

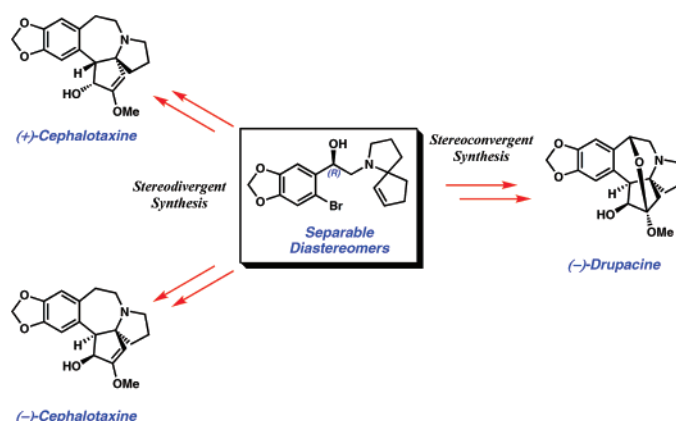
Convergency and Divergency as Strategic Elements in Total Synthesis: The Total Synthesis of (–)-Drupacine and the Formal Total Synthesis of (±)-Cephalotaxine, (–)-Cephalotaxine, and (+)-Cephalotaxine

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Received June 8, 2007



A concise route toward the syntheses of (–)-drupacine and (+)- and (–)-cephalotaxine has been developed. The syntheses rely on Pd(II)-catalyzed aerobic oxidative heterocyclization chemistry, which was employed to rapidly construct an important spirocyclic amine intermediate. A dynamic β -elimination/conjugate addition process was strategically applied to complete the first asymmetric total synthesis of (–)-drupacine.

Introduction

The Cephalotaxus alkaloids are a class of complex cytotoxic natural products first isolated from Asian plum yews *Cephalotaxus drupacea* and *Cephalotaxus fortunei*.¹ Their structures were partially determined through the efforts of McKay et al. and ultimately elucidated by X-ray diffraction analysis.² Although the core structures of these alkaloids, namely drupacine (**1**) and cephalotaxine (**3**), are biologically inactive, several

members of this family of natural products have shown potent antileukemic activity, especially ester derivatives at C(3) (Figure 1). For example, homoharringtonine (**4**) has an IC_{50} of 0.014 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ against murine lymphoma L1210 and 0.010 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ against human epidermoid carcinoma KB cells. In addition, it has been reported that cancer patients who had become resistant to other forms of chemotherapy responded positively to cephalotaxine esters, indicating possible multiple drug resistance reversing activity.³ Recently, about a dozen new members of this family have been isolated from *Cephalotaxus harringtonia* var. *nana*, with several of them (e.g., cephalezomine A (**2**)) demonstrating comparable anticancer activity to homoharringtonine (**4**).⁴

The significant anticancer activities and intriguing chemical structures have made the *Cephalotaxus* alkaloids attractive

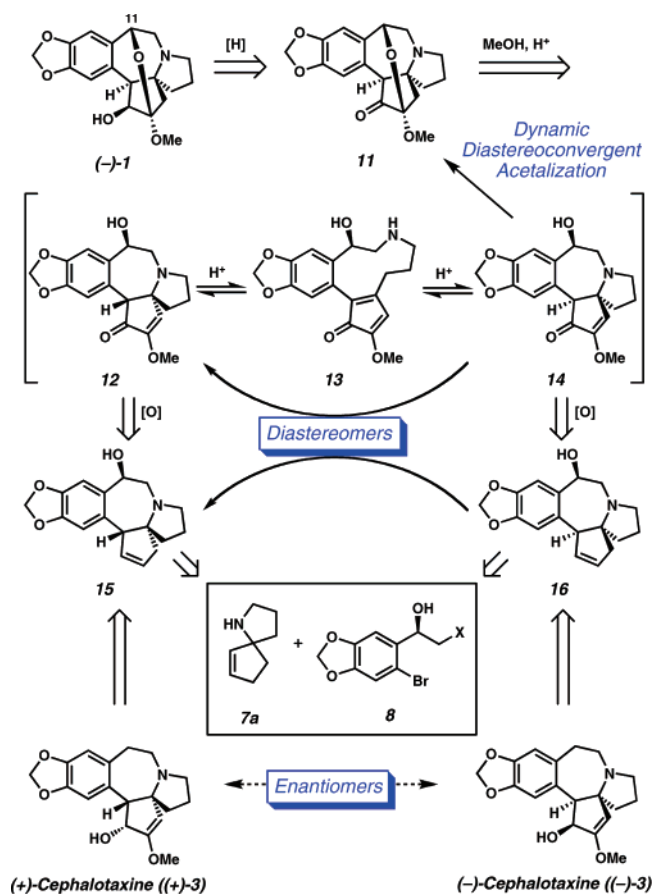
(1) For reviews on the *Cephalotaxus* alkaloids, see: (a) Miah, M. A. J.; Hudlicky, T.; Reed, J. W. *Cephalotaxus* alkaloids. In *The Alkaloids*; Academic Press: New York, 1998; Vol. 51, pp 199–269. (b) Huang, L.; Xue, Z. *Cephalotaxus* alkaloids. In *The Alkaloids*; Academic Press: New York, 1984; Vol. 23, pp 157–226.

