twice. After addition of THF (65.7 mL), 4-bromo-1-butene (4 mL, 39.4 mmol) was dropwise added with stirring. The mixture was refluxed for 0.5 h and then stirred at rt for 1 h. The clear solution was transferred to a dried reagent bottle. Titration of the solution with (-)-menthol and 1,10-phenanthroline indicated the concentration of the resulting 3-butenyl magnesium bromide was 0.467 M.

To the solution of nitrile 7 (0.353 g, 1.361 mmol) in benzene (9.86 mL) at 40 °C, 3-butenyl magnesium bromide (0.467M, 11.66 mL, 5.44 mmol) prepared above was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 9 h. Subsequently, the reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and 1 M aqueous HCl (8 mL) was added dropwise. The solution was stirred at rt for 15 min and then extracted with EtOAc (10 mL, 3 times). The organic phase was then washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The combined two aqueous washing solutions were back extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL, twice) and the combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography [silica gel, hexanes/EtOAc (100/1 to 50/1) as eluent] to give ketone **8** (0.337 g, 1.065 mmol, 78 % yield) as a light yellow oil.

Ketone 8: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.82 (ddt, J = 17.2, 10.4, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.04 (ddd, J = 17.2, 3.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.98 (ddd, J = 10.2, 2.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (s, 2H), 4.81 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (s, 1H), 4.11 (td, J = 10.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (dt, J = 18.0, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.60 (dt, J = 18.0, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 2.41 – 2.15 (m, 7H), 2.07 (tt, J = 13.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 1.94 – 1.84 (m, 1H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 1.79 – 1.73 (m, 1H), 1.47 (tt, J = 12.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 1.06 (ddd, J = 26.0, 12.8, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 0.98 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.79 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 211.8, 145.1, 143.6, 137.4, 115.4, 112.2, 112.1, 87.8, 80.0, 52.6, 47.9, 43.0, 42.9, 38.3, 31.9, 28.4, 27.5, 25.7, 23.2, 22.0, 15.6; IR (neat): 1714 (s), 1644 (s); HRMS-(ESI+) for C₂₁H₃₃O₂ [M+1]: calculated: 317.2481, found: 317.2475; [α]_D²⁰ = +20.54 (c = 0.68, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.34 (hexanes / EtOAc = 20 / 1, stain in PMA).



Ketone **8** (0.324 g, 1.024 mmol) was dissolved in benzene (788 mL) and the mixture sparged with N₂ for 0.5 h. The solution was then heated to reflux under N₂ and the G2 catalyst (0.087 g, 0.102 mmol) dissolved in benzene (20 mL) was added by cannula. The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for 5 h, cooled to rt, opened to air, and treated with DMSO (0.363 mL, 5.12 mmol). After stirring overnight, the solvent was removed and the mixture purified by column chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / EtOAc (100/1 \rightarrow 50/1 \rightarrow 20/1) to give diene **1** (colorless oil, 0.122 g, 0.423 mmol, 41.3 % yield), dimer **S17** (colorless oil, 0.073 g, trans / cis = 4.7 /1), and unreacted ketone **8** (89 mg) with impurities. The recovered ketone **8** (89 mg) was resubjected to the above conditions (0.1 eq G2 catalyst, reflux in benzene for 5 h) to yield additional 17 mg diene **1**. The dimer **S17** (0.073 g, 0.121 mmol) was also resubjected to the reaction conditions to with the G2 catalyst (20 mg, 0.024 mmol) for 6 h followed by additional loading of catalyst G2 (10 mg, 0.012 mmol) for 10 h to give additional diene **1** (0.022 g, 0.076 mmol) as a colorless oil. The overall yield for conversion of ketone **8** to diene **1** was 55 %.



Diene 1: ¹H NMR (500 MHz CDCl₃) δ 5.53 (dd, J = 11.5, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (dt, J = 9.5, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (s, 1H), 3.36 (qd, J = 12.5, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.91 – 2.86 (m, 1H), 2.84 (ddd, J = 12.5, 6.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (dd, J = 12.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (dd, J = 9.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (td, J = 12.5, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (dt, J= 14.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.14 – 2.06 (m, 2H), 1.84 (dd, J = 15.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.78 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, 3H), 1.77 – 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.71 – 1.64 (m, 1H), 1.35 (tt, J = 12.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 1.06 (ddd, J = 26.0, 13.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 0.94 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.77 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

δ 213.4, 146.3, 133.8, 127.5, 111.2, 89.4, 83.1, 47.1, 45.8, 43.1, 41.3, 34.8, 32.0, 29.2, 28.4, 27.0, 25.9, 22.0, 16.2; IR (neat): 1708 (s), 1646 (w); HRMS-(ESI+) for C₁₉H₂₉O₂ [M+1]: calculated: 289.2168, found: 289.2162; [α]_D²⁰ = -2.08 (c = 0.39, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.47 (hexanes / EtOAc = 10 / 1, stain in PMA).



