

Exo- and Diastereo- Selective Syntheses of Himbacine Analogs

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Field of the Invention

10 This application discloses a novel process for the preparation of
himbacine analogs useful as thrombin receptor antagonists. The process
is based in part on the use of a base-promoted dynamic epimerization of
a chiral nitro center. The invention disclosed herein is related to those
disclosed in co-pending patent applications corresponding to the
15 following provisional patent applications: Serial No. 60/643,932; Serial
No. 60/643,927; and, Serial No. 60/644,428, all four applications having
been filed on the same date.

Background of the Invention

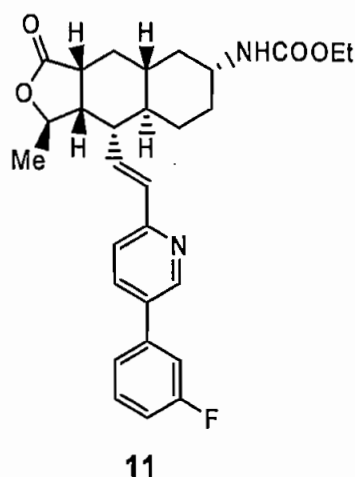
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Thrombin is known to have a variety of activities in different cell
types and thrombin receptors are known to be present in such cell types
as human platelets, vascular smooth muscle cells, endothelial cells, and
fibroblasts. Thrombin receptor antagonists may be useful in the
25 treatment of thrombotic, inflammatory, atherosclerotic and

fibroproliferative disorders, as well as other disorders in which thrombin and its receptor play a pathological role. See, for example, U.S.

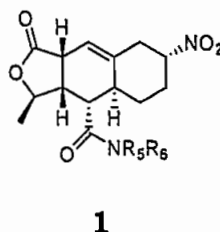
6,063,847, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.

One thrombin receptor antagonist is a compound of the formula:



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This compound is an orally bioavailable thrombin receptor antagonist derived from himbacine. Compound **11** may be synthesized from Compound **1**:



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wherein R_5 and R_6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, and heteroaryl groups.

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Processes for the synthesis of similar himbacine analog thrombin receptor antagonists are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,063,847, and U.S.

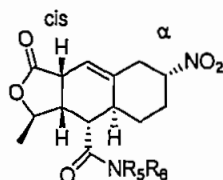
- 3 -

publication no. 2003/0216437, methods of using thrombin receptor antagonists are disclosed in U.S. publication no. 2004/0192753, and the synthesis of the bisulfate salt of a particular himbacine analog is disclosed in U.S. publication no. 2004/0176418, the disclosures of which
5 are incorporated by reference herein. The present application provides a novel process for preparing Compound **11** from Compound **1**, which process provides an improved yield and the elimination of the need for a chiral intermediate.

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Summary of the Invention

One aspect of the present invention provides a process for preparing Compound **1**:

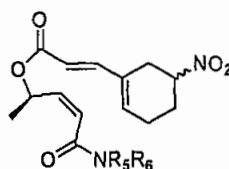


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said process comprising the steps of:

(a) cyclizing Compound **2** in a first solvent at an elevated temperature



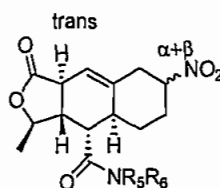
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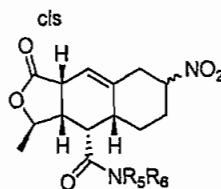
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wherein R_5 and R_6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, heterocyclic and heteroaryl groups, or R_5 and R_6 , together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form a 3- to 6-membered

5 heterocyclic compound containing 1-4 heteroatoms, to produce a first mixture of *exo* isomers

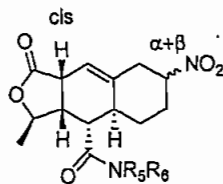


said isomers having a *trans*-[5,6]-ring-junction and *endo* isomers:



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(b) epimerizing said *trans*-[5,6]-ring-junction in Compound **29** by treating said first mixture with a first base to produce a second mixture comprising *cis*-[5,6]-ring-junction-nitro- α isomer and *cis*-[5,6]-ring-junction-nitro- β isomer of Compound **30**:



15

and

(c) treating said second mixture with a second solvent, causing said α -isomer of Compound **30** to precipitate to produce Compound **1**.

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In another embodiment, the above process further comprises the step of treating said second mixture with a second base, resulting in a dynamic resolution of said second mixture, in which said β -isomer of Compound **30** is converted to α -isomer of Compound **30**, and α -isomer of Compound **30** is precipitated to produce Compound **1**.

In another embodiment, said first solvent is selected from the group consisting of xylene, N-methylpyrrolidinone, Dimethylsulfoxide, diphenyl ether, Dimethylacetamide, and mixtures of 2 or more thereof.

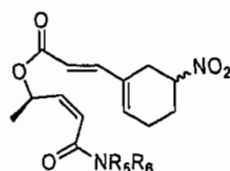
In another embodiment, said temperature is between about 70 and about 190 °C, preferably between about 80 and about 170 °C, more preferably between about 100 and about 160 °C, still more preferably between about 120 and about 150 °C.

In another embodiment, said first base is selected from the group consisting of triethylamine, 1,5-diazabicyclo[4,3,0]non-5-ene 1,4-diazabicyclo[2,2,2]octane, and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene, and mixtures of 2 or more thereof.

In another embodiment, said second solvent is selected from the group consisting of alcohols, ethers, ketones, esters, xylene, N-methylpyrrolidinone, and mixtures of 2 or more thereof.

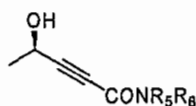
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In another embodiment, the invention provides a process for preparing Compound **2**:

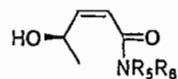
**2**

- 5 wherein R_5 and R_6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, heterocyclic and heteroaryl groups, or R_5 and R_6 , together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form a 3- to 6-membered heterocyclic compound containing 1-4 heteroatoms, said process
- 10 comprising:

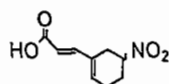
- (a) converting (R)-butynol to Compound **3**:

**3**;

- (b) reducing Compound **3** to yield Compound **4**:

**4**; and,

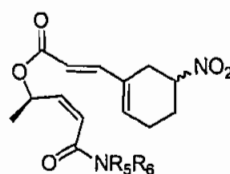
- (c) reacting Compound **4** with Compound **6**:



to yield Compound **2**.

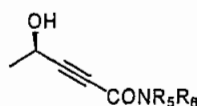
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In yet another embodiment, the invention is directed to a process for preparing Compound **2**:

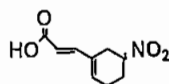
**2,**

- 5 wherein R_5 and R_6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, heterocyclic and heteroaryl groups, or R_5 and R_6 , together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form a 3- to 6-membered heterocyclic compound containing 1-4 heteroatoms, said process
- 10 comprising:

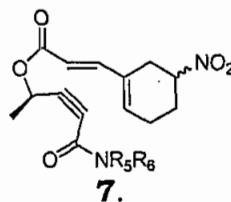
(a) converting (R)-butynol to Compound **3**:

**3;**

(b) reacting Compound **3** with Compound **6** to yield Compound **7**:

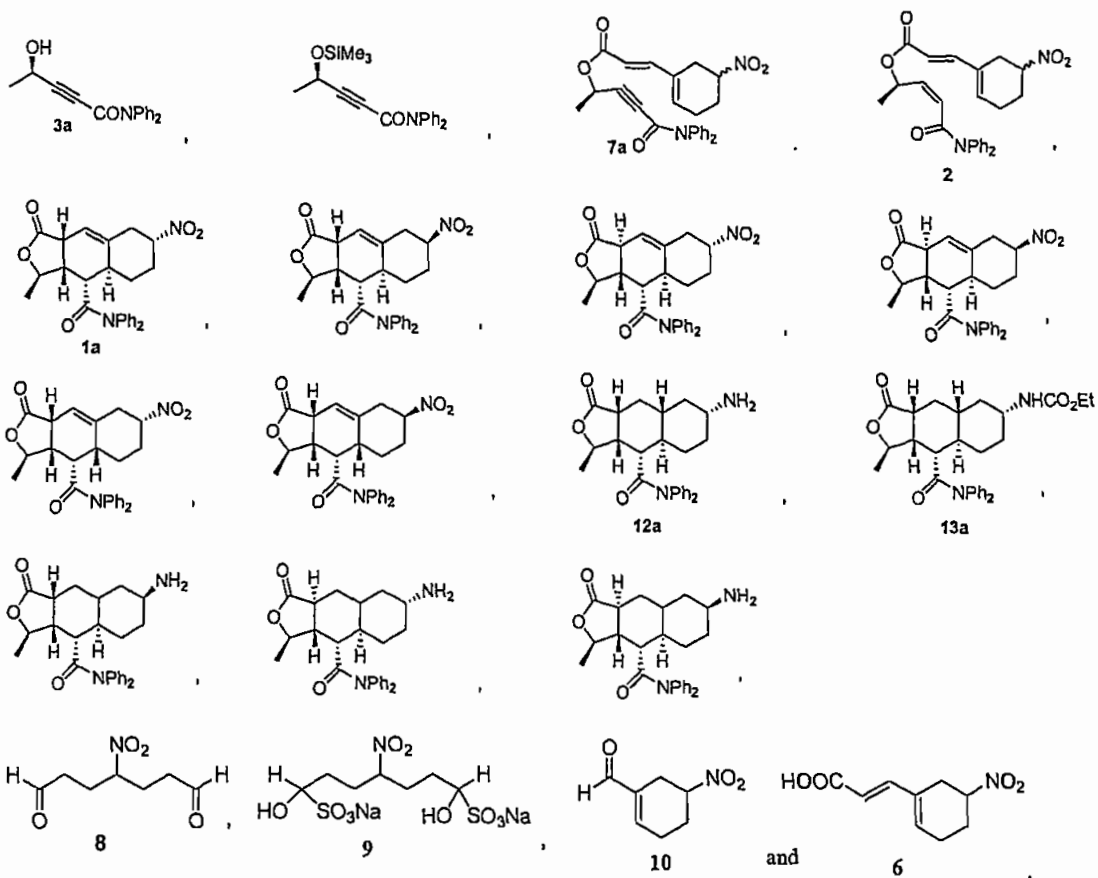
**6;**

(c) reducing Compound **7** to produce Compound **2**:

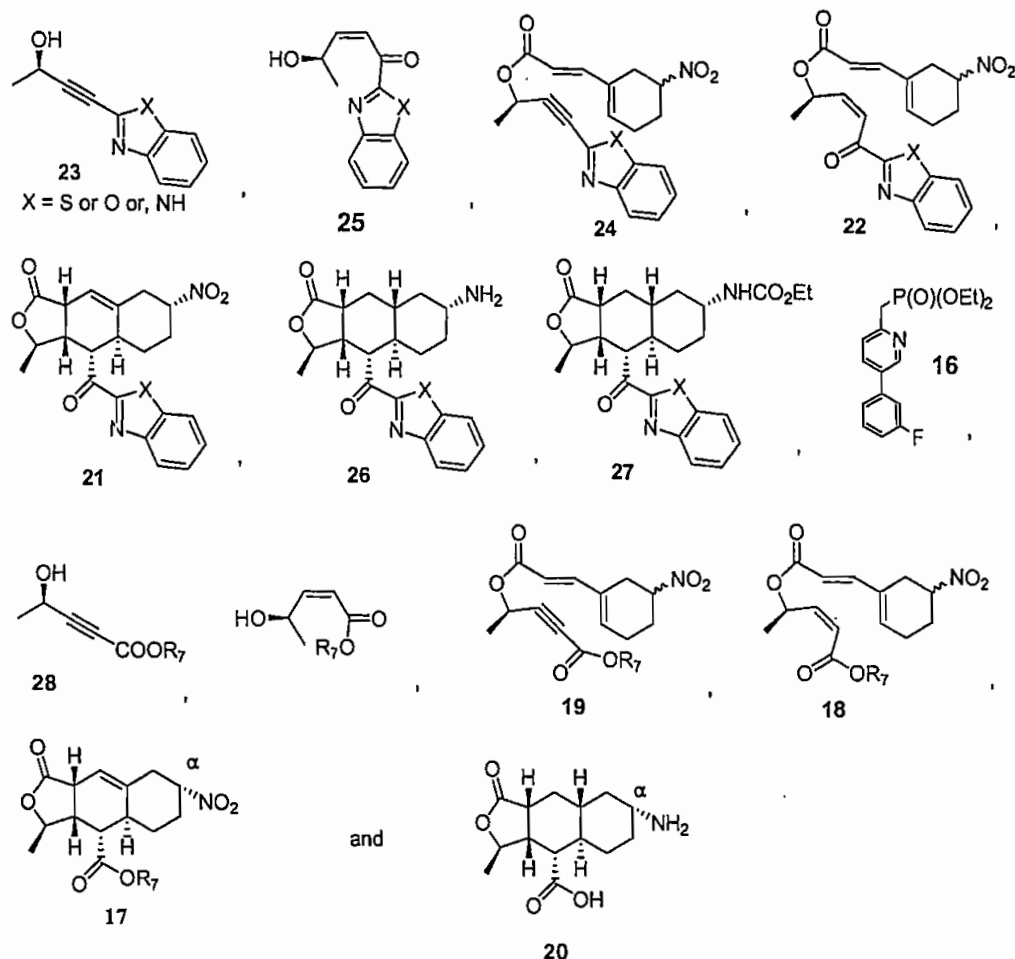
**7.**

- 8 -

In another embodiment, the invention provides the following compounds:



- 9 -



A further understanding of the invention will be had from the following detailed description of the invention.