(2) (a) Paudler, W. W.; Kerley, G. I.; McKay, J. J. *Org. Chem.* **1963**, *28*, 2194–2197. (b) Powell, R. G.; Madrigal, R. V.; Smith, C. R., Jr.; Mikolajczak, K. L. *J. Org. Chem.* **1974**, *39*, 676–680. (c) Arora, S. K.; Bates, R. B.; Grady, R. A.; Powell, R. G. *J. Org. Chem.* **1974**, *39*, 1269–1271. (d) Abraham, D. J.; Rosenstein, R. D.; McGandy, E. L. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1969**, *10*, 4085–4086.

(3) Delfel, N. E. *Phytochemistry* **1980**, *19*, 403–408.

(4) (a) Morita, H.; Arisaka, M.; Yoshida, N.; Kobayashi, J. *Tetrahedron* **2000**, *56*, 2929–2934. (b) Morita, H.; Yoshinaga, M.; Kobayashi, J. *Tetrahedron* **2002**, *58*, 5489–5495.

SCHEME 2

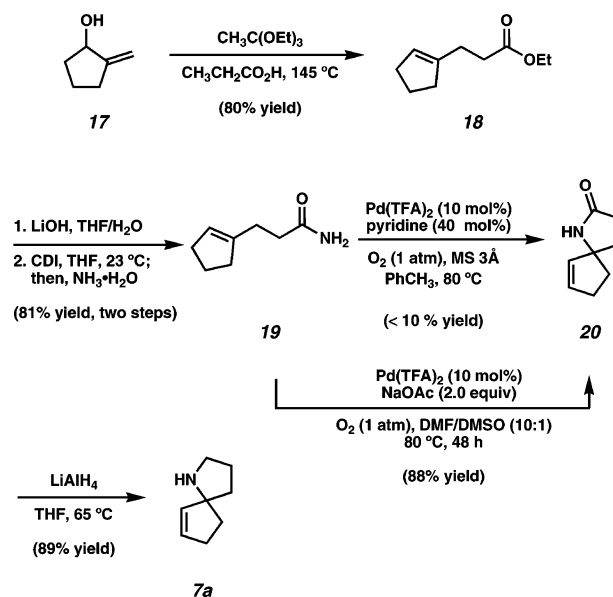


The same acetal cannot form in diastereomer **12** because the alcohol is anti to the enone ring, and consequently it undergoes the β -elimination/conjugate addition process. We expected that this dynamic isomerization equilibrium would eventually funnel the mixture to ketal **11**. Therefore, once the stereocenter at C(11) is defined, we could access enantiomerically pure (–)-**1** from a diastereomeric mixture of **15** and **16**. (+)- and (–)-cephalotaxine, meanwhile, could be derived from the same diastereomeric precursors via deoxygenation at C(11) followed by chemistry developed by Mori. **15** and **16** could be obtained from spirocyclic amine **7a** and enantiopure alcohol **8** via a C–N bond formation and subsequent intramolecular Heck reaction. The key spiroamine derivative (**7a**) would be constructed via our palladium(II)-catalyzed heterocyclization chemistry. Importantly, the implementation of this strategy obviates an enantioselective synthesis of the spiroamine functionality.

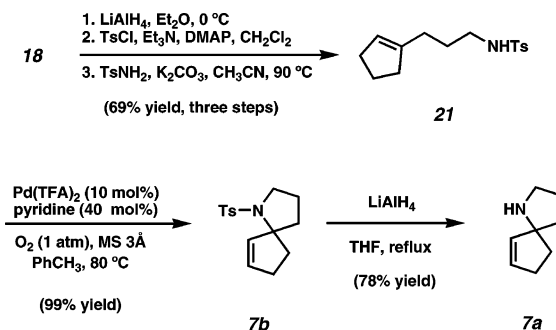
Results and Discussion

Synthesis of Spirocyclic Amine 7a. Our synthesis of spirocyclic amine **7a** began from known allylic alcohol **17**,⁸ which was treated with triethyl orthoacetate under Johnson orthoester–Claisen conditions to afford ethyl ester **18** (Scheme 3). Ester **18** was smoothly transformed into primary amide **19** via saponification (LiOH/THF/H₂O) followed by amide formation mediated by the Staab reagent (1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole).⁹ Despite extensive experimentation, the oxidative heterocyclization of **19** under our standard catalytic conditions (Pd(II)/O₂/

SCHEME 3



SCHEME 4



pyridine/toluene) did not proceed efficiently (i.e., <10% yield). However, optimization of the solvent and the catalyst system revealed that a mixture of DMF and DMSO as solvent and Pd-(TFA)₂ as catalyst are optimal conditions, affording spiroamide **20** in 88% yield.¹⁰ The resulting amide was reduced by LiAlH₄ to provide desired spirocyclic pyrrolidine **7a**.

