

Asymmetric Total Synthesis of (-)-Variabilin and (-)-Glycinol

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Supporting Information

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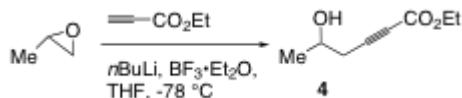
General Procedures

Unless otherwise indicated, all commercial materials were used as received. Chlorotrimethylsilane (TMSCl), N,N'-dimethylethylenediamine, N,N,N'-trimethylethylenediamine, dibutyl ether and 1,3-propanediol were distilled over calcium hydride and kept in storage flasks under Ar. THF, DMF, toluene, pyridine, dimethoxy ethane and diethyl ether were used from a solvent purification system by filtering through an activated alumina column. Dichloromethane and diisopropylamine were distilled over CaH₂ before use.

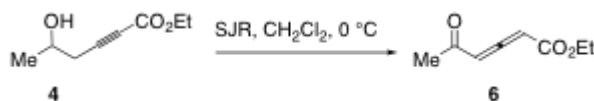
Flash column chromatography was performed on Silicycle 60 Å, 32-63 μm or Dynamic Adsorbents 60 Å, 32-63 μm silica gel, and Dynamic Adsorbents 60 Å, 32-63 μm basic alumina activity III. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was accomplished with SiliCycle 0.25 mm, 60 Å pore size silica gel plates or basic alumina (III) plates. TLC plates were visualized using a ceric ammonium molybdate stain or by a UV/Vis lamp.

A Varian-300 (300 Hz and 75 Hz) or Varian-400 (400 Hz and 100 Hz) NMR spectrometer were used for ¹H and ¹³C spectra. Specific rotations were taken on a Perkin-Elmer 241 Polarimeter. HPLC analyses were obtained from a Thermo Separation Product Spectra Series P200 HPLC equipped with a Spectra 100 variable UV/Vis detector and a Hewlett Packard HP-3394a integrator. A Perkin Elmer 1605 FT-IR

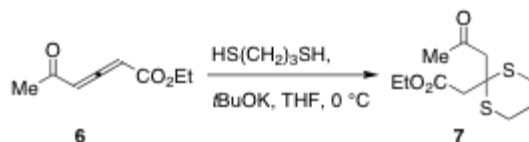
spectrometer was used to collect IR spectra. Atlantic Microlab performed elemental analyses. The UC Riverside Mass Spec Facility performed the mass spectra.



Ethyl 5-hydroxyhex-2-ynoate (4): *n*BuLi (32 ml of a 1.6 M solution in hexanes, 51 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of ethyl propiolate (5.2 ml, 51 mmol) in THF (90 ml) at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir at this temperature for 30 min. Propylene oxide (1.80 ml, 25.5 mmol) was then added dropwise, immediately followed by boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (6.4 ml, 51 mmol). After an additional 2 h at -78 °C, the solvents were removed under reduced pressure, the residue was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (100 ml) and then washed with saturated NH₄Cl (80 ml). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 100 ml). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvents were evaporated under vacuum. Gradient silica gel flash chromatography (5:1 to 1:1 hexanes:EtOAc) afforded **4** (3.46 g, 87%) as a colorless oil. This compound has been characterized before.¹



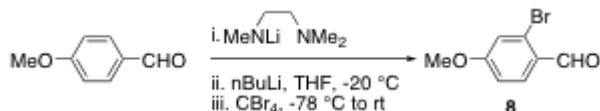
1-Ethylcarboxylate-3-acetoallene (6): 100 ml of Jones reagent (2.5 M, 250 mmol) was added slowly to 120 g of silica gel in a three-neck round bottom flask equipped with a mechanical stirrer. This silica gel-supported Jones reagent (SJR) was stirred until a fine orange powder was formed. CH₂Cl₂ (500 ml) was then added and the suspension was cooled to 0 °C. **4** (7.8 g, 50 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (50 ml) was added over 10 min and the suspension was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. The suspension was filtered through a plug of celite and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 100 ml). The filtrate was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure at room temperature to give **6** as a bright yellow oil (7.7 g, 100%): IR (neat) 1948, 1719, 1685, 1255, 1153 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 6.08 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.23 (s, 3H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 221.4, 195.3, 163.1, 100.5, 92.3, 61.7, 27.5, 14.2.



5-Oxo-3-(1,3-dithiane)-hexanoic acid ethyl ester (7): Potassium *t*-butoxide (2.50 g, 22.4 mmol) was added in portions to a solution of **6** (6.90 g, 44.8 mmol) and 1,3-propanedithiol (5.0 ml, 49 mmol) in THF (80 ml) at 0 °C. After 1 h at 0 °C, the solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the residue was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (100 ml) and washed with saturated NH₄Cl (100 ml). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 100 ml). The organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (4:1 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded **7** (9.74 g, 83%) as a white solid. This compound has been characterized before.²

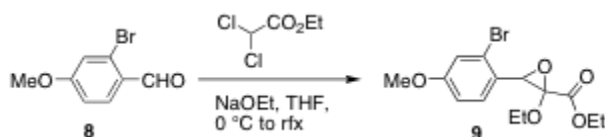


5-(1,3-Dithiane)-1,3-cyclohexadione (2a): **7** (2.65 g, 10.1 mmol) in dimethoxy ethane (10 ml) was added to a solution of LiHMDS (10.1 ml of a 1.0 M solution in THF, 10.1 mmol) in 30 ml of dimethoxy ethane at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 12 h. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* and the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (40 ml). The organic layer was washed with 2 N acetic acid (10 ml) and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 40 ml). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. Recrystallization from hexanes/EtOAc afforded **2a** (1.42 g, 65%) as a white solid: IR (neat) 1585, 1501, 1321, 1230, 1106 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 300 MHz) δ 11.32 (bs, 1H), 5.18 (s, 1H), 2.82-2.89 (m, 8H), 1.84 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 75 MHz) δ 102.7, 47.3, 44.9, 25.8, 24.8.