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Description of the Invention

The following definitions and terms are used herein or are otherwise known to a skilled artisan. Except where stated otherwise, the definitions apply throughout the specification and claims. Chemical names, common names and chemical structures may be used interchangeably to describe the same structure. These definitions apply regardless of whether a term is used by itself or in combination with

- 10 -

other terms, unless otherwise indicated. Hence, the definition of "alkyl" applies to "alkyl" as well as the "alkyl" portions of "hydroxyalkyl," "haloalkyl," "alkoxy," etc.

5 Unless otherwise known, stated or shown to be to the contrary, the point of attachment for a multiple term substituent (two or more terms that are combined to identify a single moiety) to a subject structure is through the last named term of the multiple term substituent. For example, a cycloalkylalkyl substituent attaches to a targeted structure
10 through the latter "alkyl" portion of the substituent (*e.g.*, structure-alkyl-cycloalkyl).

 The identity of each variable appearing more than once in a formula may be independently selected from the definition for that
15 variable, unless otherwise indicated.

 Unless stated, shown or otherwise known to be the contrary, all atoms illustrated in chemical formulas for covalent compounds possess normal valencies. Thus, hydrogen atoms, double bonds, triple bonds and
20 ring structures need not be expressly depicted in a general chemical formula.

 Double bonds, where appropriate, may be represented by the presence of parentheses around an atom in a chemical formula. For
25 example, a carbonyl functionality, -CO-, may also be represented in a

- 11 -

chemical formula by -C(O)- , or -C(=O)- . One skilled in the art will be able to determine the presence or absence of double (and triple bonds) in a covalently-bonded molecule. For instance, it is readily recognized that a carboxyl functionality may be represented by -COOH , -C(O)OH , -C(=O)OH or $\text{-CO}_2\text{H}$.

The term "heteroatom," as used herein, means a nitrogen, sulfur or oxygen atom. Multiple heteroatoms in the same group may be the same or different.

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As used herein, the term "alkyl" means an aliphatic hydrocarbon group that can be straight or branched and comprises 1 to about 24 carbon atoms in the chain. Preferred alkyl groups comprise 1 to about 15 carbon atoms in the chain. More preferred alkyl groups comprise 1 to about 6 carbon atoms in the chain. "Lower alkyl" means alkyl groups of 1 to 6 carbon atoms in the chain. "Branched" means that one or more lower alkyl groups such as methyl, ethyl or propyl, are attached to a linear alkyl chain. The alkyl can be substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, aryl, cycloalkyl, cyano, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, -NH(alkyl) , -NH(cycloalkyl) , -N(alkyl)_2 (which alkyls can be the same or different), carboxy and -C(O)O-alkyl . Non-limiting examples of suitable alkyl groups include methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, t-butyl, n-pentyl, heptyl, nonyl, decyl, fluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl and cyclopropylmethyl.

- 12 -

"Alkenyl" means an aliphatic hydrocarbon group (straight or branched carbon chain) comprising one or more double bonds in the chain and which can be conjugated or unconjugated. Useful alkenyl groups can comprise 2 to about 15 carbon atoms in the chain, preferably 2 to about 12 carbon atoms in the chain, and more preferably 2 to about 6 carbon atoms in the chain. The alkenyl group can be substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cyano and alkoxy. Non-limiting examples of suitable alkenyl groups include ethenyl, propenyl, n-butenyl, 3-methylbut-enyl and n-pentenyl.

Where an alkyl or alkenyl chain joins two other variables and is therefore bivalent, the terms alkylene and alkenylene, respectively, are used.

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"Alkoxy" means an alkyl-O- group in which the alkyl group is as previously described. Useful alkoxy groups can comprise 1 to about 12 carbon atoms, preferably 1 to about 6 carbon atoms. Non-limiting examples of suitable alkoxy groups include methoxy, ethoxy and isopropoxy. The alkyl group of the alkoxy is linked to an adjacent moiety through the ether oxygen.

The term "cycloalkyl" as used herein, means an unsubstituted or substituted, saturated, stable, non-aromatic, chemically-feasible carbocyclic ring having preferably from three to fifteen carbon atoms,

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- 13 -

more preferably, from three to eight carbon atoms. The cycloalkyl carbon ring radical is saturated and may be fused, for example, benzofused, with one to two cycloalkyl, aromatic, heterocyclic or heteroaromatic rings. The cycloalkyl may be attached at any endocyclic carbon atom that results in
5 a stable structure. Preferred carbocyclic rings have from five to six carbons. Examples of cycloalkyl radicals include cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, or the like.

"Alkynyl" means an aliphatic hydrocarbon group comprising at
10 least one carbon-carbon triple bond and which may be straight or branched and comprising about 2 to about 15 carbon atoms in the chain. Preferred alkynyl groups have about 2 to about 10 carbon atoms in the chain; and more preferably about 2 to about 6 carbon atoms in the chain. Branched means that one or more lower alkyl groups such as
15 methyl, ethyl or propyl, are attached to a linear alkynyl chain. Non-limiting examples of suitable alkynyl groups include ethynyl, propynyl, 2-butynyl, 3-methylbutynyl, n-pentynyl, and decynyl. The alkynyl group may be substituted by one or more substituents which may be the same or different, each substituent being independently selected from the
20 group consisting of alkyl, aryl and cycloalkyl.

The term "aryl," as used herein, means a substituted or unsubstituted, aromatic, mono- or bicyclic, chemically-feasible carbocyclic ring system having from one to two aromatic rings. The aryl
25 moiety will generally have from 6 to 14 carbon atoms with all available

substitutable carbon atoms of the aryl moiety being intended as possible points of attachment. Representative examples include phenyl, tolyl, xylyl, cumenyl, naphthyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, indanyl, indenyl, or the like. If desired, the carbocyclic moiety can be substituted with from one
5 to five, preferably, one to three, moieties, such as mono- through pentahalo, alkyl, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, or the like.

“Heteroaryl” means a monocyclic or multicyclic aromatic ring
10 system of about 5 to about 14 ring atoms, preferably about 5 to about 10 ring atoms, in which one or more of the atoms in the ring system is/are atoms other than carbon, for example nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur. Mono- and polycyclic (*e.g.*, bicyclic) heteroaryl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted with a plurality of substituents, preferably, one to five
15 substituents, more preferably, one, two or three substituents (*e.g.*, mono- through pentahalo, alkyl, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, or the like). Typically, a heteroaryl group represents a chemically-feasible cyclic group of five or six atoms, or a chemically-feasible bicyclic group of nine or ten atoms, at
20 least one of which is carbon, and having at least one oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen atom interrupting a carbocyclic ring having a sufficient number of *pi* (π) electrons to provide aromatic character. Representative heteroaryl (heteroaromatic) groups are pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, thiazolyl,
25 thiadiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, isothiazolyl, benzothiazolyl,

- 15 -

benzoxazolyl, oxazolyl, pyrrolyl, isoxazolyl, 1,3,5-triazinyl and indolyl groups.

The term "heterocyclic ring" or "heterocycle," as used herein,
5 means an unsubstituted or substituted, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, chemically-feasible ring, comprised of carbon atoms and one or more heteroatoms in the ring. Heterocyclic rings may be monocyclic or polycyclic. Monocyclic rings preferably contain from three to eight atoms in the ring structure, more preferably, five to seven atoms. Polycyclic
10 ring systems consisting of two rings preferably contain from six to sixteen atoms, most preferably, ten to twelve atoms. Polycyclic ring systems consisting of three rings contain preferably from thirteen to seventeen atoms, more preferably, fourteen or fifteen atoms. Each heterocyclic ring has at least one heteroatom. Unless otherwise stated, the heteroatoms
15 may each be independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen atoms.

The terms "Hal," "halo," "halogen" and "halide," as used herein,
mean a chloro, bromo, fluoro or iodo atom radical. Chlorides, bromides
20 and fluorides are preferred halides.

The term "carbonate", as used herein, is understood to include bicarbonates.

- 16 -

The term "isomer", as used herein, is understood to mean one of two or more molecules having the same number and kind of atoms and hence the same molecular weight, but differing in respect to the arrangement or configuration of the atoms.

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The term "epimerizing", as used herein, is understood to mean converting from one isomer to another, wherein it is the relative position of an attached H that differs between the two isomers.

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The term "precipitate", as used herein, is understood to mean to fall out of solution as a solid.

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The term "dynamic resolution", as used herein, is understood to mean a process in which a conversion from a first isomer to a second isomer of the same compound in a solution is thermodynamically driven by the depletion of the second isomer from the solution by precipitation of the second isomer.

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The following abbreviations are defined: EtOH is ethanol; Me is methyl; Et is ethyl; Bu is butyl; *n*-Bu is *normal*-butyl, *t*-Bu is *tert*-butyl, OAc is acetate; KO*t*-Bu is potassium *tert*-butoxide; NBS is *N*-bromo succinimide; NMP is 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone; DMAP is 4-dimethylaminopyridine; THF is tetrahydrofuran; DBU is 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene; DMA is *N,N*-dimethylacetamide; *n*-Bu₄NBr is tetrabutylammonium bromide; *n*-Bu₄NOH is

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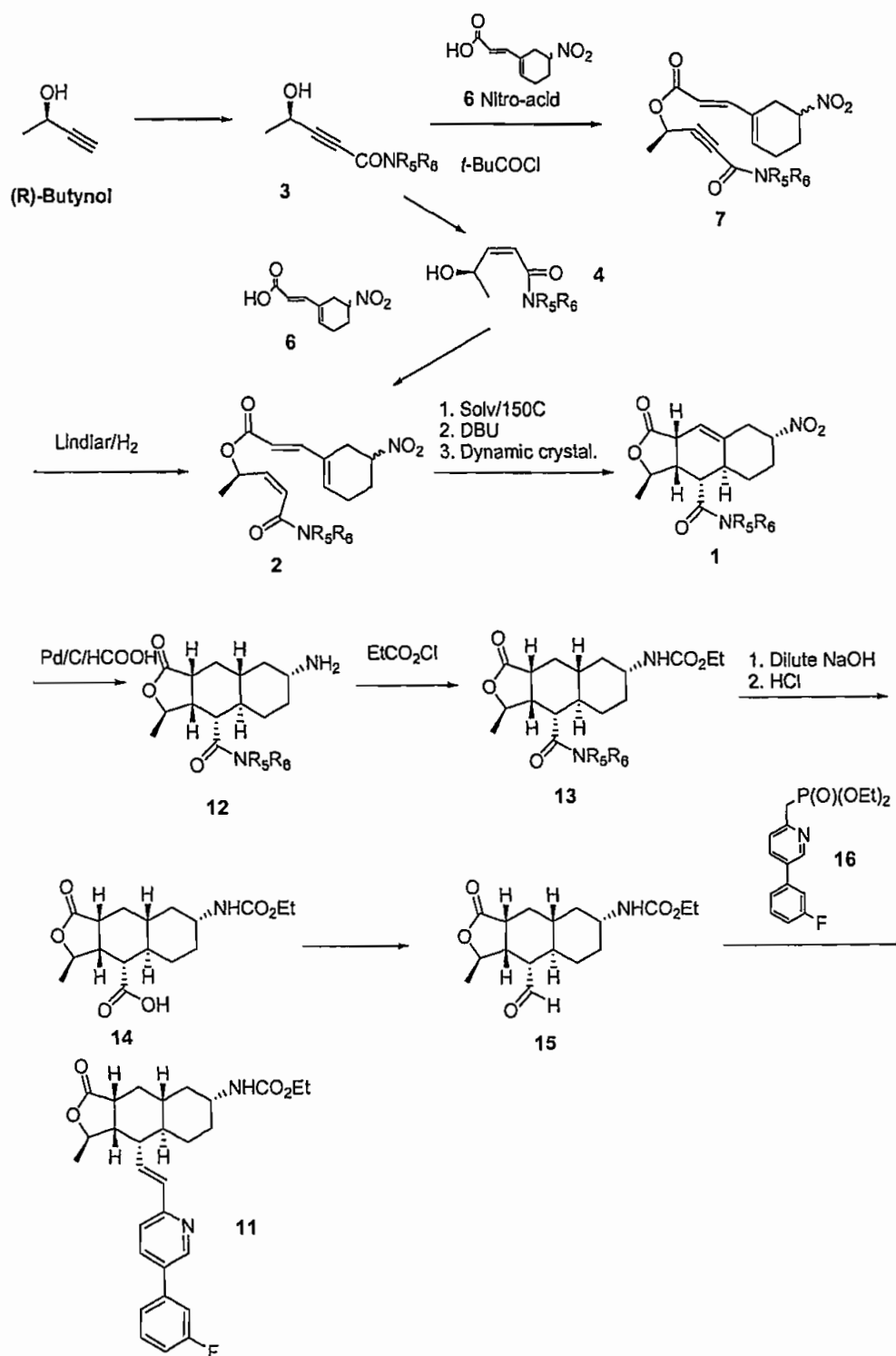
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tetrabutylammonium hydroxide, $n\text{-Bu}_4\text{NH}_2\text{SO}_4$ is tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate, and "equiv." or "eq." means equivalents.