As the primary amide **19** proved to be an unsuitable substrate for our Pd(II)-catalyzed heterocyclization reaction in aprotic solvents such as toluene, we turned our attention to sulfonamide-based nucleophiles, which are generally more reactive substrates in this oxidative cyclization chemistry.¹¹ Thus, ester **18** (Scheme 4) was reduced by LiAlH₄ to an alcohol, which was subsequently converted in two steps to sulfonamide **21**, setting the stage for the key palladium(II)-catalyzed heterocyclization reaction. Gratifyingly, the oxidative cyclization of **21** proceeded efficiently to provide spirocyclic tosylamide **7b**. This reaction could be easily performed on gram-scale (e.g., 1.1 g, 99% yield), allowing access to this key intermediate in sufficient laboratory quantities. Reductive cleavage of the tosyl group with LiAlH₄¹² furnished the desired spirocyclic amine (**7a**).

(10) For leading references on the Pd(II)/DMSO oxidative system for heterocyclizations, see: (a) Larock, R. C.; Hightower, T. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **1993**, *58*, 5298–5300. (b) Rönn, M.; Bäckvall, J.-E.; Andersson, P. G. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1995**, *36*, 7749–7752. (c) Larock, R. C.; Hightower, T. R.; Hasvold, L. A.; Peterson, K. P. *J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, *61*, 3584–3585.

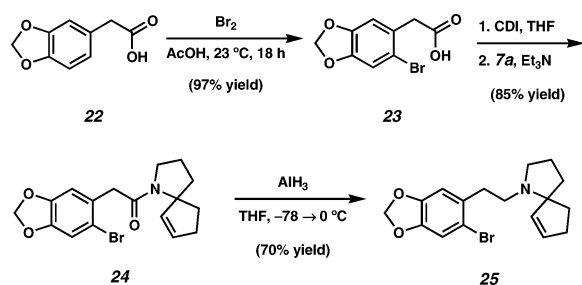
(11) For an example, see: Fix, S. R.; Brice, J. L.; Stahl, S. S. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 164–166.

(12) Brosius, A. D.; Overman, L. E.; Schwink, L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1999**, *121*, 700–709.

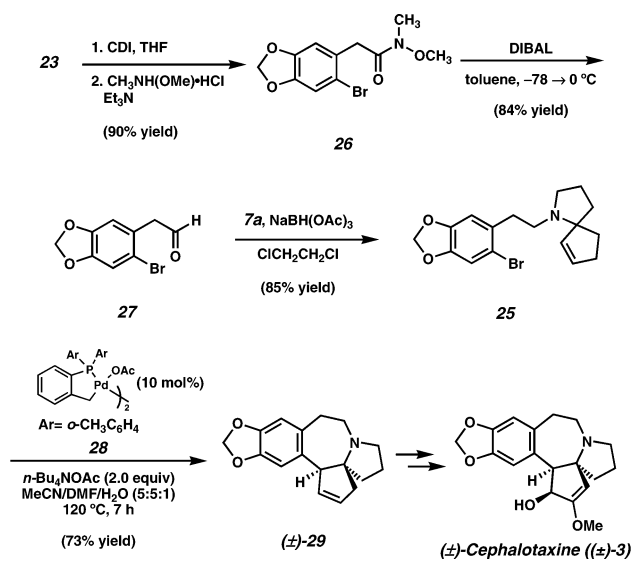
(8) Dreiding, A. S.; Hartman, J. A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1953**, *75*, 939–943.

(9) Staab, H. A.; Wendel, K. *Org. Synth.* **1968**, *48*, 44–46.

SCHEME 5



SCHEME 6



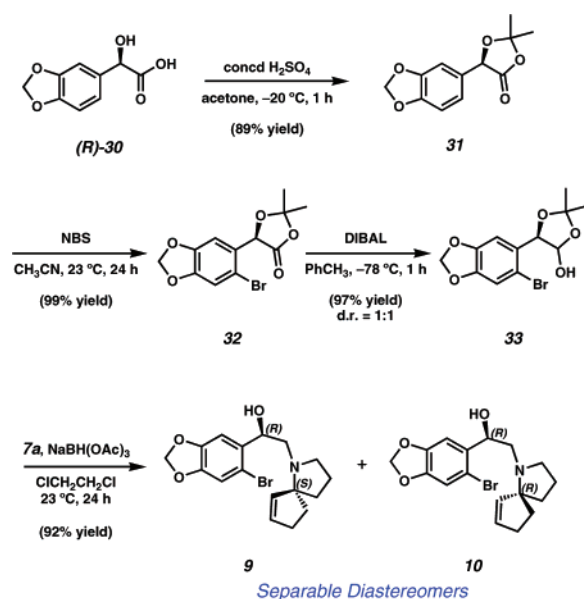
A Formal Total Synthesis of (±)-Cephalotaxine

With a facile route to spirocyclic amine **7a** in hand, we set out to pursue a formal total synthesis of (±)-cephalotaxine ((±)-**3**) to demonstrate the utility of this new methodology. Our approach targeted **29** (Scheme 6), a known intermediate en route to cephalotaxine (**3**) in Mori's synthesis.^{5h}

Our synthesis commenced with regioselective bromination of homopiperonylic acid (**22**) to yield carboxylic acid **23** (Scheme 5). Amide bond formation between spirocyclic amine **7a** and acid **23** afforded **24** in good yield. Reduction of amide **24** with a variety of reducing agents was complicated by the formation of an inseparable des-bromo side product. Eventually, alane (AlH_3) was found to be capable of generating the desired tertiary amine (**25**) in 70% yield without concomitant dehalogenation.