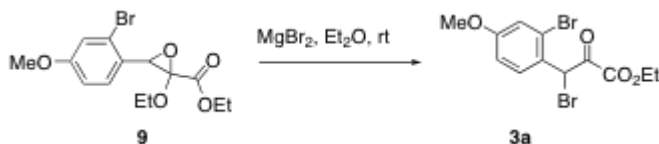


2-Bromo-4-methoxybenzaldehyde (8): This procedure was reported before.³ To a solution of N,N,N'-trimethyl ethylenediamine (0.620 ml, 4.85 mmol) in THF (10 ml) at -20 °C was added nBuLi (2.90 ml of a 1.6 M solution in hexanes, 4.63 mmol). After 15 min, 4-methoxybenzaldehyde (0.600 g, 4.41 mmol) was added at -20 °C. The mixture

was stirred for 15 min, and *n*BuLi (8.20 ml of a 1.6 M solution in hexanes, 13.2 mmol) was added. After another 30 min at -20 °C, the mixture was put in a fridge (-7 °C) for 22 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to -78 °C and treated with carbon tetrabromide (4.70 g, 14.1 mmol). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. 10% aqueous HCl (20 ml) was added and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 30 ml). The combined organic phases were dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvents were removed *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (9:1 hexanes:EtOAc,) afforded **8** (0.5 g, 53%) as a white solid. This compound has been previously characterized.³

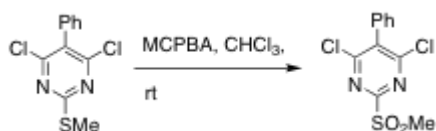


Ethyl 3-(2-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-ethoxyoxirane-2-carboxylate (9): To a solution of sodium ethoxide, made by dissolving 0.960 g of sodium (41.7 mmol) in 26 ml of anhydrous ethanol, was added a solution of **8** (4.50 g, 20.9 mmol) and ethyl dichloroacetate (3.60 ml, 29.3 mmol) in THF (42 ml) at 0 °C via cannula. The suspension was then heated at reflux for 6 h. After removing all the solvent *in vacuo*, the residue was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (50 ml) and washed with saturated NH₄Cl (40 ml). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 40 ml). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄) and the solvents were evaporated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (85:15 hexanes:EtOAc) provided **9** (5.0 g, 72%) as a colorless oil: IR (neat) 1738, 1605, 1498, 1305, 1181, 1028 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (s, 1H), 4.28-4.34 (m, 2H), 3.72-3.80 (m, 5H), 1.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 166.9, 160.2, 129.4, 124.2, 123.1, 117.5, 113.1, 82.9, 77.6, 77.2, 76.7, 64.2, 63.7, 62.3, 55.5, 15.0, 14.2.

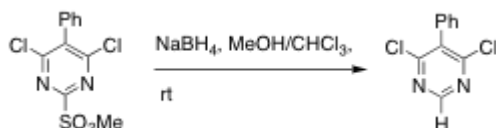


Ethyl 3-bromo-3-(2-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxopropanoate (3a): To a solution of **9** (1.25 g, 3.72 mmol) in Et₂O (37 ml) was added magnesium bromide (1.37 g, 7.45 mmol) in portions at room temperature for 2 h. Deionized water (30 ml) was then

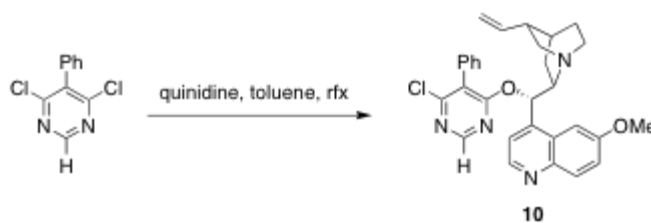
added and the organic layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (2 × 40 ml). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (3:1 hexanes:EtOAc) provided **3a** as a light yellow oil (1.1 g, 80%): IR (neat) 1726, 1597, 1492, 1298, 1235, 1055, 1023 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 4.29-4.37 (m, 2H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 1.33 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 184.1, 160.9, 159.8, 132.4, 125.0, 124.8, 118.6, 114.5, 63.4, 55.8, 49.6, 14.0.



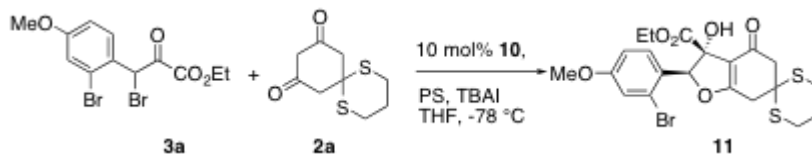
4,6-Dichloro-2-(methylsulfonyl)-5-phenylpyrimidine: 4,6-Dichloro-2-thiomethyl-5-phenylpyrimidine (3.00 g, 11.1 mmol) was dissolved in 30 ml of CHCl₃ at room temperature. MCPBA (6.00 g of 70% mixture, 24.3 mmol) was added in portions over a period of 5 min. The reaction mixture was held overnight and then washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (2 × 30 ml). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a white powder: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.56 (m, 3H), 7.32 (m, 2H), 3.41 (s, 3H).



4,6-Dichloro-5-phenylpyrimidine: Sodium borohydride (0.750 g, 19.8 mmol) was added to sulfone (6.00 g, 19.8 mmol) in MeOH (80 ml) and CHCl₃ (80 ml) at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 30 min. The solvents were evaporated under vacuum and the residue was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (100 ml) and H₂O (100 ml) was added with vigorous stirring. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 50 ml). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and the concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (7:3 hexanes:diethyl ether) provided the product as a white powder (3.6 g, 81%): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 8.80 (s, 1H), 7.53 (m, 3H), 7.32 (m, 2H).

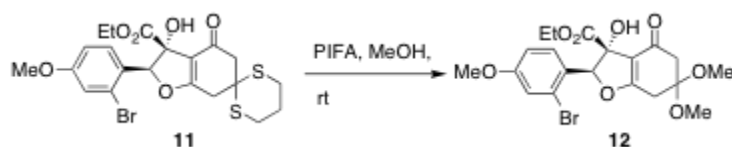


6-Chloro-5-Phenylpyrimidine-4-(9-O-quinidine) ether (10): Powdered potassium hydroxide (0.20 g, 3.6 mmol) was added to quinidine (0.58 g, 1.8 mmol) in toluene (40 ml) and the mixture was heated to reflux in a Dean-Stark apparatus for 1 h. 4,6-Dichloro-5-phenylpyrimidine (0.48 g, 2.1 mmol) was added and the mixture continued to stir at reflux for 1 h, after which time additional powdered potassium hydroxide (0.10 g, 1.8 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was held for another hour at reflux. The solvents were then removed *in vacuo* and the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 ml) and washed with H₂O (3 × 30 ml). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and the solvents were removed under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography (basic alumina (III), 1:1 hexanes:EtOAc) produced **10** (0.74 g, 81%) as a white solid: $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -101.8^\circ$ (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂); IR (neat) 2933, 1536, 1418, 1227, 991 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.68 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.00 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.56 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.39 (m, 4H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (bs, 1H), 5.32-5.44 (m, 1H), 4.88-4.97 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.14-3.22 (m, 1H), 2.60-2.87 (m, 4H), 2.07-2.16 (m, 1H), 1.68-1.76 (m, 2H), 1.64 (s, 1H), 1.41-1.44 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 166.6, 159.8, 157.9, 156.3, 147.4, 144.7, 143.5, 140.2, 131.9, 131.6, 129.8, 128.8, 128.7, 126.7, 121.8, 121.4, 118.6, 114.8, 101.5, 78.1, 59.2, 55.6, 50.0, 49.6, 40.3, 28.2, 26.2, 22.6; HRMS: *m/z* Calcd for C₃₀H₃₀N₄O₂ClH⁺, 513.2052; Found, 513.2051.

