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## **Supporting Information**

## **Concise Total Synthesis of (±)-Aspidospermidine**

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## **Materials and Methods**

Solvents were purified and dried by standard methods prior to use. All commercially available reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. Oxygen- and moisture-sensitive reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere.

Column chromatography was generally performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh) and reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) using silica gel GF254 plates with UV light to visualize the course of reaction. Melting points were determined with a digital Koffer apparatus and were uncorrected.  $^{1}$ H and  $^{13}$ C NMR data were recorded on a 400 MHz instrument using CDCl<sub>3</sub> as solvent at room temperature. The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm and coupling constants (J) in Hz. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a FT-ICR spectrometer.

Compound 8. To a stirred solution of 7 (5.50 g, 20 mmol) in THF was added LDA (10 mL, 20 mmol) dropwise at -78  $^{\circ}$ C. After 45 min, the ethyl iodide (3.74 g, 24 mmol) was added to the mixture and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at the same temperature. Then it was warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched by slow additional of saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl aqueous solution and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (60 mL×3). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (50 mL), dried over anhydrous NaSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated on vacuum. The obtained residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc 5:1) to give pure product as a white solid (5.82 g 96% yield.) mp 133  $^{\circ}$ C.

IR (KBr)  $v_{\text{max}}$  3058, 3033, 2962, 2932, 2871, 2245, 1643, 1611, 1539, 1461, 1397, 1152, 1077, 910, 732, 700 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  1.00 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.54 (m, 1H), 1.97 (m, 2H), 2.32 (m, 2H), 2.81 (m, 2H), 5.22 (s, 2H), 6.99 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H),7.17 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (m, 4H), 8.31 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 11.7, 21.0, 22.3, 27.6, 46.7, 47.6, 109.5, 112.5, 121.5, 122.4, 122.9, 125.1, 126.0, 127.7, 128.9, 136.0, 137.2, 150.9, 196.0;

**HRMS (ESIMS)** Calcd for  $C_{21}H_{21}NO [M+Na]^+$  326.1515, found 326.1524

**Compound 9**. To a solution of ketone **8** (1.56 g, 5 mmol), which protected by argon, in anhydrous THF (100 mL)/t-BuOH (10 mL) at  $0^{\circ}$ C was added t-BuOK (1.12 g, 10 mmol,) and the resulting mixture was stirred at  $0^{\circ}$ C for 10min. methyl acrylate (3.6 mL, 40 mmol) was added to the reaction and the resulting mixture was stirred at -20°C for 30 min and at room temperature for 12 h. The reaction mixture was quenched by addition of saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl at  $0^{\circ}$ C. The resultant residue was taken

up in water (50 mL) and the aqueous mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (40 mL×3). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (40 mL) and dried over NaSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc 5:1) to give pure product **9** (1.52 g, 78% yield) as a yellow solid.

**IR** (**KBr**)  $v_{\text{max}}$  3060, 3031, 2947, 2881, 2250, 1735, 1641, 1542, 1460, 1437, 1360, 1300, 1199, 1176, 1070, 912, 841, 732, 700, 648 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  0.91 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.68 (m, 2H), 1.87 (m, 1H), 2.08 (m, 3H), 2.37 (m, 2H), 2.91 (m, 2H), 3.63 (s, 3H), 5.30 (s, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 7.6Hz, 2H), 7.26 (m, 6H), 8.30 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 8.4, 19.1, 27.2, 29.2, 31.4, 46.9, 47.2, 51.5, 109.6, 112.0, 121.7, 122.6, 123.1, 125.4, 126.0, 127.9, 129.0, 136.0, 137.4, 149.8, 174.1, 197.1;

**HRMS** (**ESIMS**) Calcd for  $C_{25}H_{27}NO_3$  [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 412.1883, found 412.1885.

Compound 5. To a solution of 9 (1.52 g 3.81mmol) was added CH<sub>3</sub>CN. Monoethanol Amine (2.31g 38mmol) was added to the reaction mixture and the resulting solution was stirred and reflux at 78°C for 10h. A trace of Sodium ethoxide was added in the system. The reaction mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (60 mL×3). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (50 mL) and dried over NaSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under vacuum. The mixture residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc 2:1) to give the pure product  $\mathbf{5}$ (1.38 g 90% yield) as yellow mucous. mp 155 °C.