While we were investigating conditions for the amide reduction, an alternative synthetic route was also pursued. To this end, carboxylic acid **23** was converted to Weinreb amide **26**, which was reduced by DIBAL to give aldehyde **27**. Carbon-nitrogen bond formation was achieved via a reductive amination¹³ joining the aldehyde and spirocyclic pyrrolidine fragments. The resulting tertiary amine (**25**), obtained by either method described, was subjected to the stereoselective Heck conditions developed by Tietze^{5j,l} to afford the target intermediate (**29**), thus completing the formal total synthesis of (±)-cephalotaxine ((±)-**3**, 11 total steps to **29**, 8 longest linear).

SCHEME 7



Synthesis of (–)-Drupacine and Formal Total Synthesis of (–)- and (+)-Cephalotaxine

After the completion of our concise formal synthesis of (±)-cephalotaxine ((±)-**3**), we turned our attention to our initial synthetic routes toward (+)- and (–)-cephalotaxine and (–)-drupacine. Enantiomerically enriched 3,4-methylenedioxymandelic acid¹⁴ ((*R*)-**30**, 97.5% ee) was protected as a 1,3-dioxolanone under acidic conditions in acetone (Scheme 7). Although bromination of **31** in several common solvents (e.g., Et_2O , CHCl_3 , and acetic acid) was problematic, acetonitrile proved optimal for this transformation and afforded aryl bromide **32** quantitatively. The resulting dioxolanone (**32**) was reduced with DIBAL at -78°C to give hemiacetal **33** as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers. The diastereomeric mixture was reacted with spirocyclic amine **7a** under reductive amination conditions to furnish diastereomers **9** and **10** in an approximately 1:1 ratio, which could be readily separated by silica gel column chromatography.

Upon the facile separation of diastereomers **9** and **10**, we first utilized each diastereomer in a divergent fashion toward the formal total synthesis of (+)- and (–)-cephalotaxine. As mentioned above, we anticipated that **9** and **10** could be transformed into (+)- and (–)-**29**, respectively, which can subsequently be transformed to (+)- and (–)-cephalotaxine via a four-step sequence described by Mori.^{5h} To that end, diastereomer **9** was exposed to the identical Heck reaction conditions described above to produce **15** as a single diastereomer and enantiomer (Scheme 8). The benzylic hydroxyl group in **15** was removed via an ionic deoxygenation procedure (Et_3SiH , CF_3COOH)¹⁵ to give (+)-**29** ($[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{27.3} +191^\circ$ ($c = 0.15$, CHCl_3), lit.^{5l} $[\alpha]_{\text{D}} -200^\circ$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3) for (–)-**29**), which completed the formal total synthesis of (+)-cephalotaxine ((+)-**3**). The other diastereomer (**10**) can be converted to (–)-cephalotaxine ((–)-**3**) using the identical synthetic route.

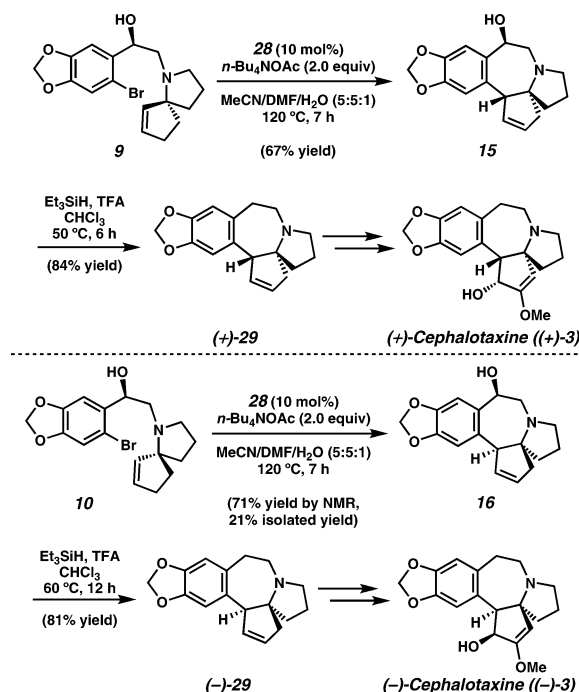
Having completed the stereodivergent formal synthesis of (+)- and (–)-**3**, we then turned our attention to a stereocon-

(13) Abdel-Magid, A. F.; Carson, K. G.; Harris, B. D.; Maryanoff, C. A.; Shah, R. D. *J. Org. Chem.* **1996**, *61*, 3849–3862.

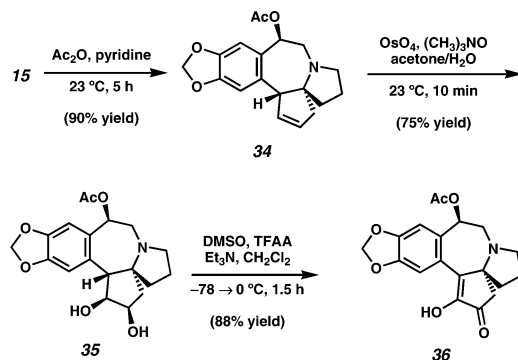
(14) Neilson, D. G.; Zakir, U.; Scrimgeour, C. M. *J. Chem. Soc. C* **1971**, 898–904.