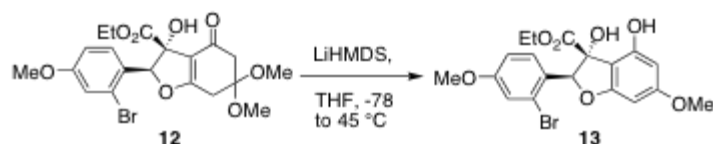


Ethyl 2-(2-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-3-hydroxy-4-oxo-6-(1,3-dithiane)benzofuran-3-carboxylate (11): To a solution of **2a** (0.711 g, 3.29 mmol), proton sponge (1.42 g, 6.58 mmol), **10** (0.17 g, 0.33 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium iodide (2.43 g, 6.58 mmol) in THF (30 ml) at -78 °C was added **3a** (2.50 g, 6.58 mmol) in 5 ml of THF (also at -78 °C) via cannula dropwise. The reaction mixture was held for 30 min at -78 °C and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50

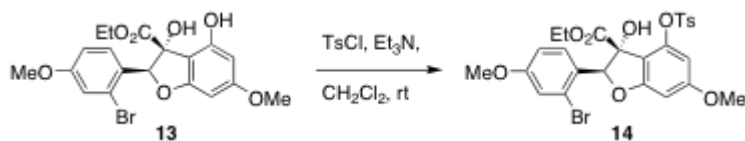
ml) and washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (30 ml). The separated organic layer was washed again with 1 N NaHSO₄ (15 ml). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. ¹H NMR analysis of the unpurified reaction mixture showed an 8.5:1 *E:Z* mixture of diastereomers. Silica gel chromatography (9.5:0.5:0.05 CH₂Cl₂:EtOAc:MeOH,) gave **11** (0.83 g, 49%) as a white foam as a mixture of diastereomers (9:1 *E:Z*). Data for the pure *E*-isomer: [α]_D²³ = +31.2° (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂); IR (neat) 1733, 1647, 1495, 1239, 1212, 1027 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.05-7.11 (m, 2H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 4.32 (s, 1H), 3.84-3.91 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.54-3.61 (m, 1H), 3.24 (s, 2H), 2.85-3.12 (m, 6H), 2.00-2.10 (m, 2H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 188.8, 176.0, 170.4, 160.2, 129.1, 126.4, 122.5, 117.5, 114.9, 113.6, 95.6, 84.7, 77.4, 62.6, 55.8, 49.4, 48.3, 38.1, 26.9, 24.9, 13.7; Anal. Calcd. for C₂₁H₂₃BrO₆S₂ (515.4): C, 48.93; H, 4.50. Found: C, 49.02; H, 4.58.



Ethyl 2-(2-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-3-hydroxy-6,6-dimethoxy-4-oxobenzofuran-3-carboxylate (12): PIFA (1.63 g, 3.80 mmol) was added to a solution of **11** (0.700 g, 1.35 mmol) in 27 ml of anhydrous MeOH. After 30 min, triethylamine (2 ml) was added. After removal of the solvents under reduced pressure, silica gel column chromatography (4:6 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded **12** (0.42 g, 67%) as a mixture of diastereomers (9:1 *E:Z*): [α]_D²³ = +34.7° (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂); IR (neat) 1734, 1648, 1495, 1237, 1093 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H *Z*), 7.06-7.10 (m, 1H *Z* and 2H *E*), 6.90 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H *Z*), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H *E*), 6.26 (s, 1H *Z*), 6.14 (s, 1H *E*), 4.31-4.40 (m, 2H *Z*), 4.30 (s, 1H *E*), 3.82-3.91 (m, 1H *E*), 3.78 (s, 3H *Z* and 3H *E*), 3.50-3.61 (m, 1H *E*), 3.27 (s, 6H *Z*), 3.25 (s, 6H, *E*), 2.89-3.04 (m, 2H *Z* and 2H *E*), 2.71-2.83 (m, 22H *Z* and 2H *E*), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H *Z*), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H *E*); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 189.6, 189.5, 177.4, 176.9, 172.6, 170.5, 160.5, 160.2, 130.6, 128.9, 126.6, 124.6, 122.7, 122.5, 117.6, 116.7, 115.4, 113.7, 113.6, 101.5, 101.4, 95.7, 92.4, 84.8, 79.8, 77.4, 63.5, 62.5, 55.7, 48.9, 48.8, 45.4, 34.1, 33.9, 14.3, 13.6.

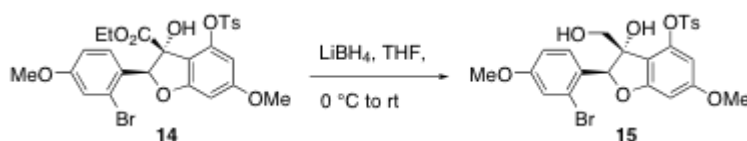


Ethyl 2-(2-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydro-3,4-dihydroxy-6-methoxybenzofuran-3-carboxylate (13): To a solution of **12** (0.37 g, 0.78 mmol) in anhydrous THF (8 ml) at -78 °C was added LiHMDS (3.2 ml of a 1 M solution in THF, 3.2 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to -45 °C over a period of 10 min and stirred for 1 h at -45 °C. The mixture was then diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (20 ml) and washed with saturated NH₄Cl (10 ml). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 20 ml). The combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄) and the solvents were removed *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (6:4 hexanes:EtOAc) gave **13** (0.29 g, 84%) as a white foam as a mixture of diastereomers (9:1 *E:Z*): $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +66.9^\circ$ (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂); IR (neat) 3394, 1727, 1603, 1235, 1140 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H *Z*), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H *E*), 7.08 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H *Z* and 1H *E*), 6.89 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H *Z*), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H *E*), 6.30 (s, 1H *Z*), 6.15 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H *Z* and 1H *E*), 6.13 (s, 1H, *E*), 6.02 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H *Z* and 1H *E*), 4.35-4.40 (m, 2H *Z*), 3.82-3.93 (m, 1H *E*), 3.78 (s, 3H *Z* and 3H *E*), 3.64-3.73 (m, 1H *E*), 1.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, *Z*), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H *E*); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 173.6, 171.8, 164.2, 162.9, 160.3, 160.2, 154.2, 153.9, 130.4, 129.3, 127.9, 126.5, 122.7, 117.8, 117.7, 113.8, 113.7, 105.9, 105.6, 95.9, 93.5, 89.6, 89.5, 89.4, 86.1, 81.2, 77.4, 63.6, 62.8, 60.6, 55.8, 55.7, 14.3, 13.7.