Dimer S17: ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.48 – 5.39 (m, 1H) (trans) or 5.38 – 5.31 (m, 1H) (cis), 4.83 (s, 2H), 4.81 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.71 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (td, J = 10.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.72 – 2.61 (m, 1H), 2.59 – 2.48 (m, 1H), 2.40 – 2.15 (m, 7H), 2.12 – 2.01 (m, 1H), 1.94 – 1.84 (m, 1H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 1.79 – 1.72 (m, 1H), 1.46 (tt, J = 12.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 1.06 (ddd, J = 26.0, 13.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 0.98 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.79 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 212.0, 145.1, 143.7, 129.8 (trans) or 129.4 (cis), 112.3, 112.1, 87.7, 79.9, 52.5, 47.8, 42.9, 42.8, 38.8, 31.8, 28.3, 26.4, 25.7, 23.1, 22.0, 15.6; IR (neat): 1713 (s), 1646 (w); HRMS-(ESI+) for C₄₀H₆₁O₄ [M+1]: calculated: 605.4570, found: 605.4573; [α]_D²⁰ = +15.38 (c = 0.33, CHCl₃); R_f= 0.40 (hexanes / EtOAc = 10 / 1, stain in PMA).



To a vial containing diene 1 (0.050 g, 0.173 mmol) in CHCl₃ (10.3 mL) at -12 °C, a precooled (0 °C) solution of *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (77%, measured by iodometric titration,⁵ 0.058 g, 0.260 mmol) in CHCl₃ (7 mL) was added dropwise and the mixture was stirred at -12 °C for 24 h. The mixture was quenched by addition of dimethylsulfide (0.076 mL, 1.040 mmol) at -13 °C. After the mixture was stirred for 30 min at -13 °C, the mixture was diluted with CHCl₃ (3 mL) and immediately washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (5 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / EtOAc (50/1 \rightarrow 20/1 \rightarrow 15/1)] to give a mixture of **a-9** and **β-9** (0.036 g, 0.118 mmol, 68 % yield) as a colorless oil (dr = 1.8/1).



Epoxide a-9: white solid; Mp = 105-106 °C (racemic); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.82 (t, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (s, 1H), 4.35 (s, 1H), 4.18 (dt, J = 10.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.96 – 2.90 (m, 2H), 2.78 (dd, J = 11.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, J = 12.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H), 2.56 – 2.43 (m, 2H), 2.30 – 2.22 (m, 2H), 2.14 – 2.07 (m, 2H), 1.77 (ddd, J = 12.5, 7.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 1.72 – 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.45 (s, 3H), 1.38 (tt, J = 12.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 1.09 (ddd, J = 26.0, 13.0, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 0.96 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 211.2, 145.6, 111.6, 88.4, 79.9, 62.8, 59.6, 46.4, 45.2, 40.6, 40.5, 37.4, 31.6, 29.0, 28.5,

28.3, 25.7, 22.0, 16.1; IR (neat): 1699 (s), 1648 (w); HRMS-(ESI+) for $C_{19}H_{29}O_3$ [M+1]: calculated: 305.2117, found: 305.2121; $R_f = 0.64$ (hexanes / EtOAc = 3 / 1, stain in PMA).



Epoxide β-9: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.74 (s, 1H), 4.66 (s, 1H), 4.20 (s, 1H), 4.10 – 4.05 (m, 1H), 2.93 – 2.85 (m, 2H), 2.68 (dd, J = 11.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 2.56 – 2.47 (m, 2H), 2.32 – 2.25 (m, 2H), 2.16 (dd, J = 14.8, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.06 (t, J = 12.6 Hz, 1H), 1.78 – 1.73 (m, 1H), 1.71 – 1.66 (m, 1H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.41 – 1.31 (m, 1H), 1.23 (dd, J = 15.0, 11.4 Hz, 1H), 1.09 (ddd, J = 25.2, 12.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.80 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 213.5, 145.6, 110.9, 87.5, 78.9, 63.7, 60.0, 53.8, 44.4, 41.7, 40.2, 34.7, 31.6, 29.4, 27.0, 25.2, 22.3, 22.0, 16.5; IR (neat): 1713 (s),

1648 (w); HRMS-(ESI+) for $C_{19}H_{29}O_3$ [M+1]: calculated: 305.2117, found: 305.2109; $R_f = 0.56$ (hexanes / EtOAc = 3 / 1, stain in PMA).

⁵ McDonald, R. N.; Steppel, R. N.; Dorsey, J. E.; Washburn, W. N.; Breslow, R. Org. Synth. 1970, 50, 15.