(15) Kursanov, D. N.; Parnes, Z. N.; Loim, N. M. *Synthesis* **1974**, 633–651.

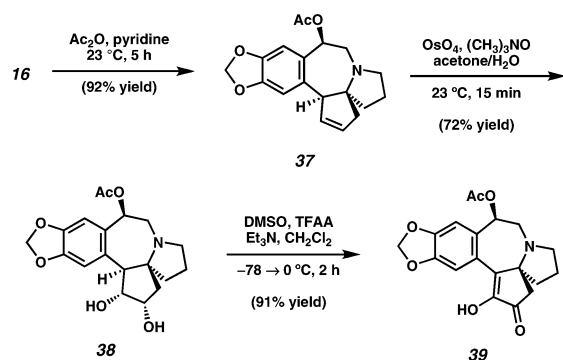
SCHEME 8



SCHEME 9



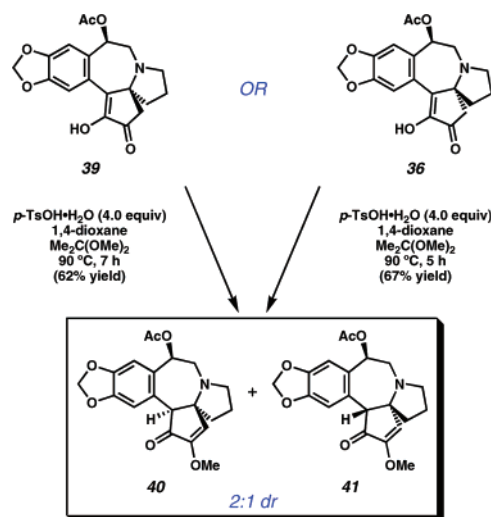
SCHEME 10



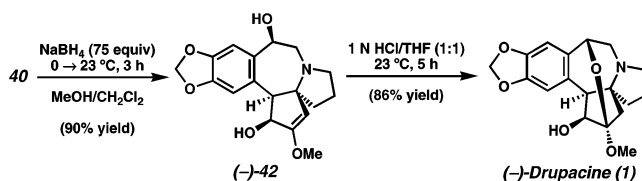
vergent synthesis of (-)-drupacine from diastereomers **9** and **10**. Therefore, the benzylic alcohol in **15** was masked as an acetate to provide **34**, which was converted to α-hydroxy enone **36** via a two-step sequence (Scheme 9). The same transformations were carried out to produce the other diastereomer (i.e., **39**) from **16** (Scheme 10).

With syn α-hydroxy enone **39** in hand, exposure to conditions that are known to promote racemization in the cephalotaxine series^{5h} through a conjugate addition process, formed two

SCHEME 11



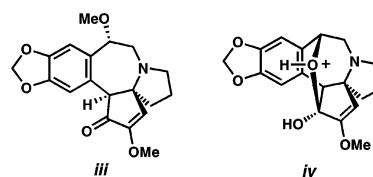
SCHEME 12



diastereomers (**40** and **41**), with the desired syn isomer (**40**) as the major product (Scheme 11). This observation indicated that an equilibrium through an open ring intermediate leads to a diastereomeric interconversion, and syn isomer **40** is thermodynamically more stable than anti isomer **41**. To our delight, when the anti α-hydroxy enone diastereomer (**36**) was subjected to the same conditions for 5 h, nearly identical results were observed.¹⁶ Therefore, we succeeded in the conversion of both diastereomers **36** and **39** to the desired syn isomer of α-methoxy enone (**40**) by employing this diastereoconvergent isomerization process.

To complete the synthesis of (-)-drupacine (**1**), α-methoxy enone **40** was reduced with NaBH₄, with concomitant cleavage of the acetate ester, to produce enantiopure 11-hydroxycephalotaxine ((-)-**42**), another *Cephalotaxus* alkaloid (Scheme 12).^{2b} Under acidic conditions, the benzylic hydroxyl group in ((-)-**42**) engaged in an acetal linkage with the enol ether, forming (-)-drupacine (**1**) in 86% yield. The spectroscopic data for the synthetic material was identical to published data for the natural product in every respect, representing the first asymmetric total synthesis of (-)-drupacine.

(16) When diastereomeric α-hydroxy enones **36** and **39** were independently subjected to the dynamic isomerization conditions for prolonged reaction times (3 days), a single major product (>60% yield) was isolated and characterized as **iii**, which is optically active ([α]_D^{25.6} = -41.9 (c = 0.21, CHCl₃)). When **40** was subjected to basic conditions (NaOMe/MeOH), compound **iii** ([α]_D^{27.3} = -44.2 (c = 0.22, CHCl₃)) was produced as the sole product. One possible intermediate (**iv**) for these transformations is proposed.



Conclusions

In summary, we have developed a concise route toward the syntheses of (–)-drupacine (**1**) and (+)- and (–)-cephalotaxine (**3**). Our synthesis features a rapid and efficient construction of the spirocyclic amine (**7a**) employing Pd(II)-catalyzed oxidative heterocyclization chemistry, followed by a series of transformations that include a reductive amination and an intramolecular Heck reaction to establish the frameworks of the target molecules. A dynamic isomerization process was strategically applied to funnel two diastereomers (**36** and **39**) into a single enantiomer of (–)-drupacine (**1**) to complete the first asymmetric total synthesis of this alkaloid. This work is highly illustrative of the synthetic utility of the aerobic palladium(II)-catalyzed heterocyclization chemistry we have developed thus far. It also highlights how stereoconvergency and stereodivergency can be employed as strategic elements that can enable the facile synthesis of a family of naturally occurring compounds. Investigations into an enantioselective version of the oxidative heterocyclization and the applications of convergence and divergence to other synthetic problems are currently underway.