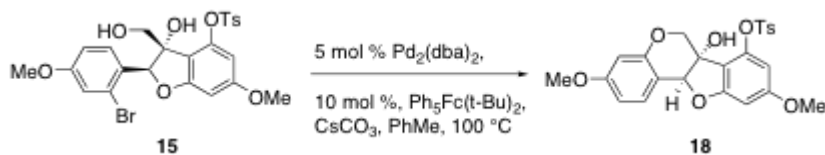
3-(Ethoxycarbonyl)-2-(2-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydro-3-hydroxy-6-methoxybenzofuran-4-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (14): To a solution of **13** (0.27 g, 0.61 mmol) and triethylamine (0.340 ml, 2.44 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (6.1 ml) was added tosyl chloride (0.18 g, 0.92 mmol). The reaction solution was stirred for 3 h at room temperature, after which time the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Silica gel flash chromatography (4:6 hexanes:diethyl ether,) produced **14** (0.31 g, 85%) as a white foam. The enantiomeric excess and diastereomeric ratio were determined by analytical

HPLC (Chiralpak AD column, 80:20 hexanes:*i*PrOH, 1.0 ml/min, 280 nm) $R_{t(2R,3S)} = 27.3$ min, $R_{t(2S,3S)} = 33.7$ min, $R_{t(2S,3R)} = 41.9$ min, $R_{t(2R,3R)} = 46.8$ min, ee = 94%, dr = 95:5 (*E/Z*), data for the mixture of diastereomers: $[\alpha]_D^{23} = +28.7^\circ$ (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂); IR (neat) 1732, 1627, 1494, 1237, 1131 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H *Z* and 2H *E*), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H *Z*), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H *Z* and 2H *E*), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H *E*), 7.05 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H *Z* and 1H *E*), 6.89 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H *Z*), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H *E*), 6.46 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H *Z* and 1H *E*), 6.39 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H *E*), 6.28 (s, 1H *Z*), 6.24 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H *Z*), 6.12 (s, 1H *E*), 4.35 (s, 1H *E*), 4.29-4.32 (m, 2H *Z*), 3.78-3.89 (m, 1H *E*), 3.76 (s, 3H *Z* and 3H *E*), 3.60-3.72 (m, 1H *E*), 2.44 (s, 3H *Z* and 3H *E*), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H *Z*), 0.83 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H *E*); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 172.4, 170.7, 163.4, 163.3, 163.1, 162.5, 160.3, 160.1, 146.3, 145.9, 145.8, 132.8, 132.6, 131.4, 129.9, 129.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 127.8, 125.6, 122.6, 122.4, 117.6, 117.5, 113.6, 113.5, 112.8, 101.7, 101.6, 95.3, 94.9, 94.5, 91.0, 84.6, 79.6, 77.4, 63.4, 62.7, 56.0, 55.7, 21.7, 14.1, 13.6; Anal. Calcd. for C₂₆H₂₅BrO₉S (593.4): C, 52.62; H, 4.25. Found: C, 52.89; H, 4.27.

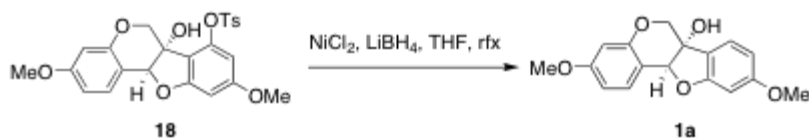


2-(2-Bromo-4-methoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydro-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-6-methoxybenzofuran-4-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (15): Lithium borohydride (0.46 ml of a 2 M solution in THF, 0.92 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of **14** (0.27 g, 0.46 mmol) in THF (5 ml) at 0 °C. The mixture was held at room temperature overnight. Saturated NH₄Cl (5 ml) was added slowly and the solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 10 ml). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The unpurified mixture was subjected to a second reduction and work-up under identical conditions. Silica gel flash chromatography (6:4 hexanes:EtOAc with 1% added triethylamine) provided **15** (0.21 g, 83%) as a white foam with as a mixture of diastereomers (9:1 *E:Z*): $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -42.2^\circ$ (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂); IR (neat) 3500, 1626, 1596, 1352, 1137, 1027 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H *Z* and 2H *E*), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H *Z* and 2H *E*), 7.12 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H *Z* and 1H *E*), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H *Z* and 1H *E*), 6.89 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H *Z*), 6.78 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H *E*),

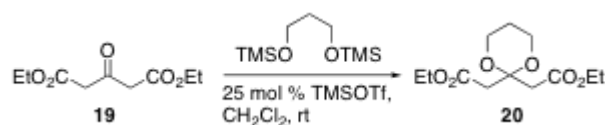
6.44 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H *Z* and 1H *E*), 6.12 (s, 1H *Z*), 6.10 (s, 1H *E*), 5.97 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H *Z*), 5.95 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H *E*), 4.07-4.10 (m, 1H *Z*), 3.98-4.01 (m, 1H *Z*), 3.83 (s, 1H *E*), 3.80 (s, 3H *Z*), 3.78 (s, 3H *E*), 3.68 (s, 3H *Z* and 3H *E*), 3.53-3.60 (m, 1H *E*), 2.48 (s, 3H *Z* and 3H *E*), 2.14 (bs, 1H *Z*), 1.76 (bs, 1H *E*); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 163.5, 163.3, 162.9, 160.3, 160.1, 146.5, 146.4, 146.3, 132.3, 132.2, 131.4, 130.2, 128.9, 128.7, 127.9, 126.1, 123.9, 117.9, 117.8, 114.0, 113.8, 113.7, 113.6, 102.0, 101.9, 95.9, 95.7, 93.4, 88.5, 83.9, 81.8, 77.4, 65.1, 64.7, 55.9, 55.7, 21.9.



6a,11a-Dihydro-6a-hydroxy-3,9-dimethoxy-6*H*-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromen-7-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (18**):** A 50 ml round bottom flask was charged with **15** (135 mg, 0.240 mmol), $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$ (13.0 mg, 0.012 mmol), $\text{Ph}_3\text{FcP}(t\text{-Bu})_2$ (17.0 mg, 0.024 mmol) and Cs_2CO_3 (120 mg, 0.360 mmol). The flask was placed into a preheated 100 °C oil bath and anhydrous toluene (16 ml) was added in three aliquots. The mixture was held at 100 °C for 3 h under Ar. After removing all solvents *in vacuo*, the residue was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (15 ml) and washed with saturated brine (15 ml). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2×15 ml) and the combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (6:4 hexanes:EtOAc) afforded **18** (81 mg, 70%) as a white foam: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = -314.4^\circ$ (c 1.0, CH_2Cl_2); IR (neat) 1620, 1593, 1350, 1130, 1036 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.87 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.60 (dd, $J = 2.4, 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.37 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.29 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.78 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.52 (s, 1H), 4.60 (d, $J = 11.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.16 (d, $J = 11.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.90 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.58 (s, 3H), 2.49 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 163.1, 163.0, 161.1, 156.3, 146.4, 146.2, 131.9, 131.7, 130.2, 128.9, 113.4, 113.3, 109.8, 102.1, 101.6, 96.7, 86.6, 76.7, 68.7, 55.8, 55.4, 21.9; HRMS: m/z Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_8\text{SNa}^+$, 493.0928; Found, 493.0926.