"n", as it is used herein, is understood to be an integer having a
5 value that is inclusive of the range recited thereafter. Thus "n is between 0 and 4" and "n ranges 0-4" both mean that n may have any of the values 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4.

General Syntheses

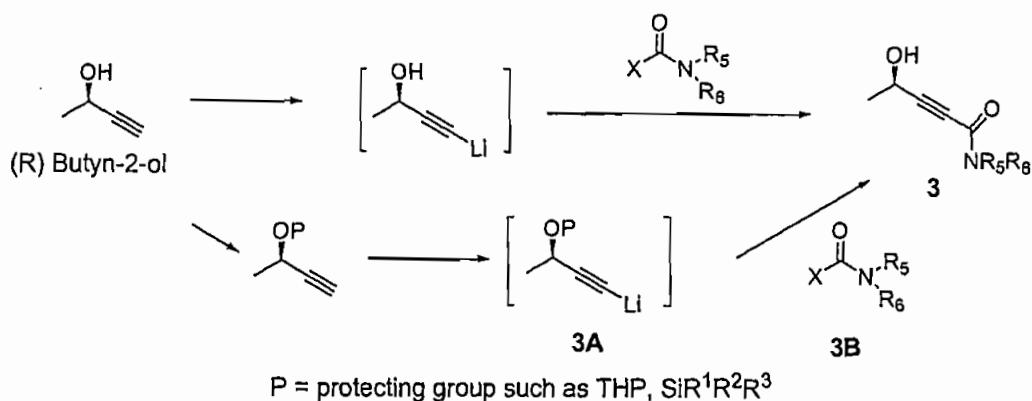
The following scheme summarizes the dynamic resolution-based approach to synthesizing Compound **11** from (R)-butynol:



(R)-butynol may be converted to amide **3** by either of Methods **A** or

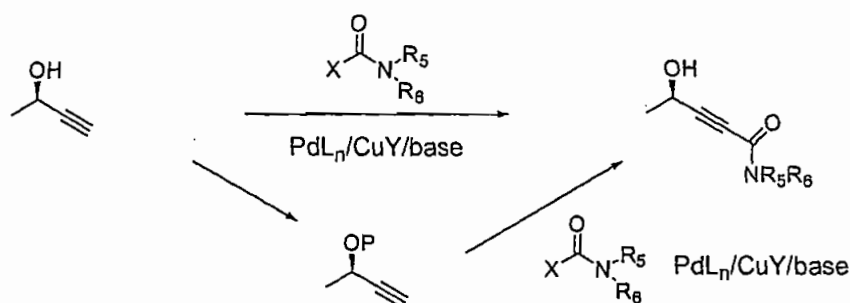
B:

Preparation of Amide-Method A:



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Preparation of Amide-Method B:



10 In each of methods **A** and **B**, P is a protecting group, for example THP or SiR¹R²R³, wherein R¹-R³ may be H, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkylaryl, heterocyclic, and heteroaryl groups, Y is selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, I, and R'''COO, wherein R''' is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, and arylalkyl and X is a

15 leaving group. By way of example, X can be halogen, for example Cl, Br, or I. As another example, X can be selected from heterocyclic rings, such

as imidazoles. L is a ligand and is selected from PR' wherein R' is selected from alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, and NR'' groups, and R'' is selected from alkyl, aryl, and alkylaryl groups. n can range from 0-8, and preferably ranges from 0 to 4.

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The butyn-2-ol is disclosed in, *e.g.*, U.S. 6,063,847, and Methods A and B may be performed on either the racemic or enantiopure butynol. The butynol may be combined with a mineral acid, for example sulfuric acid, in an organic solvent such as THF and a compound such as
10 hexyldimethylsilazane to provide a protecting group on the alcohol. The protected compound may then be combined with a suitable base. A preferred nucleophilic base is hexyllithium. The resulting metallated compound may then be amidated by combining it with a solution containing, *e.g.*, diphenylcarbamyimidazole, and deprotected, to yield the
15 diphenylamide (Compound **3** wherein R₅ and R₆ are both phenyl).

The amide may then be converted to Compound **2** via either of two routes: through vinyl alcohol **4**, or through amide **7**. For example, amide **3** may be combined with nitro acid **6**. In one embodiment, amide **3**
20 reacts with a mixed anhydride of the nitro acid **6** (prepared from **6** and pivaloyl chloride in the presence of a tert-amine base), in the presence of DMAP to form Compound **7**. The amide is subsequently subjected to hydrogenation conditions to yield Compound **2**. Preferred hydrogenation conditions include pressurized hydrogen in the presence of a
25 hydrogenation catalyst. The hydrogen pressure may range from 20 to

500 psi, and a pressure of 100 psi is preferred. The hydrogenation catalyst may be a noble metal catalyst, for example Lindlar catalyst. The hydrogenation is suitably conducted in the presence of a solvent, preferably an aromatic solvent such as toluene.

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The yields in the above-described syntheses of Compound **3** can be improved by suppressing side- or over- reactions that can occur as the product (Compound **3**) comes in contact with its precursors. These side- or over- reactions can be suppressed by decreasing the residence time of the final process step (the step resulting in Compound **3**). This reduction of residence time can be achieved by using a suitable flow operation rather than a batch operation at this step. The reactants are introduced in individual reactant streams which are combined and immediately mixed in a flow-through step. This can be achieved by combining the individual flow streams at a point near the inlet of a pump, and pumping the combined reactant stream through a static mixer, followed by immediate quench.

Alternatively, amide **3** may be reduced to the corresponding vinyl alcohol **4**, and the alcohol is then reacted with nitro acid **6** to yield Compound **2**.

Compound **2** is subsequently cyclized to yield Compound **1**. The cyclization of **2** is conducted in a suitable solvent (e.g., hydrocarbons such as xylene, N-methylpyrrolidinone, Dimethylsulfoxide, diphenyl

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- 22 -

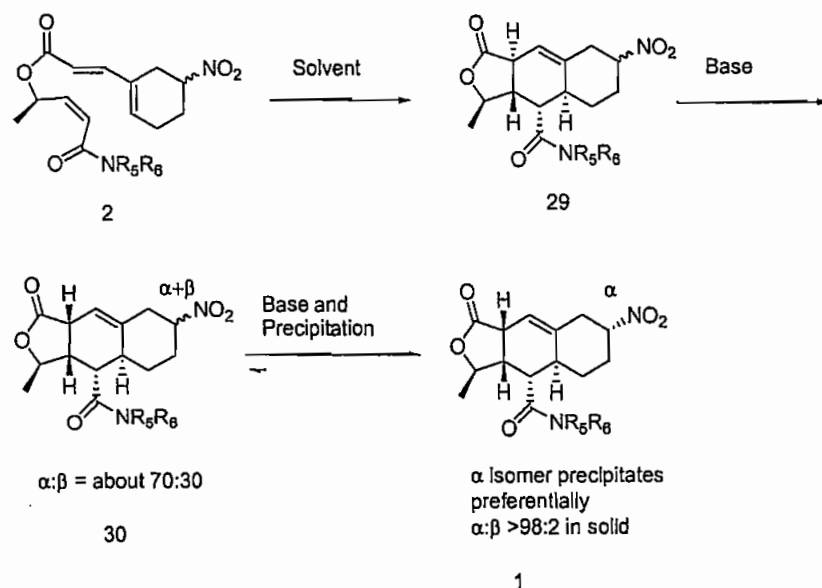
ether, Dimethylacetamide and the like as well mixtures of 2 or more thereof), at elevated temperature (*e.g.*, between about 70 and about 190 °C, preferably between about 80 and about 170 °C, more preferably between about 100 and about 160 °C, still more preferably between about 120 and about 150 °C), to produce a mixture of *exo*- and *endo*- isomers. This mixture is treated with a suitable base to complete the epimerization at the *trans* [5,6]-ring-junction (**29**) to the *cis*-isomer (**30**). The resulting mixture comprises the α - and β -isomers of each Compound **29** and **30**, for a total of four isomers. The α -isomer of Compound **30** is a desirable intermediate in the synthesis of himbacine analogs, and is herein designated Compound **1**.

The resulting mixture is dynamically resolved by treatment with a suitable base and preferential crystallization of the desired α -isomer using a suitable solvent. The equilibrium concentrations of the α - and β -isomers in solution are a function of the pH of the solution, which can be modified by addition a suitable base. Thus, the β -isomers can be converted to the desired α -isomers by addition of a suitable base. Simultaneously, in the presence of a suitable solvent, the α -isomer precipitates from the solution as a solid. In the dynamic resolution process, this precipitation tends to deplete the α -isomer from the solution, driving the equilibrium of the β to α conversion process from the β -isomer towards the α -isomer in the solution.

Suitable bases for the steps include, for example, triethylamine, 1,5-diazabicyclo[4,3,0]non-5-ene 1,4-diazabicyclo[2,2,2]octane, and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene, or mixtures of 2 or more thereof.

Suitable solvent for crystallization includes hydrocarbon, alcohols,

5 ethers, ketones, esters, xylene, N-methylpyrrolidinone. In some embodiments, the solvent is selected from ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, aryl alcohol alcohols, ethers, ketones, esters, xylene, N-methylpyrrolidinone, and the mixtures of 2 or more thereof. Advantageously, the exo-endo ratio for Compound **1** may exceed 90:10, and may also exceed 95:5. The
10 $\alpha:\beta$ ratio at the nitro position may exceed 95:5, and for example may be 98.1:1.5.



The carbon-carbon double bond and the nitro group of Compound **1** may then be reduced under suitable reduction conditions to yield
15 amine **12**. Suitable reduction conditions may include contact with a hydrogenation catalyst, such as one selected from standard noble metal catalysts (*e.g.*, palladium on carbon, platinum on carbon, and rhodium

- 24 -

on carbon, or a mixture thereof). The source of hydrogen can be hydrogen gas, formic acid, formates, and combinations thereof. Multiple catalysts may also be used. Amine **12** may then be converted to carbamate **13** by reaction with an alkyl haloformate (*e.g.*, ethylchloroformate, ethylbromoformate, or ethyliodoformate). Carbamate **13** may then be converted to the carbamate acid **14** by reaction with a base such as, for example, a metal oxide or hydroxide, carbonate and bicarbonate, where the metal is selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium, potassium, and magnesium, followed by reaction with a mineral acid. Sodium hydroxide is a preferred base. The acid **14** is subsequently converted to the corresponding aldehyde **15**, which is reacted with phosphorus ester **16** to yield Compound **1**.

Compound **6** may be prepared from acrolein and nitromethane following the scheme below. Nitromethane is treated with an inorganic base such as metal hydroxide (*e.g.*, LiOH, KOH, NaOH, Ca(OH)₂), metal carbonate (*e.g.*, Li₂CO₃, Na₂CO₃, K₂CO₃, Cs₂CO₃) and acrolein in a C₁ to C₈ alcohol (*e.g.*, methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, butanol, sec-butanol, t-butanol, pentanols, and octanols) or a mixture of alcohols to give crude Compound **8**. To purify Compound **8**, crude Compound **8** is isolated as its metal bisulfite salt **9** by treating with a metal bisulfite reagent selected from, NaHSO₃, KHSO₃, Na₂S₂O₅, and K₂S₂O₅. The bisulfite compound **9** is converted to the purified **8** by treating with a lower alkyl carbonyl compound (*e.g.*, acetaldehyde, acetone, glyoxylic acid, or a salt of glyoxylate), and a carbonate base (*e.g.*, LiHCO₃, NaHCO₃,

- 25 -

KHCO₃, Na₂CO₃, K₂CO₃) in a biphasic system containing water and a water-immiscible solvent.

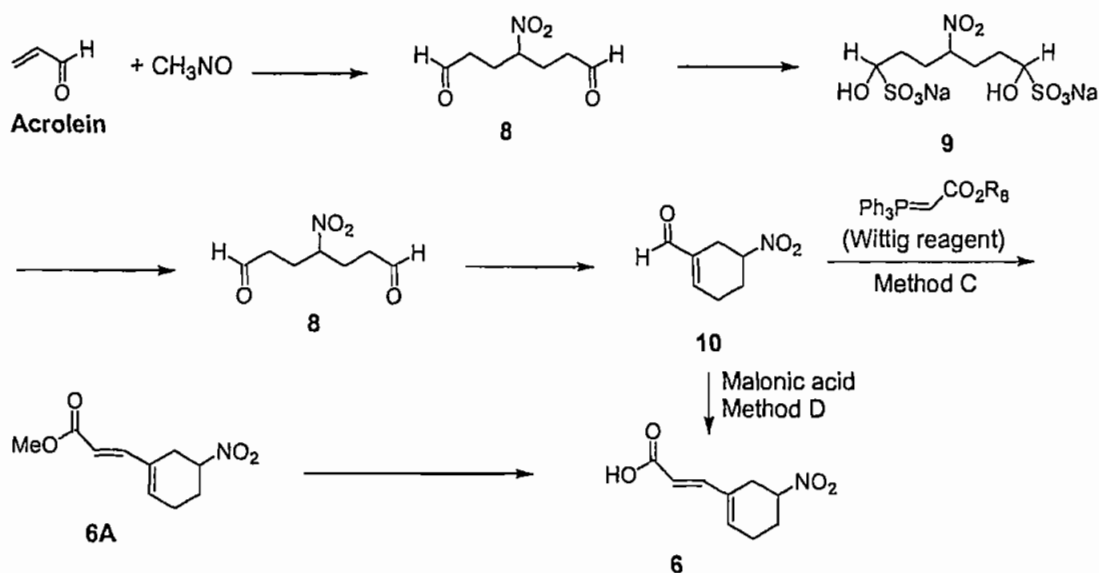
The compound **8** is cyclized by treating with a secondary amine
5 (e.g., piperidine, pyrrolidine, piperazine, dialkylamines, and diarylalkylamines) and a carboxylic acid (e.g., aliphatic and aromatic carboxylic acids) in an organic solvent (e.g., CH₂Cl₂, chlorobenzene, t-butylmethylether, or toluene) to produce Compound **10**.