IR (KBr)  $v_{\text{max}}$  3317, 3060, 2932, 2878, 1725, 1637, 1540, 1459, 1439, 1359, 1196, 1137, 1069, 935, 838, 735, 700, 659, 617 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  0.87 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.43(s, 1H), 1.62 (m, 2H), 1.87 (m, 1H), 2.07 (m, 3H), 2.22 (m, 2H), 2.87 (m, 2H), 3.37 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (t, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 5.24 (s, 2H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (m, 6H), 8.23 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 8.4, 19.0, 27.6, 30.0, 31.0, 31.6, 42.4, 46.8, 47.5, 61.9, 109.7, 111.8, 121.4, 122.6, 123.1, 125.2, 126.0, 127.8, 129.0, 135.7, 137.4, 150.6, 174.5, 198.2;

**HRMS** (**ESIMS**) Calcd for  $C_{26}H_{30}N_2O_3[M+Na]^+$  441.2149, found 4441.2153.

**Compound 3.** To a stirred solution of 5(0.44 g 1.04 mmol) in THF was added LAH (0.12 g 3.13 mmol) drop wise at -20°C. Then assembling a <u>drying tube</u> at the flask and stirring for 30 min. The reaction was quenched by water and then adjusted by 2N HCl to attain the target of PH  $(2\sim3)$ . The aqueous layer was separated and extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (30 mL×2). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine (30 mL×2) and dried over NaSO<sub>4</sub>. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, EtOAc) to give pure product 3.  $(0.40 \text{ mg} - 94\% \text{ yield}) \text{ mp } 200^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;

**IR** (**KBr**)  $v_{\text{max}}$  3327, 3055, 2938, 2878, 1705, 1631, 1612, 1463, 1427, 1357, 1302, 1266, 1190, 1051, 1029, 736, 698 cm<sup>-1</sup>;

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  0.85 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.28(m, 2H), 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.92 (m, 1H), 2.07 (m, 1H), 2.50 (m, 2H), 2.60 (m, 1H), 2.73 (m, 1H), 3.31 (m, 1H), 3.55 (m, 1H), 3.63 (m, 1H), 3.74 (m, 1H), 3.96 (s, 1H), 5.28 (s, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.24 (m, 4H), 7.52 (m, 2H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 8.0, 19.3, 26.2, 28.1, 29.5, 29.6, 36.9, 46.4, 47.9, 58.9, 63.7, 106.7, 109.6, 117.6, 120.1, 121.6, 125.7, 127.5, 127.9, 128.8, 137.1, 137.3, 174.4;

**HRMS (ESIMS)** Calcd for  $C_{26}H_{30}N_2O_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 403.2380, found 403.2384.

**Compound 2.** Freshed cut Na (229 mg, 9.96 mmol) was added to liquid ammonia (20 mL) in a 100 ml two-necked flask cooled to  $-78^{\circ}$ C. After 5 min, a solution of *t*-BuOH (0.5 mL) in THF (5 mL) was added to the blue ammonia solution, followed by a solution of amide **3** (200 mg, 0.50 mmol) in THF (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at  $-78^{\circ}$ C for 30 min at which the blue color had disappeared. The reaction mixture then was quenched with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and ammonia was allowed to evaporate by replacing the cooling bath with a water bath. The mixture solution was

extracted by  $CH_2Cl_2$  (20 mL×3). The residue was dissolved in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (4 mL) flash column chromatography (EtOAc) of the crude residue yielded 155mg (85.2%) of amine **2** as a colorless solid. **IR** (**KBr**)  $v_{\text{max}}$  3262, 3057, 2940, 2876, 1610, 1462, 1419, 1330, 1304, 1263, 1121, 1048, 940, 739, 703, 656, 619 cm<sup>-1</sup>;

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  0.87 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.29(m, 2H), 1.66 (m, 2H), 1.93 (m, 1H), 2.06 (m, 1H), 2.51 (m, 2H), 2.73 (m, 2H), 3.27 (m, 1H), 3.53 (m, 1H), 3.65 (m, 1H), 3.71 (m, 1H), 4.12 (m, 1H), 4.50 (s, 1H), 7.14 (dd, J = 7.2 Hz, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.69 (s, 1H),