Experimental Section

Spirolactam 20. DMF (20 mL) and DMSO (2 mL) were added to a 250 mL two-necked, round-bottomed flask charged with a magnetic stir bar. Under an atmosphere of O₂, Pd(TFA)₂ (333 mg, 1.0 mmol), NaOAc (1.64 g, 20 mmol), and amide **19** (1.39 g, 10.0 mmol) were added successively. The resulting mixture was heated at 80 °C for 48 h with vigorous stirring. After the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, it was passed through a short pad of silica gel to remove insoluble solid. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo to give a red oil, which was purified by flash chromatography (100% EtOAc) to give the spirolactam **20** (1.22 g, 87.8% yield): *R*_f 0.30 (EtOAc); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.06 (br s, 1H), 5.81–5.78 (m, 1H), 5.59–5.56 (m, 1H), 2.46–2.23 (m, 4H), 2.07–1.85 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 177.7, 135.2, 133.2, 71.4, 37.9, 33.9, 30.9; IR (film) 3191, 1690, 1366, 753 cm^{–1}; HRMS-EI (*m/z*) [M]⁺ calcd for C₈H₁₁NO 137.0841, found 137.0835.

Cyclic Sulfonamide 7b. Toluene (20 mL) was added to a 250 mL two-necked, round-bottomed flask charged with a magnetic stir bar. Under an atmosphere of O₂, 3 Å molecular sieves (1.0 g), Pd(TFA)₂ (133 mg, 0.4 mmol), pyridine (128 mg, 131 μL, 1.6 mmol), and sulfonamide **21** (1.12 g, 4.0 mmol) were added successively. The resulting mixture was heated at 80 °C for 42 h with vigorous stirring. After the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, the mixture was passed through a short pad of silica gel to remove the insoluble solid. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo to give a brown oil, which was purified by flash chromatography (4:1 hexanes/EtOAc) to give the cyclic sulfonamide **7b** (1.10 g, 99% yield): *R*_f 0.25 (4:1 hexanes/EtOAc); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.76 (dt, *J*₁ = 5.7 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.33 (dt, *J*₁ = 5.4 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.56–3.49 (m, 1H), 3.30–3.22 (m, 1H), 2.58–2.48 (m, 1H), 2.47–2.30 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.77–2.12 (m, 2H), 1.87–1.67 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.8, 138.7, 133.6, 132.9, 129.5, 127.5, 78.7, 49.5, 41.4, 37.3, 31.2, 23.4, 21.7; IR (film) 2927, 1598, 1494, 1446, 1335, 1153, 1092, 1060 cm^{–1}; HRMS-EI (*m/z*) [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₅H₁₉NO₂S 277.1136, found 277.1149.

Alcohols 9 and 10. To a solution of hemiacetal **33** (1.0 g, 3.17 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (10 mL) was added a solution of spiroamine **7a** (410 mg, 3.33 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (5 mL). The resulting solution was treated with NaBH(OAc)₃ (1.0 g, 4.76 mmol) and stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction was poured into saturated NaHCO₃ (50 mL), and the phases were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (4 × 50

mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (1:1 hexanes/EtOAc → EtOAc) to give **9** (525 mg, 45.4% yield) and **10** (538 mg, 46.5% yield) as yellow oils.

9: *R*_f 0.25 (EtOAc); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 5.94 (dd, *J*₁ = 5.4 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 5.85 (dt, *J*₁ = 5.7 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.40 (dt, *J*₁ = 5.7 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (dd, *J*₁ = 10.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (br, 1H), 3.32–3.25 (m, 1H), 2.57–2.49 (m, 2H), 2.38–2.16 (m, 3H), 1.91–1.71 (m, 5H), 1.55–1.46 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 147.6, 135.9, 135.3, 133.6, 112.5, 112.0, 107.7, 101.9, 78.0, 69.1, 55.3, 50.4, 38.1, 32.0, 28.1, 21.6; IR (film) 3401, 2938, 1502, 1475, 1236, 1038 cm^{–1}; HRMS-FAB (*m/z*) [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₂₀BrNO₃ 366.0705, found 366.0689; [α]_D^{25.8} –17.5 (c 2.0, CH₂Cl₂).