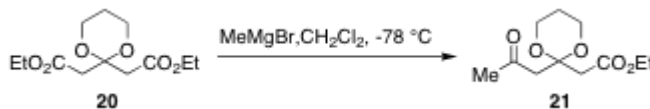


6a,11a-Dihydro-3,9-dimethoxy-6H-benzofuro[3,2-c]chromen-6a-ol ((-)-variabilin, 1a): Lithium borohydride (0.32 ml of a 2 M solution in THF, 0.65 mmol) was added dropwise to a mixture of **18** (0.06 g, 0.13 mmol) and nickel (II) chloride (0.016 g, 0.130 mmol) in THF (10 ml). The solution turned to black slowly and was heated at reflux for 4 h, after which time nickel (II) chloride (0.008 g, 0.065 mmol) and lithium borohydride (0.13 ml, 0.26 mmol) were added again. The mixture was stirred at reflux for additional 3 h. After cooling to room temperature, saturated NH₄Cl (5 ml) was added dropwise. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 20 ml) and the combined organic layers were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (8:92 acetone:toluene,) provided variabilin **1a** (34 mg, 90%) as a white foam: $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -236^\circ$ (*c* 0.68, CHCl₃); IR (neat) 3437, 1618, 1598, 1496, 1160, 1027, 956 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (dd, *J* = 2.1, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (s, 1H), 4.20 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 162.7, 161.2, 161.0, 155.9, 132.0, 124.0, 120.2, 112.5, 109.9, 107.8, 101.8, 97.2, 85.1, 76.9, 69.8, 55.7, 55.5. This compound has been reported before.⁴

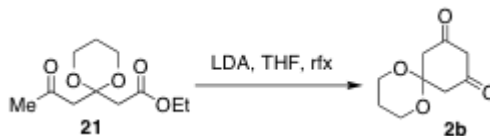


Diethyl 3-(1,3-dioxane)pentanedioate (20): To a solution of **19** (4.45 g, 22.0 mmol) and 1,3-bis(trimethylsilyloxy)propane (6.32 g, 28.6 mmol) in 110 ml of CH₂Cl₂ was added trimethylsilane trifluoromethanesulfonate (0.990 ml, 5.45 mmol) at -20 °C. The reaction was then warmed to rt and held at this temperature for 24 h. Pyridine (9.9 ml) was then added to the reaction solution at 0 °C. Saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (50 ml) was then added and the mixture extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 50 ml). The combined organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (7:3 hexanes:EtOAc) gave **20** (4.4 g, 77%) as a colorless oil: IR (neat) 1729, 1095, 1025 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 4.11 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.92 (t, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 4H),

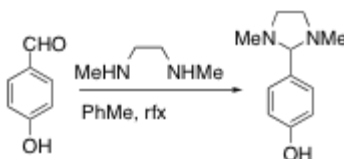
3.06 (s, 4H), 1.69 (q, $J = 5.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.22 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 169.4, 97.2, 60.5, 60.1, 39.8, 24.8, 14.2. □



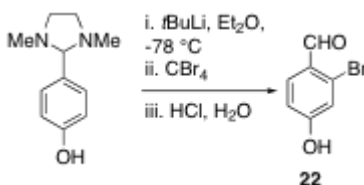
Ethyl 2-(2-(2-oxopropyl)-1,3-dioxan-2-yl)acetate (21): Methyl magnesium bromide (3.0 ml of a 3 M solution in diethyl ether, 9.0 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of **20** (2.0 g, 7.7 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (77 ml) at -78 °C. After an additional 12 h at -78 °C, saturated NH_4Cl (20 ml) was added and the mixture was allowed to warm to rt. The mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3×30 ml) and the combined organic layers were dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (6:4 hexanes:EtOAc) gave recovered **20** (880 mg, 44%) and **21** (890 mg, 50%) as a colorless oil: IR (neat) 1726, 1072 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 4.02 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 3.91 (m, 2H), 3.76 (m, 2H), 2.92 (s, 4H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.44 (m, 1H), 1.13 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 205.5, 169.0, 97.3, 60.4, 59.8, 50.4, 37.6, 31.8, 24.6, 14.0. Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_5$ (230.26): C, 57.38; H, 7.88. Found: C, 57.3; H, 7.97.



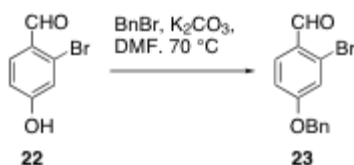
5-(1,3-Dioxane)-1,3-cyclohexadione (2b): $n\text{BuLi}$ (1.43 ml of a 1.6 M solution in hexanes, 2.30 mmol) was added to a solution of diisopropylamine (0.32 ml, 2.3 mmol) in THF (5 ml) at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 0 °C in 30 min and was added to **21** (0.50 g, 2.2 mmol) in 40 ml of THF via cannula at -78 °C. After warming to room temperature, the solution was heated at reflux for 3 h. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* and the residue was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (20 ml) and washed with 2 N acetic acid (5 ml). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2×20 ml). The combined organic phases were dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. Recrystallization from EtOAc/hexanes gave **2b** (0.24 g, 59%) as a white solid: IR (neat) 1584, 1230, 1103, 1024 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$, 300 MHz) δ 11.20 (bs, 1H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 3.83 (m, 4H), 2.69 (s, 4H), 1.59 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR ($\text{MeOH}-d_4$, 100 MHz) δ 102.2, 98.2, 59.9, 41.0, 25.1.



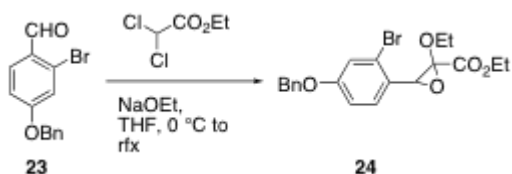
4-(1,3-Dimethylimidazolidin-2-yl)phenol: A solution of 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde (6.0 g, 49 mmol) and N,N'-dimethylethylenediamine (6.3 ml, 59 mmol) in toluene (100 ml) was heated at reflux for 3 h in a Dean-Stark apparatus. The solvents were then removed *in vacuo* to afford the aminal as a pale yellow solid (9.4 g, 100%): IR (neat) 1243 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 9.53 (bs, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.62 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 3.36-3.41 (m, 2H), 3.28 (s, 1H), 2.53-2.57 (m, 2H), 2.19 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 157.9, 130.1, 128.2, 116.0, 92.0, 52.9, 39.6.



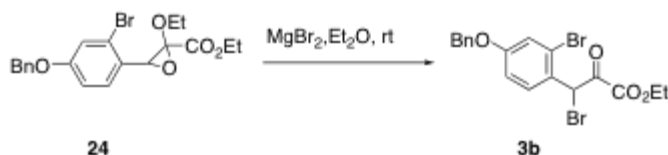
2-Bromo-4-hydroxybenzaldehyde (22): *t*-Butyl lithium (58.5 ml of a 1.6 M solution in pentane, 93.6 mmol) was added slowly to a solution of 4-(1,3-Dimethylimidazolidin-2-yl)phenol (6.0 g, 31 mmol) in Et_2O (220 ml) at -78°C . The mixture was held under Ar at rt for 24 h. After cooling to -78°C , carbon tetrabromide (31.0 g, 93.6 mmol) was added in portions. The mixture was then held at rt overnight. Aqueous HCl (3 N, 100 ml) was then added and the mixture stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3×100 ml). The combined organic layers were dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (1:99 MeOH : CH_2Cl_2) produced **22** (2.9 g, 46%) as a white solid: IR (neat) 3425, 1657, 1561, 1491, 1239 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (acetone- d_6 , 300 MHz) δ 10.14 (s, 1H), 9.81 (bs, 1H), 7.80 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dd, $J = 2.4$, 8.7 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (acetone- d_6 , 75 MHz) δ 190.2, 164.1, 132.4, 128.8, 127.1, 120.9, 116.5.