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 8.0, 20.0, 26.3, 28.0, 29.5, 29.7, 37.0, 48.1, 59.1, 63.6, 106.7, 101.0, 117.4, 120.0, 121.6, 128.0, 136.1, 136.2, 174.6;

**HRMS (ESIMS)** Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{24}N_2O_2[M+H]^+$  313.1911, found 313.1916.

**Compound 11.** To a solution of 2(0.56 g 1.19 mmol) in THF was added LAH (0.14 g 3.56 mmol) dropwise. After 10 min the mixture was warmed to  $80^{\circ}$ C, then to stir further and reflux for about 4h. The reaction was quenched by saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. The mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL×3) and washed with brine (30 mL×2). The residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4 mL) flash column chromatography CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: MeOH (30:1) of the product yielded 234 mg (66%) of amine 11 as a colorless solid. mp 74°C;

IR (KBr)  $v_{\text{max}}$ 3397, 3217, 3185, 3109, 3058, 2937, 2877, 2794, 1620, 1585, 1461, 1377, 1331, 1308, 1265, 1233, 1169, 1141, 1120, 1041, 739 cm<sup>-1</sup>;

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  0.71 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 0.90 (m, 1H), 1.14 (m, 1H), 1.34 (m, 2H), 1.58 (m, 1H), 1.74 (m, 1H), 1.83 (m, 1H), 2.22 (m, 2H), 2.60 (m, 3H), 3.25 (m, 5H), 3.49 (m, 1H), 7.05 (m, 2H), 7.13 (m, 1H), 7.42 (m, 1H), 8.32 (s, 1H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz): δ 7.7, 20.1, 21.9, 24.2, 29.4, 34.6, 37.0, 52.3, 54.0, 57.8, 62.9, 110.0, 110.5, 117.5, 119.1, 120.6, 129.7, 135.5, 136.0;

**HRMS** (**ESIMS**) Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{26}N_2O$  [M + H]<sup>+</sup> 299.2118, found 299.2117

HO N 
$$Et_3N$$
 MsCl  $CH_2CI_2$   $0^{\circ}C$   $N$   $11$   $12$ 

Compound 12. To a solution of the alcohol 11 (100 mg, 0.34 mmol) in anhydrous  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL) at 0°C were sequentially added triethylamine (9  $\mu$ l, 0.67 mmol), Methanesulfonyl chloride (31  $\mu$ l, 0.4 mmol). The mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and water (3 mL) was added to quench the reaction. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL ×3). The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine and dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ . The solution was concentrated to dryness *in vacuo* to give a yellow powder. (121 mg 95% yield).

( $\pm$ )-Aspidospermidine 1. To a solution of 12(158 mg 0.45 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6 mL) was added dropwise t-BuOK causing the formation of white precipitate. The reaction stirred for about 16h at room temperature. Then LAH (28.5 mg 0.75 mmol) was added in the mixture solution at 0°C and stirred for 30 min and saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl was added to quench the reaction the layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL  $\times$  3). The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solution was concentrated to dryness *in vacuo* to give the TM. (87 mg 62% yield).

**IR** (**KBr**)  $v_{\text{max}}$  3635, 3362, 3048, 3027, 2934, 2882, 2861, 2780, 2722, 2678, 1606, 1481, 1463, 1376, 1331, 1318, 1259, 1179, 1134, 1024, 907, 866, 736, 642 cm<sup>-1</sup>;

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  0.63 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 0.87(m, 1H), 1.02 (m, 2H), 1.41 (m, 4H), 1.57 (m, 2H), 1.74 (m, 1H), 1.94 (m, 2H), 2.26 (m, 3H), 3.10 (m, 2H), 3.50 (m, 1H), 3.49 (m, 1H), 6.63 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  6.8, 21.8, 23.0, 28.1, 29.9, 34.5, 35.6, 38.8, 53.0, 53.4, 53.9, 65.6, 71.2, 110.3, 118.9, 122.8, 127.0, 135.7, 149.4;

**HRMS** (ESIMS) Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{26}N_2O$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 283.2169, found 283.2164.

