10: *R*_f 0.20 (EtOAc); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 5.94 (dd, *J*₁ = 5.1 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 5.76 (dt, *J*₁ = 5.7 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (dt, *J*₁ = 5.7 Hz, *J*₂ = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (dd, *J*₁ = 10.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (br, 1H), 3.21–3.15 (m, 1H), 2.67–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.33–2.18 (m, 3H), 1.91–1.81 (m, 6H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 147.6, 135.5, 133.6, 132.5, 112.6, 112.0, 107.6, 101.9, 77.7, 69.3, 56.1, 51.8, 38.6, 34.0, 31.2, 22.2; IR (film) 3401, 2942, 1502, 1475, 1235, 1039 cm^{–1}; HRMS-FAB (*m/z*) [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₂₀BrNO₃ 366.0705, found 366.0688; [α]_D^{25.8} –36.4 (c 2.0, CH₂Cl₂).

anti-Amino Alcohol 15. The amino alcohol **9** (200 mg, 0.55 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of solvents (DMF/CH₃CN/H₂O = 5 mL:5 mL:1 mL). The solution was degassed with argon for 15 min and then treated with *trans*-di-μ-acetatobis[2-(di-*o*-tolylphosphino)benzyl]dipalladium(II) (52 mg, 0.055 mmol) and tetra-*n*-butylammonium acetate (332 mg, 1.1 mmol). The resulting solution was heated at 120 °C for 7 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and filtered through a short pad of Celite. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) and extracted with saturated NaHCO₃ (50 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 50 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated to dryness. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (1:4 hexanes/EtOAc → EtOAc) to give alcohol **15** (107 mg, 67% yield) as a foamy solid: *R*_f 0.15 (EtOAc); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 5.89 (dd, *J*₁ = 9.0 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 5.81–5.79 (m, 1H), 5.52–5.50 (m, 1H), 5.20 (dd, *J*₁ = 9.9 Hz, *J*₂ = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (t, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.04–2.97 (m, 1H), 2.83–2.73 (m, 2H), 2.58 (t, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 2.45–2.35 (m, 2H), 2.04–1.89 (m, 3H), 1.77–1.68 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.9, 146.2, 136.0, 132.1, 129.5, 128.8, 110.9, 104.5, 101.1, 68.3, 66.6, 62.0, 56.7, 53.4, 43.0, 34.9, 20.2; IR (film) 3256, 2961, 1501, 1482, 1261, 1242, 1040 cm^{–1}; HRMS-EI (*m/z*) [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₁₉NO₃ 285.1365, found 285.1370; [α]_D^{27.0} +57.6 (c 1.6, CHCl₃).

syn-Amino Alcohol 16. The amino alcohol **10** (200 mg, 0.55 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of solvents (DMF/CH₃CN/H₂O = 5 mL:5 mL:1 mL). The solution was degassed with argon for 15 min and then treated with *trans*-di-μ-acetatobis[2-(di-*o*-tolylphosphino)benzyl]dipalladium(II) (52 mg, 0.055 mmol) and tetra-*n*-butylammonium acetate (332 mg, 1.1 mmol). The resulting solution was heated at 120 °C for 7 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and filtered through a short pad of Celite. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in Et₂O (50 mL) and extracted with saturated NaHCO₃ (50 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with Et₂O (3 × 50 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated to dryness. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (5% → 10% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂) to yield *syn*-amino alcohol **16** (33 mg, 21% yield) as a clear oil. (Note: The low isolation yield of **16** is due to its poor solubility in most organic solvents. When crude **16** was taken to the next step, typically 60–70% yield was obtained for two steps. Since pure **16** can be acylated in 92% yield, the yield of

this Heck reaction approximately 71%). **16**: R_f 0.07 (EtOAc), 0.1 (1:9 MeOH/CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.72 (s, 1H), 6.00–5.97 (m, 1H), 5.94 (s, 2H), 5.90–5.88 (m, 1H), 4.75 (dd, $J_1 = 8.7$ Hz, $J_2 = 4.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.85 (m, 1H), 3.37 (dd, $J_1 = 14.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 8.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.96–2.91 (m, 1H), 2.72–2.66 (m, 3H), 2.16 (dq, $J_1 = 18.5$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.98 (dt, $J_1 = 8.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 3.3$ Hz, 2H), 1.89–1.71 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.3, 147.0, 136.1, 134.1, 132.0, 131.3, 111.4, 110.8, 101.4, 74.0, 71.0, 59.4, 55.6, 52.9, 40.0, 37.6, 20.3; IR (film): 3376, 2871, 1496, 1474, 1261, 1038 cm⁻¹; HRMS-EI (m/z) [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₁₉NO₃ 285.1365; found 285.1360; [α]_D^{23.9} –72.8 (c 0.3, CHCl₃).

α -Methoxy Enones 40 and 41. Diketone (**39** or **36**) (20 mg, 0.056 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of 1,4-dioxane (5 mL) and 2,2-dimethoxypropane (5 mL). The solution was treated with *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (42.6 mg, 0.224 mmol, 4.0 equiv) and heated at 90 °C for 5 or 7 h. After the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, the solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was partitioned between saturated NaHCO₃ (15 mL) and CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (4 $\times$ 20 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by preparative TLC (19:1 CH₂Cl₂/MeOH) to yield enone **40** (8.3 mg, 42% yield) and **41** (4.0 mg, 20% yield).

40: R_f 0.45 (1:1 CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 5.94 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 2H), 5.74 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 1H), 3.34–3.27 (m, 1H), 3.08–3.01 (m, 1H), 2.81–2.73 (m, 2H), 2.18–2.08 (m, 1H), 2.03–1.95 (m, 1H), 1.93–1.82 (m, 2H), 1.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.3, 170.4, 159.2, 148.3, 147.2, 129.0, 127.9, 122.0, 114.5, 112.3, 101.7, 75.2, 66.3, 60.5, 57.4, 52.8, 52.4, 39.7, 20.9, 20.3; IR (film) 2961, 1726, 1629, 1506, 1489, 1371, 1231 cm⁻¹; HRMS-FAB (m/z) [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₂₁NO₆ 372.1447, found 372.1451; [α]_D^{25.0} –63.6 (c 0.3, CH₂Cl₂).