4-Benzyloxy-2-bromobenzaldehyde (23): A solution of **22** (2.0 g, 10 mmol), K_2CO_3 (1.8 g, 13 mmol) and BnBr (1.4 ml, 12 mmol) in DMF (50 ml) was heated to 70 °C for 6 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solution was diluted with H_2O (60 ml). The aqueous layer was extracted with Et_2O (3×60 ml). The combined organic phases were dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel chromatography (8:2 hexanes:diethyl ether) gave **23** (2.6 g, 90%) as a white solid. This compound has been characterized before.⁵

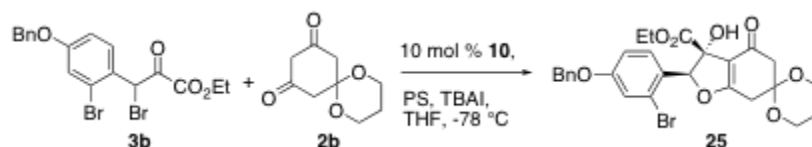


Ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxy-2-bromophenyl)-2-ethoxyoxirane-2-carboxylate (24): A mixture of **23** (2.1 g, 7.2 mmol) and ethyl dichloroacetate (0.97 ml, 7.9 mmol) in THF (14 ml) was cooled to 0 °C. A solution of sodium ethoxide, prepared from the addition of sodium (0.332 g, 14.4 mmol) to anhydrous ethanol (9 ml), was added via cannula. The suspension was then heated at reflux for 6 h. After removing all solvents *in vacuo*, the residue was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (30 ml) and washed with saturated NH_4Cl (20 ml). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2×30 ml). The combined organic layers were dried (Na_2SO_4) and the solvents were evaporated *in vacuo*. The product **24** (pale yellow oil) was used without purification in the next step: IR (neat) 1743, 1604, 1495, 1278, 1180, 1032 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$, 300 MHz) δ 7.34-7.41 (m, 5H), 7.25 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.93 (dd, $J = 2.4, 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.05 (s, 2H), 4.50 (s, 1H), 4.30-4.41 (m, 2H), 3.80 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.36 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H), 1.11 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$, 75 MHz) δ 167.0, 159.4, 136.3, 129.6, 128.8, 128.3, 127.7, 124.6, 123.2, 118.6, 113.9, 83.0, 70.4, 64.4, 63.8, 62.5, 15.2, 14.3.



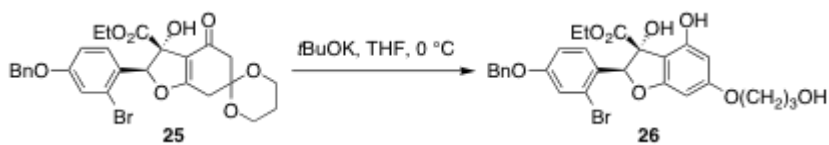
Ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxy-2-bromophenyl)-3-bromo-2-oxopropanoate (3b):

Magnesium bromide (2.65 g, 14.4 mmol) was added to a solution of **24** in Et₂O (72 ml) in portions. After 2 h at room temperature, H₂O (50 ml) was added and the organic layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (2 × 50 ml). The organic layers were combined, dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (7:3 hexanes/EtOAc) afforded **3b** (1.84 g, 56% for 2 steps) as a colorless oil: IR (neat) 1734, 1598, 1490, 1229, 1055 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.41 (m, 5H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 5.06 (s, 2H), 4.34 (m, 2H), 1.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 184.1, 160.1, 159.8, 135.9, 132.5, 128.9, 128.5, 127.7, 125.3, 124.8, 119.5, 115.2, 70.6, 63.4, 49.5, 14.4.

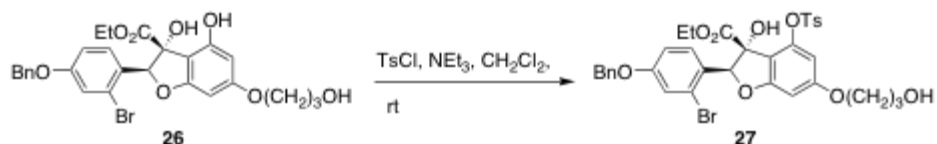


Ethyl 2-(4-benzyloxy-2-bromophenyl)-2,3,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-3-hydroxy-6-(1,3-dioxane)-4-oxobenzofuran-3-carboxylate (25): To a solution of **2b** (81 mg, 0.44 mmol) in THF (8 ml), was added **10** (22 mg, 0.04 mmol), proton sponge (0.28 g, 1.3 mmol) and tetrabutylammonium iodide (0.49 g, 1.3 mmol). After cooling to -78 °C, **3b** (0.60 g, 1.3 mmol) in 1 ml of THF (also at -78 °C) was added dropwise via cannula. The mixture was held at -78 °C for 30 min. The solvents were removed and the residue was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (10 ml) and washed with saturated NaHCO₃ (5 ml). The separated organic layer was washed with 1 N NaHSO₄ (5 ml). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. ¹H NMR analysis of the unpurified reaction mixture showed a 10:1 *E:Z* mixture of diastereomers. Silica gel chromatography (4:6 hexanes:EtOAc) gave **25** (115 mg, 46%) as a white foam as a mixture of diastereomers (10:1 *E:Z*): [α]_D²³ = +7.6° (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂); IR (neat) 1734, 1650, 1240, 1211, 1101 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.32-7.37 (m, 5H *Z* and 5H *E*), 7.15 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 2H *Z* and 2H *E*), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H *Z* and 1H *E*), 6.97 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H *Z*), 6.89 (dd,