10 There are two methods to convert Compound **10** to Compound **6**, designated herein as Method C and Method D. In Method C, Compound **10** is first converted to Compound **6A** by reacting **10** with a Wittig reagent. The R₈ in the Wittig reagent given in the scheme below is selected from C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl or arylalkyl groups. The Compound **6A** is
15 then converted to Compound **6** via an inorganic base- or acid- catalyzed hydrolysis. The applicable inorganic bases include, but are not limited to, alkaline hydroxide, carbonate, and phosphate bases. The applicable acids include, but are not limited to mineral and organic acids.

20 In method D, Compound **10** is converted directly to Compound **6** by reacting **10** with malonic acid in a suitable solvent or solvent mixture (e.g., hydrocarbon solvent including halogenated solvent, aromatic solvent and nitrogen-containing solvents). In some embodiments, the solvent is either pyridine or toluene, or a mixture thereof. Optionally, a

- 26 -

catalyst (*e.g.*, piperidine, pyrrolidine, piperazine, pyridine, and triethylamine) can be introduced to accelerate the reaction.



Compound **16** can be prepared following the scheme below starting from 5-bromo-2-methylpyridine N-oxide. The 5-bromo-2-methylpyridine N-oxide is first converted to Compound **35** by treating with an anhydride (*e.g.*, aromatic acid anhydride, acetic anhydride, or trihalogenated acetic anhydride) in an applicable solvent (*e.g.*, esters, C_1 to C_{10} hydrocarbon solvent, or aromatic solvents, or a mixture thereof). Compound **35** is converted to Compound **36** by treatment with an alcohol (*e.g.*, methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, butanols, and pentanols) at an elevated temperature of about 20 to about 80 $^\circ\text{C}$, preferably, about 30 to about 70 $^\circ\text{C}$, more preferably about 45 to about 55 $^\circ\text{C}$.

The synthesis of Compound **37** (with X being Cl) is disclosed in van den Heuvel, Marco et al, *J.Org. Chem.*, 69, 250-262 (2004). According to the present invention, Compound **36** is converted to Compound **37** according to the scheme below, by reacting with a leaving group reagent

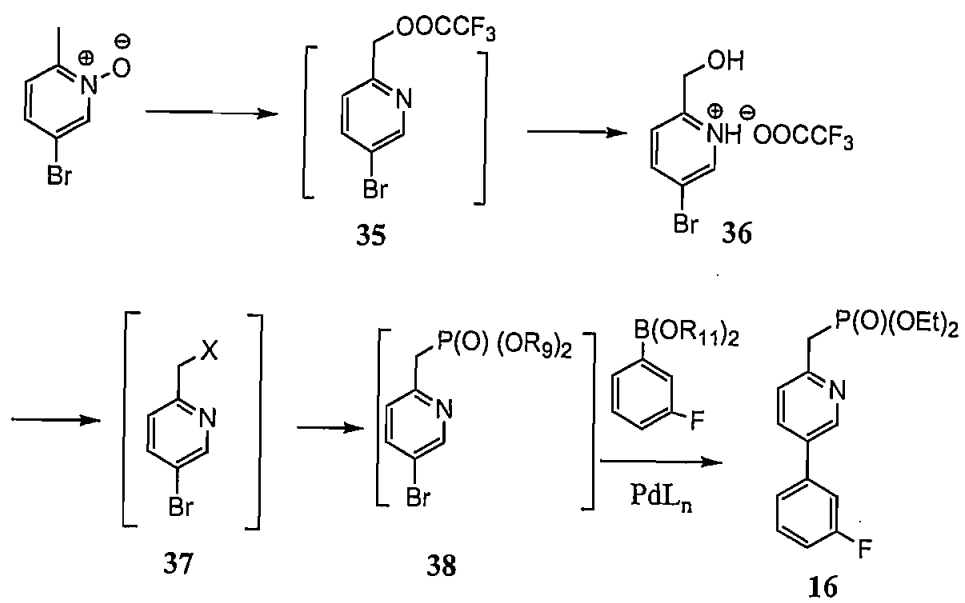
- 27 -

including a halogenating reagent (e.g., SOCl_2 , SOBr_2 , PCl_3 , PBr_3 , PCl_5 , or PBr_5) or another proper leaving group reagent. In the scheme below, X is a leaving group selected from Halogens, esters, sulfonates, and phosphates.

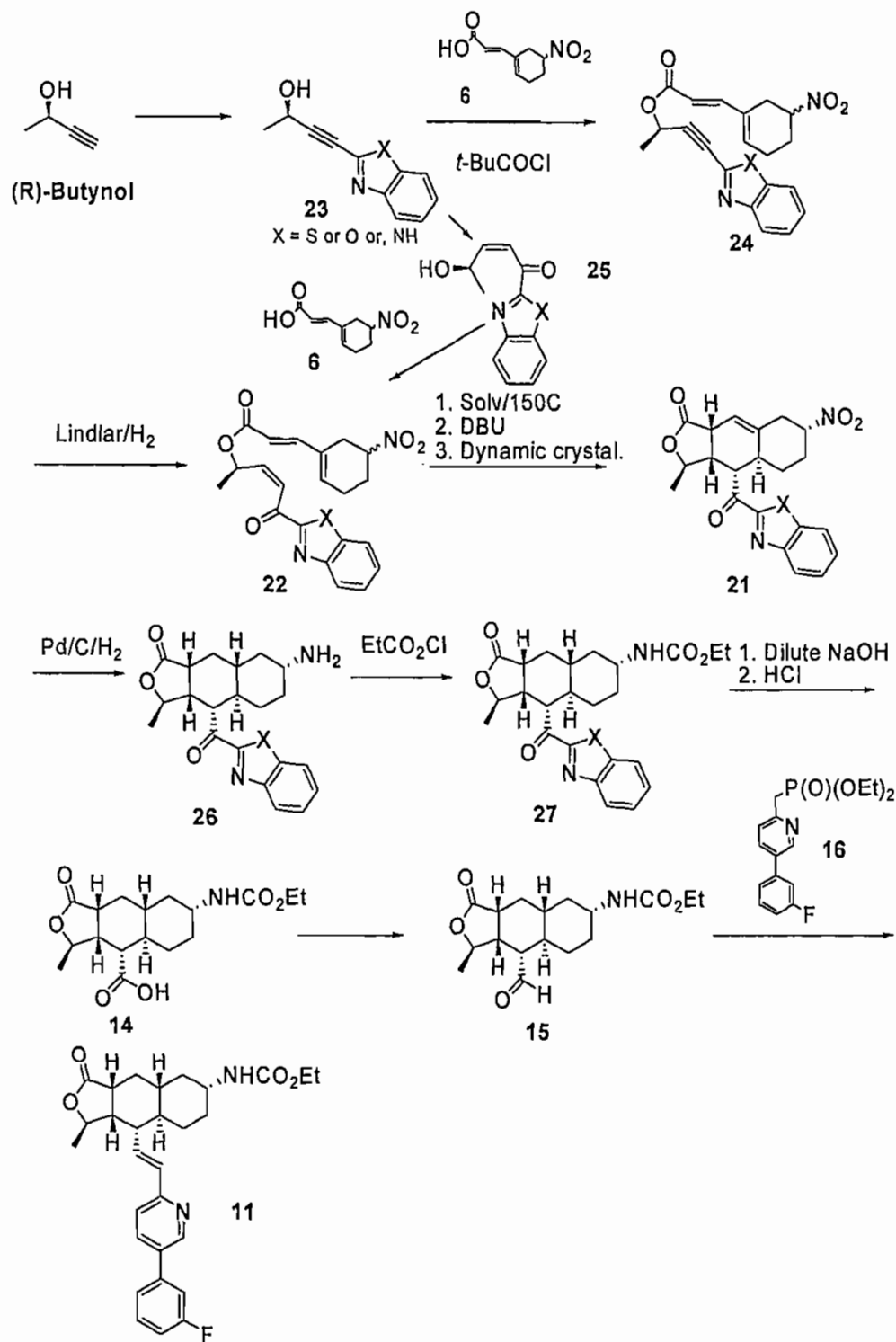
5 Compound **37** is converted to Compound **38** by treating with a phosphite reagent. The phosphite reagent can be prepared from a dialkylphosphite or a diarylphosphite (e.g., $(\text{R}_9\text{O})_2\text{P}(\text{O})\text{H}$, wherein R_9 is selected from C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, and arylalkyl groups) and a strong base (e.g., metal hydrides, R_{10}Li , and $((\text{R}_{10})_3\text{Si})_2\text{Li}$, wherein R_{10} is
10 selected from C_1 to C_{10} alkyl and aryl groups).

Compound **38** is converted to Compound **16** by reacting with a fluoroaromatic borate reagent, $3\text{-FC}_6\text{H}_4\text{B}(\text{OR}_{11})_2$, wherein R_{11} is selected from a group consisting of C_1 to C_{10} alkyls, aryls, heteroaryl and hydrogen. The reaction is catalyzed using a palladium catalyst, PdL_n ,
15 wherein L is a ligand selected from PR'_3 wherein R' is selected from alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, and NR''_3 wherein R'' is selected from alkyl, aryl, and alkylaryl. Alternately, palladium on carbon ("Pd/C") may be used as the catalyst. The preferred ligands are PPh_3 , $\text{P}(\text{o-Tol})_3$, and bipyridine.

- 28 -



The following illustrates a general scheme for the synthesis of Compound **11** via the nitro-oxazole route:

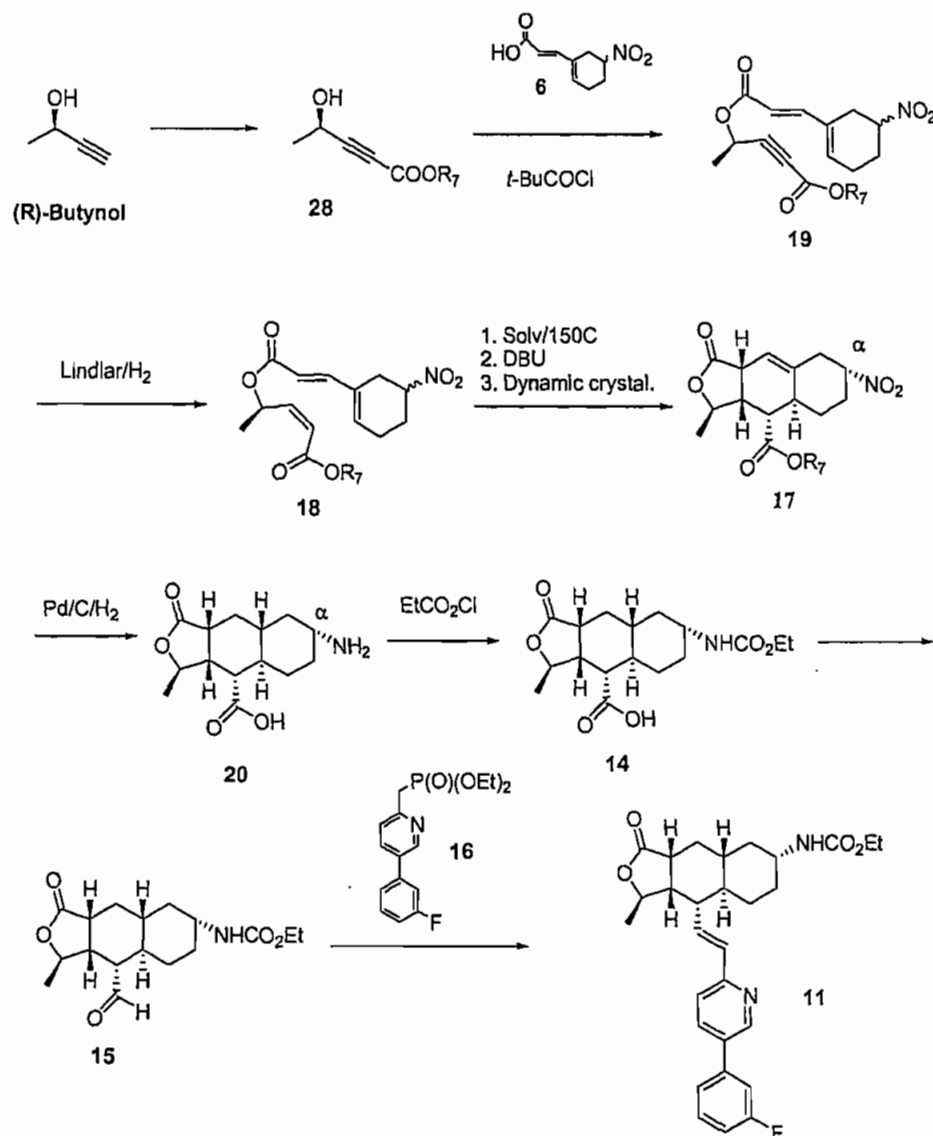


- 30 -

(R)-butynol may advantageously be protected with, for example, THP. The THP-protected alcohol may then be permitted to react with a substituted benzothiazole, for example 2-chlorobenzothiazole, to yield Compound **23** (where X is S). The reaction may be conducted in a solvent, for example an organic solvent such as DMF, and in the presence of a base, for example triethylamine. Compound **23** may then be converted to Compound **22** by either of two routes: through vinyl alcohol **25**, or through Compound **24**. The latter route may be conducted by reacting Compound **23** with nitro acid **6** in the presence of an aromatic solvent such as, for example, toluene, to yield Compound **24**. Compound **24** is subsequently reduced under hydrogenation conditions, for example in the presence of hydrogen and a Lindlar catalyst, to yield Compound **22**. Compound **22** is then cyclized via a Diels-Alder reaction, followed by treatment with a base to yield Compound **21**. The cyclization of **22** is conducted in a suitable solvent (*e.g.*, hydrocarbons such as xylene, N-methylpyrrolidinone, Dimethylsulfoxide, diphenyl ether, Dimethylacetamide and the like as well mixtures of 2 or more thereof), at elevated temperature (*e.g.*, from about 70 to about 190°C, preferably from about 80 to about 170°C, more preferably from about 100 to about 160°C, still more preferably from about 120 to about 150°C), to produce a mixture of *exo*- and *endo*-isomers. This mixture is treated with a suitable base to complete the epimerization to produce the *cis*-isomer (**21**). Suitable bases include, for example, triethylamine, 1,5-diazabicyclo[4,3,0]non-5-ene, 1,4-diazabicyclo[2,2,2]octane, and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene.