41: R_f 0.55 (1:1 CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.71 (s, 1H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 5.95 (dd, $J_1 = 3.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 1.5$ Hz, 2H), 5.55 (dd, $J_1 = 9.9$ Hz, $J_2 = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.56 (s, 1H), 3.05 (m, 1H), 2.96 (dd, $J_1 = 11.1$ Hz, $J_2 = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.72 (q, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.63 (t, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 2.04–1.99 (m, 2H), 1.83–1.79 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.9, 169.6, 159.0, 147.8, 147.0, 130.2, 126.0, 124.0, 112.9, 105.2, 101.5, 69.4, 65.5, 60.9, 57.8, 53.0, 52.7, 39.1, 21.2, 20.7; IR (film) 2931, 1724, 1624, 1504, 1485, 1370, 1233 cm⁻¹; HRMS-FAB (m/z) [M + H – H₂]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₂₁NO₆ 370.1291, found 370.1299; [α]_D^{25.0} +13.2 (c 0.2, CHCl₃).

11-Hydroxycephalotaxine (42). Enone **40** (7.0 mg, 18.8 μ mol) was dissolved in a mixture of MeOH (2.0 mL) and CH₂Cl₂ (0.4 mL) at 0 °C and treated with NaBH₄ (18 mg, 0.47 mmol, 25 equiv). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 1 h. The second portion of NaBH₄ (18 mg, 0.47 mmol, 25 equiv) was added, and the mixture was stirred for an additional 1 h. The third portion of NaBH₄ (18 mg, 0.47 mmol, 25 equiv) was added, and the reaction was stirred for an additional 1

h. The solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was partitioned between saturated NaCl (10 mL) and CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (4 $\times$ 10 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by preparative TLC (9:1 CH₂Cl₂/MeOH) to yield diol **42** (5.5 mg, 90% yield) as a white powder: R_f 0.15 (9:1 CH₂Cl₂/MeOH); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 5.93 (q, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.82 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.68 (s, 1H), 4.50 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.52 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.40–3.32 (m, 1H), 3.16–3.09 (m, 1H), 2.92–2.87 (m, 2H), 1.98–1.86 (m, 2H), 1.77–1.68 (m, 2H) (note: 2 protons of the hydroxyl groups were not observed); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.6, 147.5, 147.4, 135.9, 127.0, 113.3, 113.1, 101.5, 100.2, 74.8, 74.6, 73.7, 58.2, 57.5, 51.4, 50.9, 40.0, 21.9; IR (film): 3369, 2922, 1651, 1504, 1489, 1227 cm⁻¹; HRMS-EI (m/z) [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₁NO₅ 331.1420, found 331.1417; [α]_D^{24.4} –72.6 (c 0.13, CHCl₃).

(–)-Drupacine (1). Diol **42** (2.6 mg, 7.85 μ mol) was dissolved in a mixture of THF (1.0 mL) and 1 N HCl (1.0 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h and then was poured into saturated NaHCO₃ (10 mL). The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (5 $\times$ 10 mL). The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated to dryness. The residue was purified by preparative TLC (9:1 CH₂Cl₂/MeOH) to yield (–)-drupacine (**1**) (2.2 mg, 86% yield) as a white film: R_f 0.60 (9:1 CH₂Cl₂/MeOH); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.65 (s, 1H), 5.95 (q, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 2H), 4.88 (d, $J = 3.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.05 (d, $J = 9.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.49 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.48 (s, 3H), 3.24–3.19 (m, 1H), 3.07 (m, 1H), 3.03 (d, $J = 13.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.66 (d, $J = 14.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.46 (q, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.26–2.20 (m, 1H), 2.09–2.00 (m, 1H), 1.88–1.76 (m, 2H), 1.52 (d, $J = 14.1$ Hz, 1H) 1.36 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.1, 146.7, 131.2, 130.2, 112.2, 108.8, 107.9, 101.5, 78.5, 73.8, 65.5, 59.9, 56.9, 54.2, 52.4, 43.6, 35.9, 22.5; IR (film) 3369, 2929, 1503, 1488, 1372, 1060 cm⁻¹; HRMS-EI (m/z) [M]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₂₁NO₅ 331.1420, found 331.1433; [α]_D^{24.7} –64.0 (c 0.1, CHCl₃).

Acknowledgment. We thank the NIH-NIGMS (R01 GM65961-01), Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. (graduate fellowship to E.M.F.), the NSF (graduate fellowship to E.M.F.), the Dreyfus Foundation, Merck Research Laboratories, Research Corporation, Abbott Laboratories, Pfizer, Amgen, GlaxoSmithKline, Lilly, and Johnson and Johnson for generous financial support. We are grateful to Ernie Cruz, Sandy Ma, and John Enquist for experimental assistance.

Supporting Information Available: Experimental details, characterization data, and ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

JO0710883