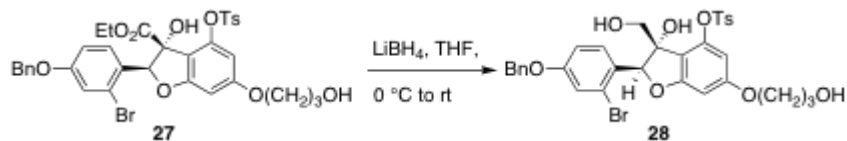
$J = 2.4, 8.7$ Hz, 1H *E*), 6.27 (s, 1H *Z*), 6.13 (s, 1H *E*), 5.04 (s, 2H *Z* and 2H *E*), 4.32-4.37 (m, 2H *Z*), 4.30 (s, 1H *E*), 3.88-4.02 (m, 4H *Z* and 4H *E*), 3.78-3.86 (m 1H *E*), 3.47-3.58 (m, 1H *E*), 2.86-3.11 (m, 4H *Z* and 4H *E*), 1.88-1.97 (m, 1H *Z* and 1H *E*), 1.64-1.67 (m, 1H *Z* and 1H *E*), 1.32 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H *Z*), 0.81 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H *E*); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 189.4, 177.2, 176.7, 172.6, 170.5, 159.6, 159.2, 136.2, 136.1, 130.8, 129.0, 128.8, 128.4, 127.7, 127.5, 126.9, 124.8, 122.7, 122.4, 118.8, 118.5, 116.3, 115.0, 114.4, 114.2, 99.2, 99.1, 95.6, 92.4, 84.8, 79.7, 77.3, 70.5, 70.4, 63.5, 62.5, 60.4, 60.3, 44.1, 36.0, 35.9, 25.1, 14.3, 13.6. Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{27}\text{BrO}_8$ (559.4): C, 57.97; H, 4.86. Found: C, 57.92; H, 4.92.



Ethyl 6-(3-hydroxypropoxy)-2-(4-(benzyloxy)-2-bromophenyl)-2,3-dihydro-3,4-dihydroxybenzofuran-3-carboxylate (26): Potassium *t*-butoxide (0.21 g, 1.8 mmol) was added to a solution of **25** (0.94 g, 1.7 mmol) in THF (33 ml) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. After removing all solvents under reduced pressure, the residue was redissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (30 ml) and washed with saturated NH_4Cl (20 ml). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2 \times 30 ml). The organic layers were then combined, dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (7:3 hexanes:EtOAc) yielded **26** (0.78 g, 83%) as a white foam: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = +71.6^\circ$ (c 1.0, CH_2Cl_2); IR (neat) 3446, 1727, 1629, 1492, 1234, 1147, 1014 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.30-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.27 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.86 (dd, $J = 2.4, 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.12 (s, 2H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 5.03 (s, 2H), 4.46 (bs, 1H), 4.04 (m, 2H), 3.76-3.86 (m, 3H), 3.60-3.67 (m, 1H), 2.40 (bs, 1H), 2.00 (m, 2H), 0.83 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 171.9, 163.1, 159.1, 154.3, 136.2, 129.3, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 127.6, 122.5, 118.8, 114.3, 106.0, 96.1, 93.8, 89.6, 85.8, 77.4, 70.4, 66.1, 62.8, 60.4, 31.8, 13.7.

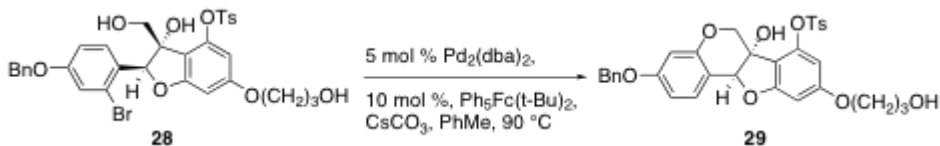


3-(Ethoxycarbonyl)-6-(3-hydroxypropoxy)-2-(4-(benzyloxy)-2-bromophenyl)-2,3-dihydro-3-hydroxybenzofuran-4-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (27): To a solution of **26** (0.56 g, 1.0 mmol) and NEt₃ (0.56 ml, 4.0 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 ml) was added TsCl (0.21 g, 1.1 mmol). After 3 h at room temperature, the solvents were removed under reduced pressure. Silica gel flash chromatography (4:6 hexanes:EtOAc) produced **27** as a white foam (0.64 g, 89%). The enantiomeric excess and diastereomeric ratio were determined by analytical HPLC (Chiralpak AD column, 60:40 hexanes:*i*PrOH, 0.8 ml/min, 280 nm) R_{t(2R,3S)} = 19.7 min, R_{t(2S,3R)} = 30.3 min, R_{t(2S,3S)} = 34.8 min, R_{t(2R,3R)} = 45.4 min, ee = 93%, dr = 96:4 (*E/Z*). Data for the *E*-isomer: [α]_D²³ = +17.7° (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂); IR (neat) 1732, 1601, 1493, 1236, 1136 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.37 (m, 7H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 5.03 (s, 2H), 4.33 (s, 1H), 4.07 (t, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 3.76-3.86 (m, 3H), 3.55-3.62 (m, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.03 (q, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 1.63 (bs, 1H), 0.78 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 170.7, 163.4, 162.5, 159.1, 146.2, 145.9, 136.2, 132.6, 129.9, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.1, 127.6, 122.3, 118.8, 114.2, 112.8, 102.0, 95.4, 94.4, 84.6, 70.3, 66.1, 62.7, 60.0, 31.9, 21.9, 13.6; Anal. Calcd. for C₃₄H₃₃BrO₁₀S (713.6): C, 57.23; H, 4.66. Found: C, 56.97; H, 4.62.

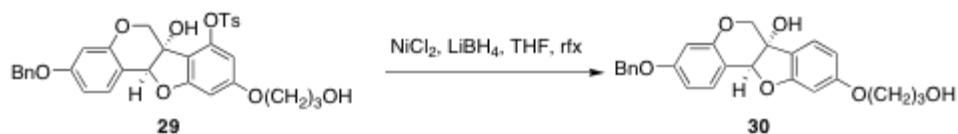


6-(3-Hydroxypropoxy)-2-(4-(benzyloxy)-2-bromophenyl)-2,3-dihydro-3-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)benzofuran-4-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (28): Lithium borohydride (2 M in THF, 0.70 ml, 1.4 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of **27** (0.50 g, 0.7 mmol) in THF (7 ml) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature overnight. Saturated NH₄Cl (5 ml) was added slowly to quench the reaction and the solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 15 ml). The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The unpurified reaction

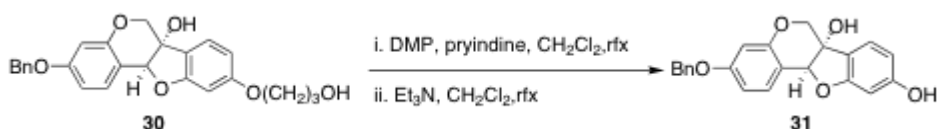
mixture was resubmitted to the exact same reduction conditions and work-up. Silica gel flash chromatography (4:6 hexanes:EtOAc with 1% added triethylamine) gave **28** (0.40 g, 85%) as a white foam: $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -28.5^\circ$ (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂); IR (neat) 3501, 1627, 1599, 1493, 1143, 1012 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.40 (m, 7H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 6.01 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (s, 2H), 3.94-4.00 (m, 2H), 3.79-3.83 (m, 4H), 3.52-3.60 (m, 1H), 2.48 (s, 3H), 1.98 (m, 2H), 1.76 (bs, 1H), 1.60 (bs, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 163.4, 162.1, 159.3, 146.4, 146.3, 136.2, 132.0, 130.2, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.1, 127.1, 123.9, 118.9, 114.6, 113.9, 102.4, 96.3, 93.3, 83.8, 70.4, 66.0, 64.6, 60.0, 31.9, 21.9.