- 31 -

The following illustrates a general scheme for the synthesis of Compound **11** via the nitro-ester route:



(R)-butynol is converted to a benzyl ester **28** (where R₇ is benzyl).

- 5 Compound **28** reacts with the mixed anhydride of the nitro acid **6** (prepared from **6** and pivaloyl chloride in the presence of a tert-amine base), in the presence of DMAP, to form Compound **19**. Compound **19** is reduced under hydrogenation conditions, e.g., in the presence of hydrogen and a Lindlar catalyst, to yield ester **18**. Ester **18** is
- 10 subsequently cyclized to yield Compound **17** as follows. The cyclization

- 32 -

of **18** is conducted in a suitable solvent (*e.g.*, hydrocarbons such as xylene, N-methylpyrrolidinone, Dimethylsulfoxide, diphenyl ether, Dimethylacetamide and the like as well mixtures of 2 or more thereof), at elevated temperature (*e.g.*, from about 70 to about 230°C, preferably, from about 80 to about 170°C, more preferably, from about 130 to about 160°C, still more preferably, from about 140 to about 150°C), to produce a mixture of *exo*- and *endo*- isomers. This mixture is treated with a suitable base to complete the epimerization to the *cis*-isomer **17** as described previously. The carbon-carbon double bond and the nitro group of Compound **17** may then be reduced under suitable reduction conditions to yield amine **20**. Suitable reduction conditions may include contact with a hydrogenation catalyst, such as one selected from standard noble metal catalysts. Multiple catalysts may also be used. A preferred reduction catalyst is palladium on carbon. The source of hydrogen can be hydrogen gas, formic acid, formates, and combinations thereof.

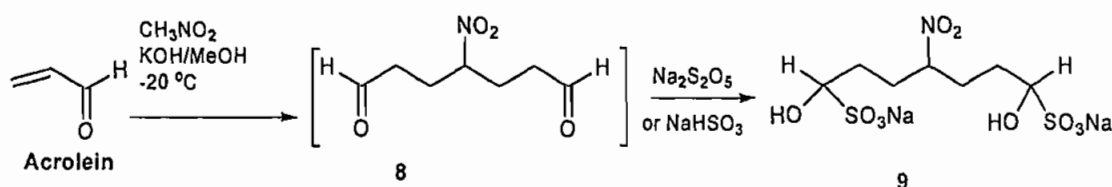
The experimental conditions disclosed herein are preferred conditions, and one of ordinary skill in the art can modify them as necessary to achieve the same products.

EXAMPLES

Example 1 - Preparation of 3-[5-Nitro-cyclohex-1-enyl]-acrylic acid (Compound **6**) and its Salt:

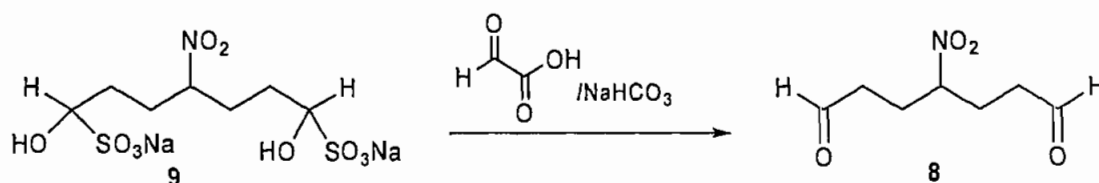
A. Preparation of Compound **9** from Acrolein

- 33 -



- To a solution of potassium hydroxide (3.1 g, 0.05 mol) in methanol (450ml) were added nitromethane (39 ml, 0.69 mol) and isopropanol (450ml) under nitrogen atmosphere. The resulting mixture was cooled to a temperature between -20°C and -25°C . Acrolein (120 ml, 1.74 mol) was then added slowly in about 3 to 3.5 hours while maintaining the temperature between -20°C and -25°C . After stirring at the same temperature for 1 hour, the reaction was quenched with acetic acid (4 ml). The reaction mixture was warmed up to room temperature and a solution of sodium metasulfite (135 g, 0.67 mol) in water (700 ml) was slowly added at about 25°C . After stirring the resulting suspension for 1 hour, the mixture was cooled to 10°C and stirred for another hour. White solid was obtained after filtration and drying under vacuum. The product was carried to the next step without further purification. Yield: 219g, 83%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 1.41-1.64 (m, 2H), 1.76-1.99 (m, 6H), 3.79-3.85 (m, 2H), 4.63 (m, 1H), 5.44 (t, $J = 6.2\text{Hz}$, 2H).

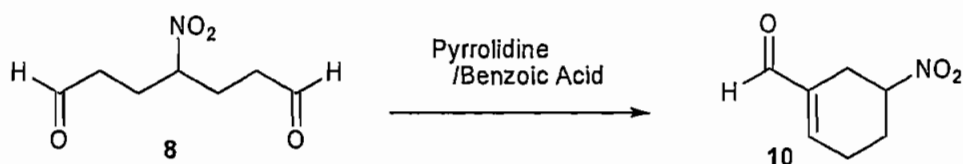
20 B. Preparation of 4-Nitro-heptanedial



- 34 -

To a suspension of sodium 1,7-dihydroxy-4-nitro-heptane-1,7-disulfonate, **9**, (219 g, 0.57 mol) in methylene chloride (1.6L) was added a solution of glyoxylic acid (160 g, 1.7 mol) and sodium bicarbonate (150 g, 1.78 mol) in water (2L). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 to 60 minutes until all solids were dissolved. The organic layer was split and the aqueous layer was extracted with methylene chloride twice (2 x 400 ml). Combined extracts were then concentrated to give a colorless oil. The product was carried to next step without further purification. Yield: 85g, 86%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.09-2.24 (m, 4H), 2.58 (m, 4H), 4.61 (m, 1H), 9.77 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR δ 26.2, 39.9, 86.9, 200.0.

C. Preparation of 5-Nitro-cyclohex-1-enecarbaldehyde:



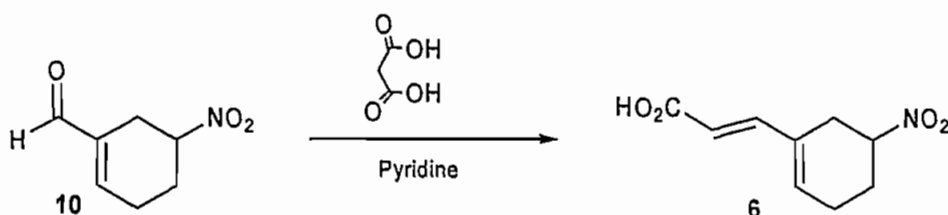
To a solution of 4-Nitro-heptanedial (35.2 g, 0.2 mol) in methylene chloride (0.7L) were added pyrrolidine (2 ml, 0.024 mol) and benzoic acid (1.46 g, 0.012 mol), and the resulting mixture was refluxed for 10 to 15 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, washed with 1N HCl (170 ml), saturated with NaHCO₃ (170 ml) and water (170 ml) and concentrated to give brownish oil with a purity of about 80%. The product was carried to the next step without further purification.

- 35 -

Yield: 32.2g, 75%. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.29-2.34 (m, 2H), 2.46-2.64 (m, 2H), 2.85-2.88 (m, 2H), 4.74 (m, 1H), 6.86 (m, 1H), 9.50 (s, 1H).

D. Preparation of 3-(5-Nitro-cyclohex-1-enyl)-acrylic acid

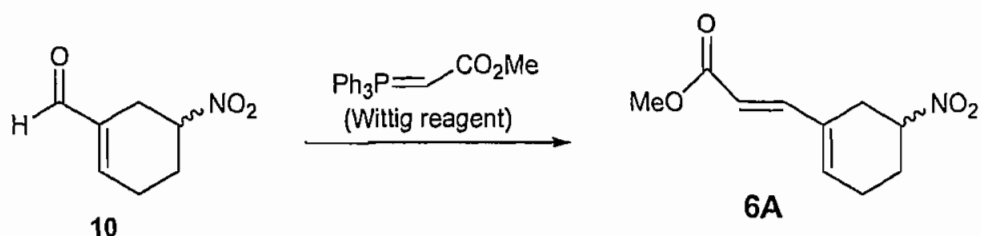
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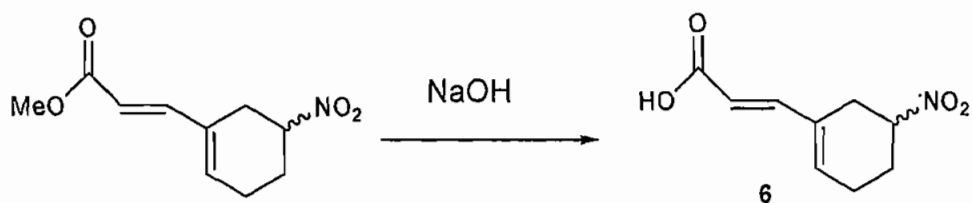
To a solution of 5-nitro-cyclohex-1-enecarbaldehyde (18g, 0.116 mol) in pyridine (36 ml) was added malonic acid (41 g, 0.394 mol). The resulting suspension was heated to 60 °C for about 7 hours. After cooling to a temperature between 15°C and 20°C, 6N HCl (72 ml) was slowly added into the reaction mixture to adjust the pH to between 1.5 and 2 while maintaining the temperature between 20°C and 25°C. The mixture was then extracted with methylene chloride three times (1X180 ml, 2X90 ml). The combined extracts were washed with 1N HCl (48 ml), water (48 ml) and concentrated to a volume of 36 ml. The concentrate suspension was cooled to 0°C and 5°C for 1 hour. Light yellow solid was obtained after filtration and drying under vacuum. Yield: 10g, 60%. Mp 158-160 °C. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 2.10 - 2.33 (m, 4H), 2.73 (m, 2H), 4.96 (m, 1H), 5.83 (d, J = 20 Hz, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 7.27 (d, J = 20 Hz, 1H), 12.3 (s, 1H).

Example 2 - Alternative Method for Preparing 3-(5-Nitro-cyclohex-1-enyl)-acrylic acid (Compound 5) via Wittig Reagent:

- 36 -



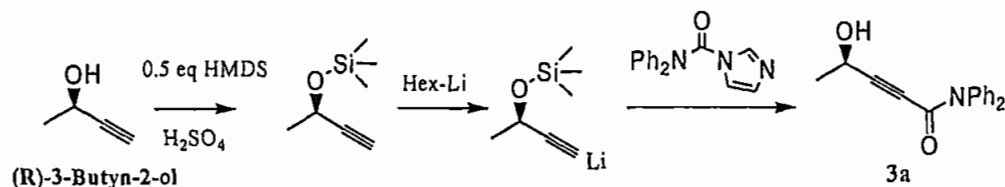
To a solution of **10** (67 g, 432 mmol) in 1 L of methanol at 0 °C was added 144.4 g (432 mmol) of the Wittig reagent. The resulting mixture was agitated at 0 °C for 3 hrs. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was extracted with MeOBu-t twice. The extract was filtered to remove any solid, washed with brine, and concentrated. The residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column, eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate (10/1) to give 9.2 g cis and 55.1 g (60.4%) trans product. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.31 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 1H), 6.18 (m, 1H), 5.84 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 4.74-4.68 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.81-2.74 (m, 2H), 2.50-2.04 (m, 4H).