To a vial containing a mixture of epoxide α -9 and β -9 (0.014 g, 0.046 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (0.493 mL), a lithium hydroxide solution (1M, 0.493 mL, 0.493 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at rt for 70 min (at 45 min TLC indicated that epoxide α -9 was comsumed). Then potassium hydrogensulfate (0.069 g, 0.509 mmol) in water (0.493 mL) was added and mixture was stirred for 15 min. Then scandium trifluoromethanesulfonate (3.23 mg, 6.57 µmol) in acetonitrile (2.465 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at rt for 5 h (TLC indicated that there is a detectable amount of β -9 left). Additional scandium trifluoromethanesulfonate (3.23 mg, 6.57 µmol) with water (3 mL) and saturated sodium bicarbonate (1 mL), extracted with CHCl₃ (3 mL, 4 times). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered and the solvent removed. The crude product was purified by flash pipette chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / EtOAc (50/1 \rightarrow 20/1 \rightarrow 5/1 \rightarrow 1/1)] to give hemiketal **11** (0.013 g, 0.040 mmol, 88 % yield) as a white solid.

Hemiketal 16: Mp = 165-166 °C (enantiomerically enriched); Mp = 170-172 °C (racemic); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.72 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.69 (s, 1H), 4.21 (dd, J = 7.6, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.14 – 4.07 (m, 1H), 3.87 (s, 1H), 3.69 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.45 – 2.29 (m, 3H), 2.28 – 2.21 (m, 2H), 2.12 – 1.99 (m, 3H), 1.91 – 1.82 (m, 2H), 1.81 – 1.68 (m, 2H), 1.51 (s, 3H), 1.29 – 1.20 (m, 1H), 1.02 (ddd, J = 26.0, 13.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 0.96 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.78 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.1, 110.2, 107.6, 87.7, 85.9, 81.6, 74.8, 48.3, 45.0, 43.3, 42.5, 38.9, 31.9, 31.6, 29.3, 26.5, 25.3, 22.1, 15.9; IR (neat): 3384 (w), 1645 (w); HRMS-(ESI+) for C₁₉H₂₉O₃ [M+H-H₂O]: calculated: 305.2117, found: 305.2106; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ = +2.04 (c = 1.7, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.47 (hexanes / EtOAc = 1 / 2, stain in PMA).



In a dry box, a vial containing hemiketal **11** (0.013 g, 0.040 mmol) in THF (0.40 mL) was charged with methylmagnesium chloride (22 wt% solution in THF, 2.97M) (0.584 mL, 1.734 mmol) was added. The vial was sealed with a polypropylene cap, removed from the dry box, and stirred at 52 °C for 22 h. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C and slowly treated with wet THF (prepared by washing THF with saturated NH₄Cl solution) (1 mL), then saturated NH₄Cl (1 mL) (exothermic). The resulting slurry was diluted with water (2 mL) and EtOAc (6 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 times, 6 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄, filtered, and concentrated. The crude mixture was purified by flash pipette chromatography [silica gel, hexanes / EtOAc (1/1 to 1/2)] to give sclerophytin A (0.014 g, 0.041 mmol, >99 % yield) as a white solid.

Sclerophytin A^6 : Mp = 185-186 °C (enantiomerically enriched); Mp = 129-130 °C (racemic); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.67 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (s, 1H), 4.57 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.16 – 4.09 (m, 1H), 3.63 (s, 1H), 2.97 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.31 – 2.20 (m, 2H), 2.16 (dd, J = 10.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.09 – 1.67 (m, 8H), 1.32 – 1.24 (m, 1H), 1.20 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.06 (ddd, J = 24.8, 12.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 0.97 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.80 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz,CDCl₃) δ 148.1, 109.4, 90.7, 80.3, 78.3, 75.1, 53.2, 45.5, 45.4, 43.9, 40.2, 31.8, 30.5, 29.5, 29.3, 25.0, 22.2, 16.2; IR (neat): 3403 (w), 1646 (w); HRMS-(ESI+) for C₂₀H₃₃O₃ [M+H-H₂O]: calculated: 321.2430, found: 321.2425; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ = -3.0 (c = 1.0, CHCl₃), $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ = -4.0 (c = 0.4, CHCl₃); R_f = 0.43 (hexanes / EtOAc = 1 / 3, stain in KMnO₄).

⁶ (a) Sharma, P.; Alam, M. J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1 **1988**, 2537. (b) Chen, S.-P.; Sung, P.-J.; Duh, C.-Y.; Dai, C.-F.; Sheu, J.-H. J. Nat. Prod. **2001**, 64, 1241. (c) Gallou, F.; MacMillan, D. W. C.; Overman, L. E.; Paquette, L. A.; Pennington, L. D.; Yang, J. Org. Lett. **2001**, *3*, 135.





















































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