9-(3-Hydroxypropoxy)-3-(benzyloxy)-6a,11a-dihydro-6a-hydroxy-6H-benzofuro[3,2-c]chromen-7-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (29): A 100 ml round bottom flask was charged with **28** (0.40 g, 0.59 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (31 mg, 0.03 mmol), Ph₅FcP(*t*-Bu)₂ (42 mg, 0.06 mmol) and Cs₂CO₃ (0.29 g, 0.89 mmol). The flask was placed into a pre-heated 90 °C oil bath and anhydrous toluene (50 ml) was added in four aliquots. The mixture was held at 90 °C for 7 h under Ar. After removing all solvents *in vacuo*, the residue was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (30 ml) and washed with saturated brine (30 ml). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 30 ml) and the combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Silica gel flash chromatography (4:6 hexanes:EtOAc) afforded **29** as a white foam (0.26 g, 73%): $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -250.3^\circ$ (*c* 1.0, CH₂Cl₂); IR (neat) 1619, 1594, 1497, 1133, 1017 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.43 (m, 8H), 6.68 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.29 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (s, 1H), 4.98 (s, 2H), 4.55 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (s, 1H), 3.81-3.91 (m, 2H), 3.73 (bs, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.65 (bs, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 163.0, 162.1, 160.2, 156.2, 146.5, 146.0, 136.7, 131.7, 130.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 127.6, 113.5, 113.4, 110.4, 102.6, 102.5, 97.2, 86.4, 76.6, 70.1, 68.7, 65.9, 59.8, 31.8, 21.9; HRMS: *m/z* Calcd for C₃₂H₃₀O₉SN⁺, 613.1503; Found, 613.1494.

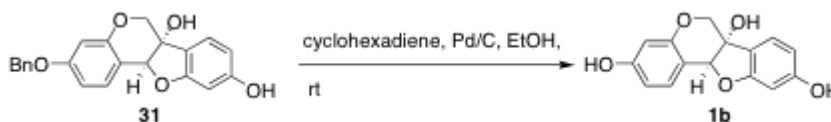


9-(3-Hydroxypropoxy)-3-(benzyloxy)-6a,11a-dihydro-6H-benzofuro[3,2-c]chromen-6a-ol (30): Lithium borohydride (0.25 ml of a 2 M solution in THF, 0.50 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of **29** (60 mg, 0.10 mmol) and nickel (II) chloride (13 mg, 0.10 mmol) in THF (8 ml). The solution turned black slowly and was heated at reflux for 4 h, after which time nickel (II) chloride (6.0 mg, 0.05 mmol) and lithium borohydride (0.1 ml, 0.2 mmol) were added again. The mixture was held at reflux for another 3 h. After it cooled to room temperature, saturated NH_4Cl (5 ml) was added dropwise. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3×20 ml) and the combined organic layers were dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (2:8 acetone:toluene) provided **30** (38 mg, 89%) as a white foam: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = -144.9^\circ$ (*c* 1.0, CH_2Cl_2); IR (neat) 3344, 1618, 1598, 1497, 1163 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.30-7.42 (m, 6H), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.71 (dd, $J = 2.4, 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 6.48-6.52 (m, 2H), 6.38 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 1H), 5.01 (s, 2H), 4.18 (d, $J = 11.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.78-4.04 (m, 4H), 3.76-3.81 (m, 2H), 2.95 (bs, 1H), 1.97 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 161.7, 160.9, 160.3, 155.8, 136.7, 132.0, 128.7, 128.2, 127.6, 124.0, 120.4, 112.8, 110.6, 108.3, 102.8, 97.7, 85.0, 76.6, 70.2, 69.8, 65.9, 60.3, 31.9. Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_6$ (420.4): C, 71.41; H, 5.75. Found: C, 71.38; H, 5.82.



3-Benzyloxy-6a,11a-dihydro-6H-benzofuro[3,2-c]chromene-6a,9-diol (31): To a solution of **30** (73 mg, 0.17 mmol) and pyridine (0.11 ml, 1.4 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (9 ml) was added Dess-Martin periodinane (146 mg, 0.340 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 1h, cooled to rt and then washed with saturated NaHCO_3 (5 ml) and saturated $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ (5 ml). The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2×10 ml). The organic layers were combined and dried over Na_2SO_4 and the solvents were removed under vacuum. The crude residue was redissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (9 ml) and of triethylamine (1.2 ml, 8.6 mmol) was added to the mixture. The reaction solution was heated at reflux for 40 min. After cooling to room temperature, the solution was washed with 1 N

NaHSO₄ (10 ml). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 10ml). The organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (1:1 hexanes:EtOAc) provided **31** as a white foam (52 mg, 83%). The spectra data of this compound were taken on the *E* isomer: [α]_D²³ = -179.7° (*c* 1.0, acetone); IR (neat) 3204, 1621, 1172, 1024, 965 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (acetone-*d*₆, 300 MHz) δ 8.46 (bs, 1H), 7.31-7.48 (m, 6H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.25 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (s, 1H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 4.96 (s, 1H), 4.15 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (acetone-*d*₆, 75 MHz) δ 162.0, 161.0, 160.8, 157.1, 138.2, 133.1, 129.3, 128.7, 128.4, 125.1, 121.4, 114.6, 110.6, 109.0, 103.1, 98.7, 85.8, 76.7, 70.6, 70.5. HRMS: *m/z* Calcd for C₂₂H₂₉O₅H⁺, 363.1227; Found, 363.1213.



6a,11a-Dihydro-6*H*-benzofuro[3,2-*c*]chromene-3,6a,9-triol ((-)-glycinol, **1b):** 1,4-cyclohexadiene (0.10 ml, 1.1 mmol) was added to a solution of **31** (40 mg, 0.11 mmol) and Pd/C (40 mg) in 2 ml of anhydrous EtOH. After 24 h at room temperature, the suspension was filtered through celite and washed with MeOH (3 × 5 ml). The filtrate was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. Silica gel flash chromatography (3:7 hexanes:EtOAc) provided (-)-glycinol **1b** (26 mg, 90%) as a white solid: [α]_D²³ = -228° (*c* 0.3, MeOH); IR (neat) 3336, 1621, 1259, 1037, 963 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (acetone-*d*₆, 300 MHz) δ 8.55 (bs, 1H), 8.46 (bs, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 7.2 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (dd, *J* = 2.4, 8.7 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.26 (s, 1H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 4.12 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (d, *J* = 11.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (acetone-*d*₆, 75 MHz) δ 162.0, 160.7, 159.6, 157.2, 133.2, 125.2, 121.5, 113.4, 110.7, 108.9, 103.8, 98.7, 86.0, 76.8, 70.6. HRMS: *m/z* Calcd for C₁₅H₁₃O₅H⁺, 273.0758; Found, 273.0749.

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