Next, to a flask were added 2.1 g of the methyl ester, 9.6 ml of MeOH and 2.4 ml of water. To the mixture at about 5 °C was added dropwise 0.96 ml of 50% NaOH. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred at this temperature for about 24 hrs. The reaction mixture was neutralized with HOAc to pH between 4 and 5 and the methanol was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was extracted with 3 X 50 ml EtOAc. The EtOAc layer was concentrated to

give 1.5 g of nitroacid **6** (76.5%).

Example 3 - Preparation of Compound **3a**:



The following procedures can be operated on either the racemic or the enantiopure starting butyn-2-ol. To a stirred solution of sulfuric acid (conc., 40 μ L) in THF (240 mL) were sequentially added (R)-3 butyn-2-ol (40 g, 0.57 mol) and then hexylmethyldisilazane (49.6g, 0.31 mol) at room temperature. The solution was refluxed for 3-4 hours and then slowly cooled to -40°C. The resulting mixture was slowly charged in hexyllithium (2.5M in hexane, 249 mL, 0.62 mol) while maintaining the temperature at -40 °C. This solution and a solution of diphenylcarbamylimidazole (180 g, 0,68 mol) in a mixed solvent of THF (1088 mL) and toluene (435 mL) were mixed using pumps through a chilled static mixer and directly quenched into 5N sulfuric acid (560 mL, ~5°C). The quenched solution was warmed to 25 °C and stirred for 1 hour. The organic layer was separated, washed with 5N sulfuric acid (80 mL) and then twice with 10% brine (200 mL each time). The pH of the final brine wash was adjusted to 5-7 with a 5% NaHCO₃ solution. The organic layer was then distilled and replaced with toluene (440 mL). The toluene solution was added to heptane (400mL) at 85°C, cooled slowly to 20°C and filtered. The filtered cake was washed with a mixed solution of

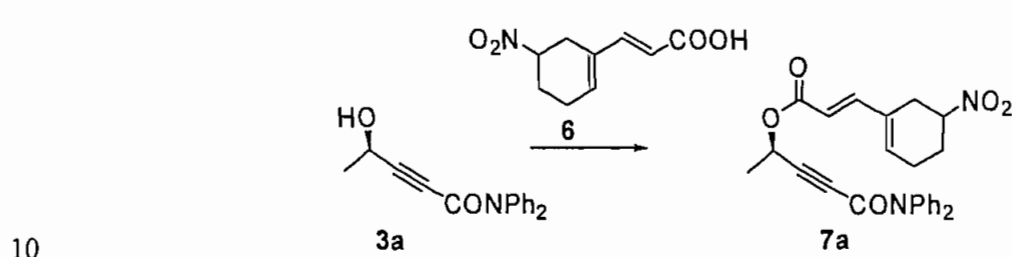
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toluene (80 mL) and heptane (80 mL). The cake was then dried in vacuum oven at 50 °C to afford the title compound in 84% molar yield (120.6 g, purity 99%). Mp 105 °C. ¹H NMR (400MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ 1.04 (d, J=6.4Hz, 3H), δ 4.27 (dq, J=5.6 Hz, 6.4 Hz, 1H), δ 5.49 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), δ 7.2-7.5 (m, 10H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 23.7, 56.3, 76.9, 96.4, 126.8, 127.0, 128.5, 129.2, 129.4, 129.6, 141.5, 142.2, 152.9.

Example 4 – Preparation of Compound 7a:



To a flask were charged sequentially Compound **6** (90 g, 0.46 mole) and toluene (500 mL). The suspension was cooled to about 0 °C, and N-methylmorpholine (91 mL, 0.83 mole) and trimethylacetyl chloride (56 mL, 0.46 mole) were slowly added while keeping the reaction temperature below 5 °C. The reaction mixture was agitated for 1 hour at 0 °C and assayed for completion of formation of mixed anhydride (< 10% of UB remains). A solution of **3a** (100 g, 0.38 mole) in toluene (400 mL) and THF (220 mL) was added while keeping the reaction temperature below 5 °C. This was followed by addition of a solution of 4-dimethylaminopyridine (5.5 g, 0.046 mole) in THF (45 mL). The mixture was agitated at about 0 °C for 8-12 hours until reaction completion (<0.2% EB remains). Reaction was quenched by adding a solution of 2.0

- 39 -

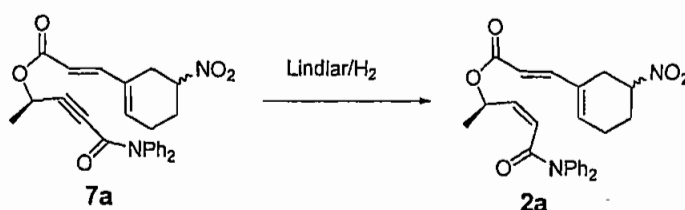
N H₂SO₄ (400 mL), warmed up to 25 °C and filtered through a pad of celite. The layers were separated and the organic layer was washed with 5% K₂CO₃ solution (3x300 mL) to remove excess **6** (<1% of **6** remains).

The mixture was washed with 5% NaCl solution (300 mL), filtered

5 through a pad of celite, and concentrated to about 500 mL final volume.

Solution yield 90-95%. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.05-7.35 (m, 11H), 6.13 (br, 1H), 5.62 (dd, J = 16, 4 Hz, 1H), 5.31 (q, J = 7 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (m, 1H), 2.62-2.78 (m, 2H), 2.58 (br, 2H), 2.05 (m, 2H), 1.22 (d, J = 7 Hz, 3H).

10 Example 5 – Preparation of Compound **2a**:



To a solution of **7a** in toluene (200 mL, 50.0 g active, 112.5 mmol) were charged Lindlar catalyst (2.5 g of 5% Pd / CaCO₃ with 5% Pb

15 poisoned, 1.2 mmol) and quinoline (1.5 mL, 11.6 mmol). The mixture

was hydrogenated using 100 psi hydrogen at 25-30°C until reaction completion as judged by HPLC. After removal of catalyst by filtration, toluene was replaced with ethyl alcohol by regulated vacuum distillation of about 40°C. The product was dynamically crystallized from ethyl

20 alcohol (180 mL) at 40°C in the presence of triethyl amine (8.5 mL). The

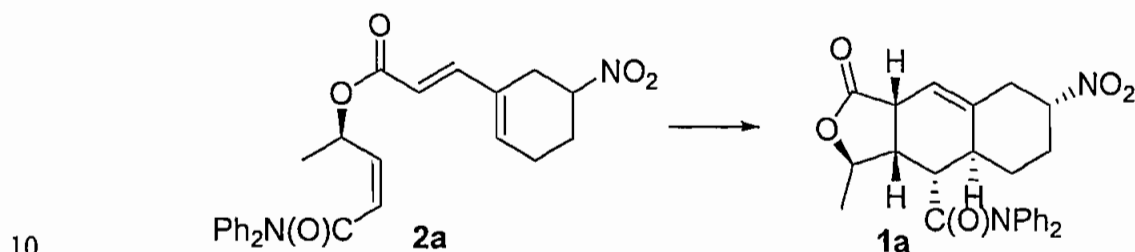
reaction mixture was slowly cooled to 5°C over a period of 4 hours. After stirring at 5°C for 3 hours, the product was filtered and washed with cold ethyl alcohol. The product was dried at 60°C in a vacuum oven with

- 40 -

nitrogen purge overnight to give **2a** as a yellow crystalline solid. Yield: 73.7 %. Mp 113-115 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.48 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 2.21-2.46 (m, 4H), 2.80 (m, 2H), 4.71 (m, 1H), 5.81-5.91 (m, 3H), 6.19 (m, 1H), 6.29 (q, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.37 (m, 11H).

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Example 6 – Preparation of Compound **1a**:



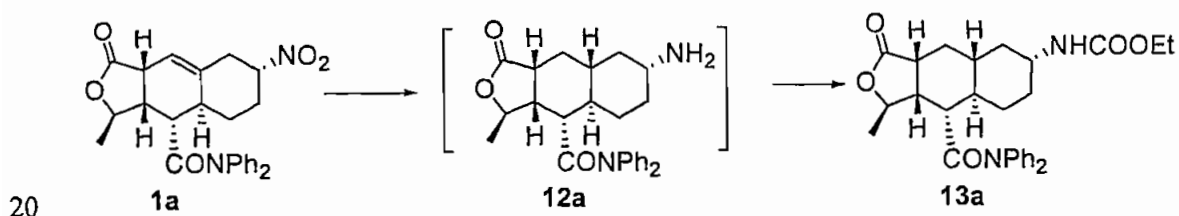
Into a 2 L 3-neck round bottom flask was placed **2a** (25 g, 0.056 mol) and ethyl acetate (210 mL). The contents were stirred until Compound **2a** completely dissolved. The solution was washed with 0.25 M H₂SO₄ (75 mL) and with water (3 x 75 mL). The organic phase was concentrated under reduced pressure to about 200 mL, and 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (50 mL) was added. The solution was heated under distillation mode until a temperature of 145 °C was attained. The solution was held at this temperature for 3.5 h. The solution was cooled to room temperature, and DBU (0.57 mL, 6.8 mol%) was added. The solution was stirred for 1 h and was quenched with 0.1 M H₂SO₄ (125 mL) and the product was extracted into ethyl acetate (125 mL). The organic phase was washed with water (125 mL) and was treated with DARCO-G60 (2.5 g) at 65 °C for 1 h. The suspension was filtered

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through a pad of Celite while the solution remained hot. The solution was concentrated by atmospheric distillation to 38 mL. The remaining ethyl acetate was replaced with isopropyl alcohol by azeotropic distillation. The volume of the solution was adjusted to 225 mL. The solution was diluted with ethyl alcohol (denatured with 0.5% toluene, 100 mL). The solution was slowly cooled to about 65 °C, and DBU (0.29 mL, 3.4 mol%) was added. The suspension was slowly cooled to 15 °C and held at this temperature for 5 h. The product was filtered and washed with a 2:1 mixture of isopropyl alcohol and ethyl alcohol (50 mL). 19.3 g was obtained upon drying for 24 h at 50 °C (90.2 wt % purity, 17.4 g active, 72.5% yield). Mp 151.8 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.99 (m, 1H), 1.56 (d, *J*=6.0 Hz, 3H), 2.03 (m, 1H), 2.25-2.31 (m, 1H), 2.42-2.53 (m, 2H), 2.62-2.76 (m, 3H), 2.86-2.91 (m, 1H), 2.96-3.00 (m, 1H), 4.28-4.36 (m, 1H), 4.67-4.74 (m, 1H), 5.42 (br s, 1H), 7.22-7.53 (m, 10H).

Example 7 - Preparation of Compound 13a:



To a three-neck flask equipped with an agitator, thermometer and nitrogen inlet were sequentially added **1a** (100g), THF (600 ml), 10% palladium on carbon (50% wet, 35g) and water (400 ml). The mixture

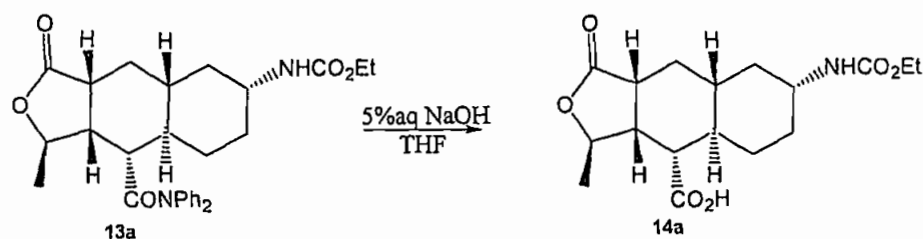
- 42 -

was agitated for about 10 minutes at room temperature and then heated to about 50°C. Formic acid (70 ml) was added slowly while the temperature was maintained between 45 and 55°C. The reaction mixture was agitated for 4 hours at 45-55°C. After the reaction was judged complete by HPLC, the reaction mixture was cooled to 20°C and the pH was adjusted to 1 - 2 with 25% H₂SO₄ (60mL). THF (200mL) was added to the reaction mixture, which was then filtered through a pad of Celite to remove the catalyst. A mixed solution of THF (300 mL), water (300 ml) and 25% H₂SO₄ (5 mL) was used to rinse the flask and catalyst, and filtered through the Celite. The combined solution containing compound **12a** was charged back into a clean flask and the mixture was cooled to below 10°C. The pH was adjusted to about 9 with 25% NaOH (30 mL) at below 10°C and NaCl (150 g) was then added. The mixture was warmed to 20°C and two phases were separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with THF (400 mL) and the combined organic phases were washed with a brine solution (40 g of NaCl in 200 mL of water). The organic layer was cooled to 5°C and triethyl amine (56 mL) was added. Then ethyl chloroformate (23.6 mL) was added slowly. The mixture was warmed to 20°C and stirred for 30 minutes. After the reaction was judged complete, 200 ml of MTBE and 100 mL of water were added to the reaction mixture, followed by the slow addition of 100 mL of 25% H₂SO₄. The two phases were separated and the organic layer was washed with 200 ml of 12% H₂SO₄. The organic layer was then concentrated and azeotropically distilled with 2B ethanol and 250 ml water was added at 70-80°C. The compound **13a** was precipitated out from ethanol-water

with seeding at 55-65°C. After agitating for 1 hour at 55-65°C, 150 ml water was added at this temperature and held for 1 hour. After cooling to 15-25°C, the mixture was agitated for an additional 3 hours at 15-25°C and then the product was filtered and washed with ethanol-water.

5 The product was dried at 50-60°C to provide an off-white solid (86g,
Yield: 85%). Mp 188.2°C ¹HNMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.25 - 7.55 (m, 10 H), 4.89(m,
1H), 4.51 (bs, 1H), 4.09 (d, J = 6.98 Hz, 2H), 3.49 (brs, 1H), 2.41 (m, 2H),
2.25 (m, 1H), 2.06 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 2H), 1.96 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 1.83
(ddd, J = 13.5, 6.09, 2.51 Hz, 1H), 1.63(m, 1H), 1.52 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 3H),
10 1.23 (m, 5H), 1.17 (q, J = 11.5 Hz, 2H), 0.92 (q, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H). MS
(ESI) for M+H calcd. 491 Found: 491.

Example 8 – Preparation of Compound **14a**:



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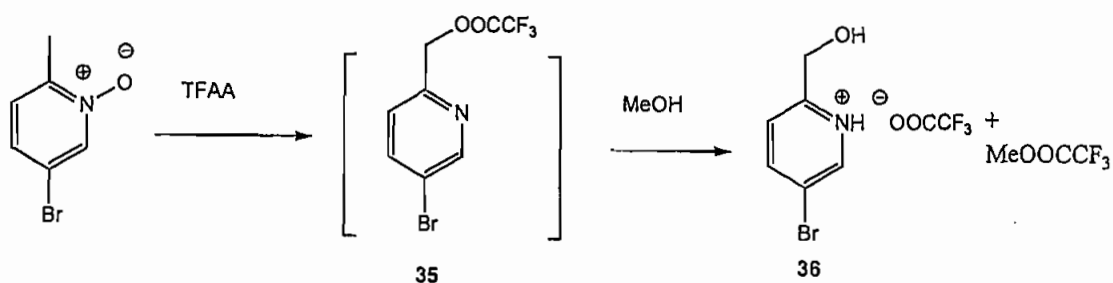
To a 250-mL 3-neck flask equipped with an agitator, thermometer, and a reflux condenser, were added 10 g of **13a** (20.4 mmol) and THF (50 mL). To this solution was added an aqueous solution of 5% (w/w) sodium hydroxide (50 mL). The reaction mixture was then heated to and
20 agitated at 40 °C for about 4 hours. When the hydrolysis reaction was judged complete, toluene (50 mL) was added and the mixture was agitated at a rather fast rate for about 10 minutes. The organic phase

- 44 -

containing the by-product was separated from the aqueous phase containing product. The organic phase was back-extracted with 5% aqueous NaOH solution (50 mL). The combined aqueous solutions were extracted twice with toluene (2 x 50 mL) and the organic extracts were
5 discarded. To the aqueous solution were added a solvent mixture of toluene (25 mL) and THF (50 mL). The resulting mixture was cooled to between 0 to 5 °C. A 2 N hydrochloric acid aqueous solution (about 59 mL) was added to adjust the pH of the mixture from ~ 13 to 2.5 at 0 to 5 °C. The aqueous phase was then separated from the organic phase and
10 extracted with a solvent mixture of toluene (25 mL) and THF (50 mL). The organic phase and organic wash were combined and diluted with THF (50 mL). The mixture was then concentrated atmospherically to a final moisture content of $\leq 0.05\%$ by repeated distillations, if necessary. The crude product was used in the next step without further isolation
15 and purification (containing 6.80 g, 99% yield). $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CD_3CN) δ 9.72 (bs, 1H), 7.17 – 7.41 (Ph in toluene), 5.45 (bs, 1H), 4.68 (dt, $J = 5.90$, 16.0, 1H), 4.03 (q, $J = 7.10$, 2H), 3.45 – 3.50 (m, 1H), 2.50 – 2.65 (m, 2H), 2.45 (dd, $J = 5.64$, 11.5, 1H), 2.36 (methyl in toluene), 1.83 (m, 4 protons), 1.34 – 1.50 (qt, $J = 2.91$, 11.0, 1H), 1.32 (d, $J = 5.91$, 3H), 1.15
20 – 1.25 (m, 6H), 0.95 – 1.05 (m, 2H).

Example 9 - Preparation of Compound 36:

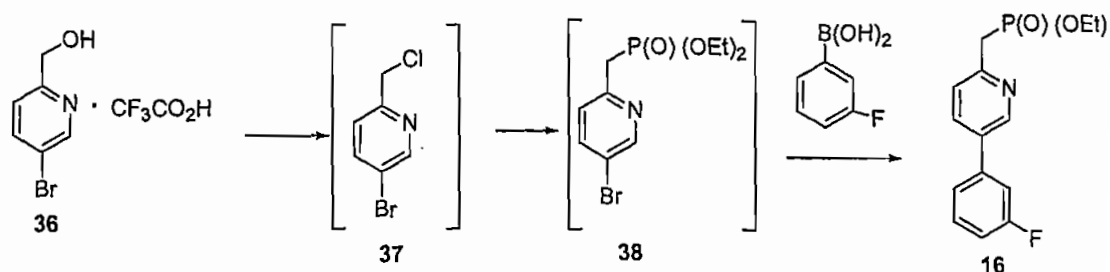
- 45 -



To a solution of 5-bromo-2-methylpyridine N-oxide (10.0 g, 5.32 mmol) in EtOAc (50.0 ml) at 0 °C was added dropwise trifluoroacetic anhydride (9.8 ml, 6.92 mmol.) while keeping the temperature below 50 °C. After the completion of the addition, the mixture was heated to between 75 and 80 °C and stirred for at least 1 h. HPLC assay of the mixture indicated reaction completion when 5-bromo-2-methylpyridine N-oxide is < 5%.

Upon completion, the mixture was cooled below 50 °C and MeOH (10.0 ml) was added. The mixture was heated for at least 1 h at 50 °C. The solution was concentrated under vacuum and MeOH was removed by displacement with EtOAc (40.0 ml) and concentrated to a volume of 30 ml. To the concentrate was added toluene (20.0 ml) and the solution cooled to -10 °C over 2 h. The crystalline solid was filtered and washed with cold toluene and dried overnight under vacuum at 35 °C to provide 10.1 g (63%) of **36**. Mp 89 - 92°C. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆) δ 4.56 (s, 2 H), 7.49 (d, 1 H), 8.1 (dd, J = 2.3, 2.3 Hz, 1 H), 8.64 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1 H).

Example 10 - Preparation of Compound **16**:



A. Preparation of **37**:

A slurry of **36** (10.0 g, 33.1 mmol) in TBME (100 ml) was treated
 5 with 20% potassium carbonate (20 ml) solution and stirred at room
 temperature for 1 h. The layers were separated and the organic layer was
 washed with water. The TBME and water were removed by atmospheric
 distillation and azeotropic distillation with acetonitrile (100 ml) and
 further concentrated under vacuum to a volume of 40 ml. A Karl Fischer
 10 was performed to confirm the removal of water ($\text{KF} \leq 0.2$). To the
 acetonitrile concentrate was added dropwise thionyl chloride (3.2 ml,
 43.7 mmol) while keeping the temperature below 45 °C. The reaction
 mixture was then heated at 45 °C for 2 h at which time an HPLC assay
 indicated complete reaction. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25 °C
 15 and quenched with water (20 ml) while keeping the temperature below 40
 °C. The reaction mixture was slowly poured into a mixture of 20%
 sodium carbonate (40 ml) and toluene (100 ml), stirred for 10 min and
 the layers were partitioned. The toluene extract was concentrated under
 reduced pressure to a volume of about 20 ml. A KF was performed to
 20 confirm the removal of water ($\text{KF} \leq 0.2$).

B. Preparation of **38**

To a dry reaction vessel was charged a solution of lithium bis(trimethylsilyl) amide 1.3M in THF (51 ml, 66.2 mmol) and diethyl phosphite (13 ml, 101.6 mmol) while keeping the temperature under 25 °C. The solution was stirred at 25 °C for at least 1 h. The toluene solution containing **37** from above was added over 1 h and the resulting mixture was stirred at 25 °C for at least 2 h at which time an HPLC assay indicated complete reaction. Upon completion, the solution was quenched into 5% sodium chloride (50 ml). The aqueous layer was extracted with toluene (50 ml). The combined organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure to a volume of about 20 ml. Toluene (80 ml) was then added and the solution was washed with a 20% solution of potassium carbonate to remove diethyl phosphate, confirmed by ¹H NMR (< 20 mol%). The toluene solution was then washed with water and concentrated under reduced pressure to a volume of about 40 ml of Compound **38** solution.

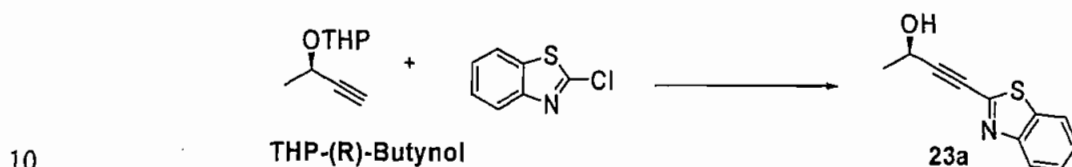
C. Preparation of **16**:

[001] To a reaction vessel was charged sodium carbonate (8 g; 75.5 mmol), 30 ml of water and stirred until dissolved. To this solution were added 3-fluorophenylboronic acid (6 g; 42.9 mmol) and 5% Pd/C 50% wet (0.5 g). The toluene solution of Compound **38** from above was then added and the mixture was heated to 75 °C for at least 5 h at which time an HPLC assay indicated complete reaction. Upon completion, the reaction mixture was cooled to 25 °C and filtered to remove the Pd/C catalyst. The layers were separated and the organic layer was washed and concentrated under reduced pressure to about 20ml. Heptane (20

- 48 -

ml) was slowly added, seed crystals were added, and the mixture was cooled to -10 °C over 2 h. The crystalline solid was filtered, washed with heptane and dried overnight under vacuum at 30 °C to provide 8 g (75%). Mp 61 – 63 °C. δ 1.3 (t, J = 7.08 Hz, 3H), 3.42 (s, 1H), 3.49 (s, 1H), 4.1 (q, J = 7.08 Hz, 2H), 7.04 – 7.11 (m, 1H), 7.23 – 7.3 (m, 1H), 7.32 – 7.3 (m, 1H), 7.32 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 7.39 – 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.81 (ddd, J = 8.08, 2.3, 0.41 Hz, 1H), 8.74 (d, J = 2.36, 1H).

Example 11 – Preparation of Compound **23a**:



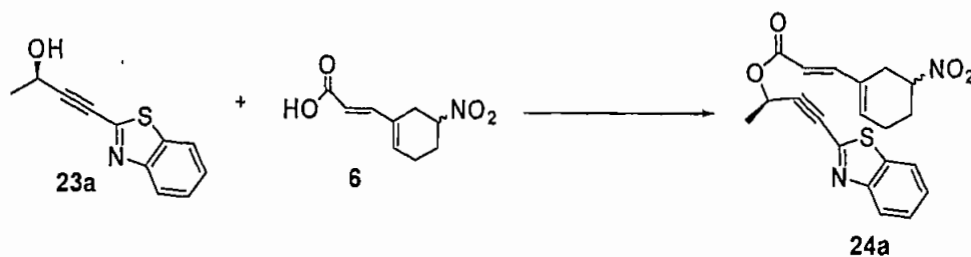
To a flask were added 21g (124mmol) of 2-chlorobenzothiazole chloride, 30g of KI, 150ml of DMF, 2.7g of CuI, 8.4g of Pd(PPh₃)₄, 50ml of Et₃N, and 118 ml of THP protected (R)-butynol. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 hrs. Most of the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Water was added and the product was extracted with a mixture of t-BuOMe and hexane. The organic layer was washed with brine and concentrated to give an oil. The oil was dissolved in 250ml of MeOH and treated with TsOH for the deprotection. The mixture was heated at 50 °C for a few hrs. The pH was adjusted to between 7 and 8 with NaOH. Most of the solvent was removed. The residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column, eluting with EtOAc/hexane to give 19.7g of **23a** (78%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.98-7.96 (m, 1H), 7.76-7.74

15

20

(M, 1H), 7.45-7.33 (m, 1H), 4.82-4.76 (m, 1H), 3.43 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 1.55 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

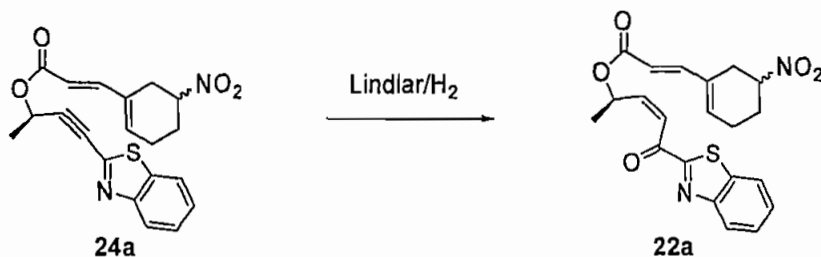
Example 12 – Preparation of Compound **24a**:



The same procedure for the preparation of **7a** described above in Example 4 was followed starting with 15 g of **23a** to give, after column purification, 17g of **24a**. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.99-7.97 (m, 1H), 7.79-7.77 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.35 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (bs, 1H), 5.80-5.74 (m, 2H), 4.72-4.58 (m, 1H), 2.82-2.65 (m, 2H), 2.50-2.05 (m, 4H), 1.61 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

10

Example 13 – Preparation of Compound **22a**:

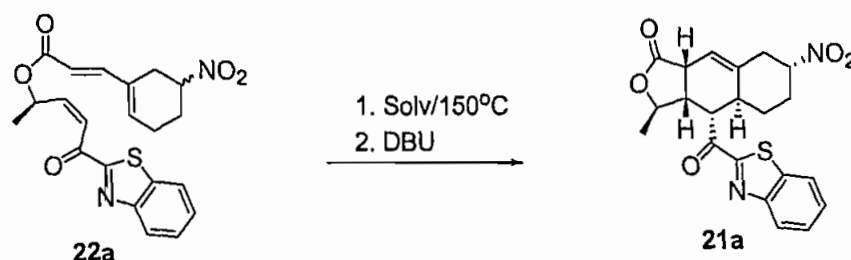


The same procedure for the conversion of **7** to **2** (Example 5) was followed starting from 15g of **24a** to give, after column purification, 17g product. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.18 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.37 (m, 1H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 1H), 7.24 (d, 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.59

- 50 -

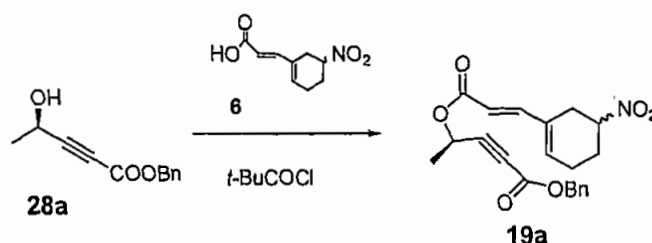
(dd, $J = 11.8, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.55-6.40 (m, 1H), 6.15-6.08 (m, 1H), 6.00 (dd, $J = 11.8, 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.76 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), (m, 1H), 2.80-2.65 (m, 2H), 2.46-2.05 (m, 4H), 1.50 (m, 3H).

5 Example 14 - Preparation of Compound **21a** via Diels-Alder Reaction:



The same procedure for the conversion of **2a** to **1a** (Example 6) was followed starting from 0.34g of **22a**. The ratio of exo:endo was determined by HPLC and NMR and found to be 60:40.

10 Example 15 - Preparation of Compound **19a**:



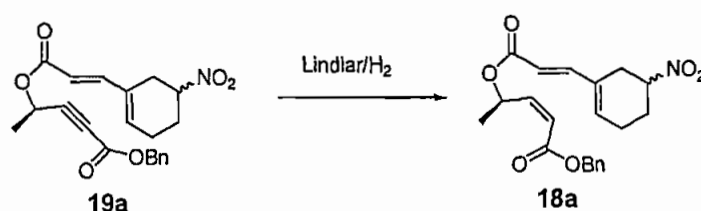
To a flask under nitrogen were added 1.48g of nitro acid **6** and 9 ml of toluene. To this mixture was added dropwise 2.4 ml of Et_3N to dissolve all solid. To the cooled mixture at between 0 and 5 °C were added 0.9 ml of pivaloyl chloride and 30mg of 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP). The resulting mixture was stirred at between 0 and 5°C for 18 hrs. The reaction mixture was poured into 10 ml of water. The layers were separated and the organic layer was washed with NaHCO_3 and water and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed

- 51 -

on a silica gel column, eluting with Hexane/EtOAc to give 1.56g of **19a** (81%). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 7.45-7.31 (m, 6H), 6.28-6.18 (m, 1H), 5.81 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 5.62 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.20 (s, 2H), 4.78-4.68 (m, 1H), 3.88-3.70 (m, 2H), 2.52-2.15 (m, 4H), 1.57 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H).

5

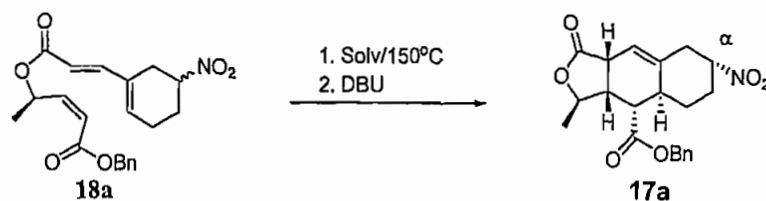
Example 15 - Preparation of Compound **18a**:



To a 100 ml Parr flask were added 1.4g of **19a**, 25 ml of toluene, 0.14 g of Lindlar catalyst (Alfa Chem), and 0.1 ml of quinoline. The flask was evacuated 3 times with nitrogen and vacuum and filled with hydrogen to 20 psi. The flask was shaken at room temperature for 3.5 hrs. The mixture was filtered through a pad of celite and washed with toluene. The filtrate was washed with 3X30 ml 1N HCl solution and 30 ml brine. The layers were separated and the organic layer was dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated to give 1.36 g (97%) of yellow oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 7.45-7.10 (m, 7H), 6.41-6.31 (m, 1H), 6.28-6.15 (m, 2H), 5.90-5.78 (m, 2H), 5.18 (s, 2H), (m, 1H), 2.88-2.70 (m, 2H), 2.50-2.15 (m, 6H), 1.41 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 3H).

20 Example 16 - Preparation of Compound **17a**:

- 52 -



To a flask were added 0.17 g of **18a** and 3 ml of xylene. The mixture was heated to 150 °C for about 6 hrs and cooled to between 30 and 35 °C. To the cooled mixture was added 1.5 ml of DBU. The

5 resulting solution was heated at between 30 and 35 °C for 1h to complete the epimerization of the initial *trans* product at the [6,5] junction to the *cis* product. There were a total of four isomers generated. The *exo:endo* ratio of the Diels-Alder reaction was about 78:22 and the $\alpha:\beta$ ratio was about 80:20. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the

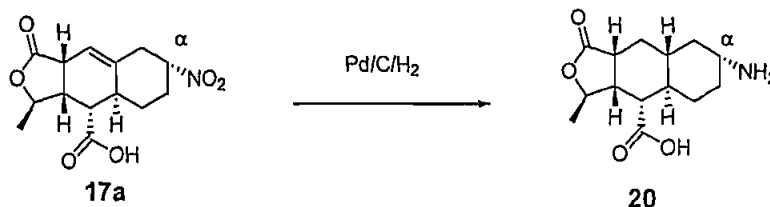
10 residue was purified on a silica gel column to give 0.082g (48%) of the desired *exo* product and 0.025g (15%) of the *endo* product. *Exo-isomer* ($\alpha:\beta$ mixture): ^1NMR (CDCl_3) δ 7.45-7.32 (m, 5H), 5.51 (bs, 1H), 5.22-5.10(m, 2H), 4.65 (bs, 1H, α -isomer), 4.46-4.30 (m, 2H), 3.37-3.30 (m, 1H), 3.14-3.09 (m, 1H, β -isomer), 2.94-2.89 (m, 1H), 2.75-1.75 (m, 7H),

15 1.12 (d, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 3H, α -isomer), 1.11 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 3H, β -isomer). *Endo-isomer* ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 7.40-7.30 (m, 5H), 5.80 (bs, 1H), 5.25 (d, $j = 11.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.60 (d, $J = 11.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.58-4.48 (m, 1H), 4.15-4.05 (m, 1H), 3.35-3.25 (m, 1H), 3.06 (t, $J = 5.7$ Hz, 1H), 2.95-2.88 (m, 1H), 2.65-2.50 (m, 2H), 2.40-2.30 (m, 1H), 2.28-2.20 (m, 1H), (m, 2H), 1.42 (d,

20 $J = 6.5\text{Hz}$, 3H), 1.05-0.95 (m, 1H).

Example 17 - Preparation of Compound 20:

- 53 -

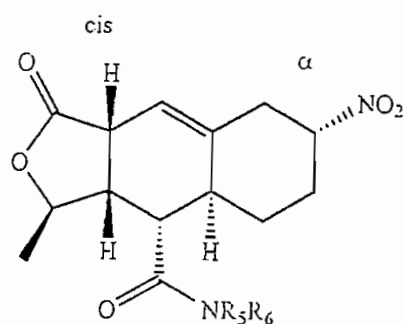


To a Parr flask were added 0.47 g of **17a**, 35ml of EtOAc, and 0.51 g of Pt/C. The flask was evacuated with nitrogen and vacuum 3 times, filled with hydrogen to 100 psi and was shaken for about 24 hrs as
5 monitored by NMR. The mixture was filtered and washed with MeOH. The filtrate was concentrate to give 0.29 g of a gray solid. ^1H NMR (Acetic acid- d_4) δ ($\alpha:\beta$ = 78:22) 4.80-4.68 (m, 1H), 3.78 (bs, 1H, β -isomer), 3.41-3.28 (m, 1H, α -isomer), (m, 3H), 2.20-1.00 (m, 10H), 1.33 (d, J = 5.8Hz, 3H).

10 While the present invention has been described in conjunction with the specific embodiments set forth above, many alternatives, modifications and variations thereof will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. All such alternatives, modifications, and variations are intended to fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

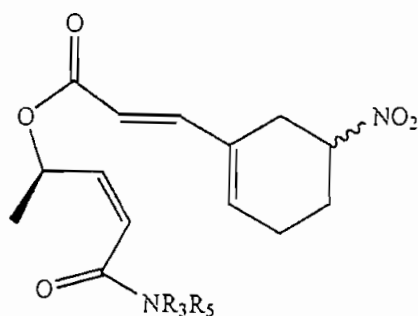
What is claimed is:

1. A process for preparing Compound 1:

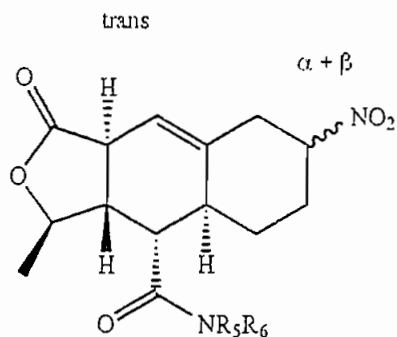


said process comprising the steps of:

(a) cyclizing Compound 2 in a first solvent at an elevated temperature

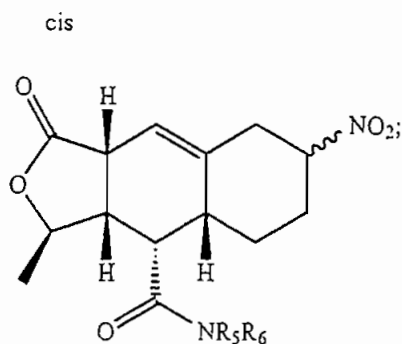


where R_5 and R_6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, heterocyclic and heteroaryl groups, or R_5 and R_6 , together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, for a 3- to 6-membered heterocyclic compound containing 1-4 heteroatoms, to produce a first mixture of exo isomers



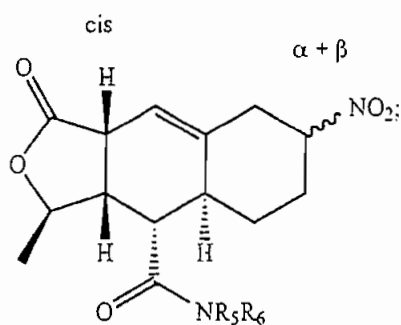
said isomers having a trans-[5,6]-ring junction:
and endo isomers:

29A



(b) epimerizing said trans-[5,6]-ring-junction in Compound 29 by treating said first mixture with a first base to produce a second mixture comprising cis-[5,6]-ring-junction-nitro- α isomer and cis-[5,6]-ring-junction-nitro- β isomer of Compound 30:

30



and

(c) treating said second mixture with a second solvent, causing said α -isomer of Compound 30 to precipitate to produce Compound 1.

2. The process of claim 1 further comprising the step of treating said second mixture with a second base, resulting in a dynamic resolution of said second mixture, in which said β -isomer of Compound 30 is converted to α -isomer of Compound 30, and α -isomer of Compound 30 is precipitated to produce Compound 1.

3. The process of claim 1, wherein said first solvent is selected from the group consisting of xylene, N-methylpyrrolidinone, Dimethylsulfoxide, diphenyl ether, Dimethylacetamide, and mixtures of 2 or more thereof.

4. The process of claim 1, wherein said temperature is between about 70 and about 190° C.

5. The process of claim 1, wherein said temperature is between about 80 and about 170° C.

6. The process of claim 1, wherein said temperature is between about 100 and about 160° C.

7. The process of claim 1, wherein said temperature is between about 120 and about 150° C.

8. The process of claim 1, wherein said base is selected from the group consisting of triethylamine, 1,5-diazabicyclo[4,3,0]non-5-ene, 1,4-diazabicyclo[2,2,2]octane, and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene, and mixtures of 2 or more thereof.

9. The process of claim 1, wherein said second solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethers, ketones, esters, amides, sulfoxides, aliphatic hydrocarbons, aromatic hydrocarbons, and mixtures of 2 or more thereof.

10. The process of claim 1, wherein said second solvent is selected from the group consisting of xylene, N-methylpyrrolidinone, dimethyl acetamide, DMSO, and mixtures of 2 or more thereof.

11. The process of claim 2, wherein said second base is selected from the group consisting of triethylamine, 1,5-diazabicyclo[4,3,0]non-5-ene, 1,4-diazabicyclo[2,2,2]octane, and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene, and mixtures of 2 or more thereof.