

Electronic Supporting Information

Efficient Syntheses of (-)-Crinine and (-)-Aspidospermidine, and Formal Synthesis of (-)-Minfiensine by Enantioselective Intramolecular Dearomative Cyclization

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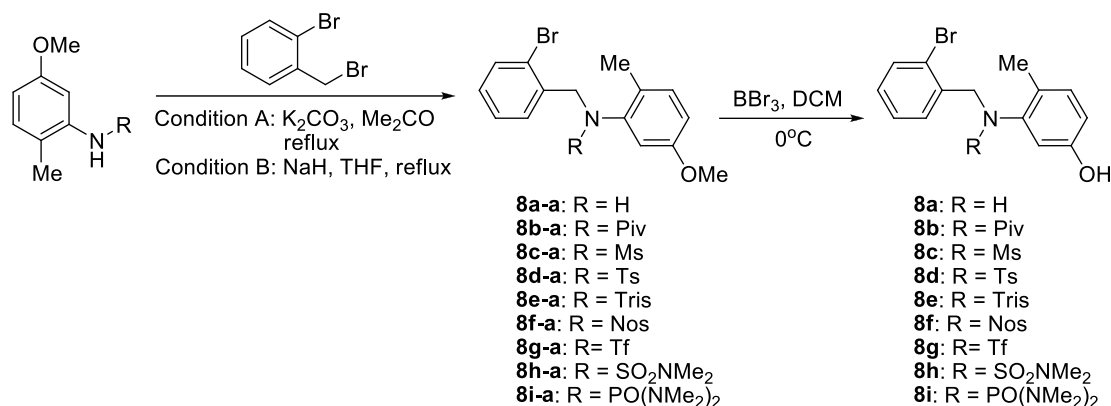
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1. General information

All reactions were set-up on the bench top and carried out under nitrogen atmosphere in Schlenk tubes unless otherwise noted. Compounds were purified by flash chromatography using silica gel (200-400 mesh). Anhydrous THF and toluene were distilled from sodium/benzophenone immediately prior to use. All other solvents and reagents were used as received from commercial sources, unless otherwise specified. Known chiral monophosphorus ligands **L1**, **L2**, **L3**, **L4** and **L5** from our laboratory were synthesized according to our reported procedures.¹

¹H NMR, ³¹P NMR, ¹⁹F NMR and ¹³C NMR data were recorded on a Bruker-Ultrashield PLUS 400 NMR or a 500 MHz Agilent spectrometer with CDCl₃ or C₆D₆ as the solvent. ¹H chemical shifts were referenced to CDCl₃ at 7.26 ppm or C₆D₆ at 7.16 ppm. ¹³C chemical shifts were referenced to CDCl₃ at 77 ppm or C₆D₆ at 128 ppm, and obtained with ¹H decoupling. ³¹P chemical shifts were referenced to 85% H₃PO₄ in D₂O at 0.0 ppm as external standard and obtained with ¹H decoupling. Multiplicities are abbreviated as follows: singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), doublet-doublet (dd), multiplet (m), and broad (br). MS was measured on Agilent 7890A/5975C Series GC/MSD mass spectrometer or Agilent 1100 Series LC/MSD mass spectrometer. HPLC yields were determined on an Agilent 1200 Infinity Series. Chiral HPLC analyses were performed on an Agilent 1100 Series using a Daicel Chiralpak (AD-H, OD-H) column with hexane/*i*PrOH as the eluent. Optical rotations were measured on a Jasco P-1010 polarimeter. Melting points were measured with a X-4 microscope melting point apparatus and are uncorrected.

2. General procedures for the preparation of cyclization substrates 8a-i



2.1 General procedures for the preparation of compound 8(a-i)-a

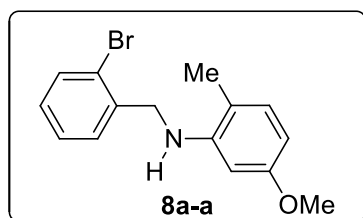
Condition A: To a solution of 2-bromobenzyl bromide (1.1 equiv) and *N*-R substituted 5-methoxy-2-methylaniline (1.0 equiv) in acetone at rt was added potassium carbonate (1.2 equiv). The mixture was heated at reflux for 6 h and then concentrated under reduced pressure. Water and EtOAc was added and the organic layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc for three times. The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, dried over sodium sulfate, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography to afford the desired product.

Condition B: To a solution of 2-bromobenzyl bromide (1.1 equiv) and *N*-R substituted 5-methoxy-2-methylaniline (1.0 equiv) in THF at 0 °C was added NaH (1.2 equiv) in portions. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and then heated to reflux for additional 6 h. The reaction mixture was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NH_4Cl solution and extracted with EtOAc for three times. The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, dried over sodium sulfate, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography to afford the desired product.

2.2 General procedures for preparation of compound 8(a-i)

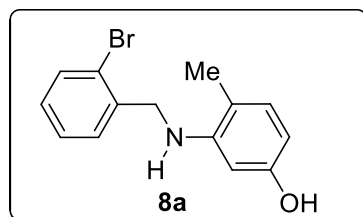
To a solution (0.2 M) of compound **8(a-i)-a** (1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ at -78 °C under nitrogen was added BBr₃ (1.0 equiv) dropwise. The resulting mixture was stirred at rt until the reaction was complete, and then quenched by addition of saturated NaHCO₃ solution. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated. The crude product was purified by silica gel flash chromatography to afford the desired phenol **8(a-i)**.

2.3 Characterization data of compounds 8(a-i)-a and 8(a-i)



N-(2-Bromobenzyl)-5-methoxy-2-methylaniline (8a-a) The title compound was synthesized according to condition A described in 2.1. **8a-a**: Colorless oil; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09

(d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.33 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (s, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 4.18(br s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.23 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.5, 146.7, 138.1, 132.9, 130.6, 129.3, 128.8, 127.7, 123.4, 114.7, 110.2, 97.8, 55.2, 48.4, 16.8; ESI-MS: *m/z* 306.2 [M+H]⁺; HMRS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₁₅H₁₇ONBr]⁺: 306.0489; found: 306.0494.

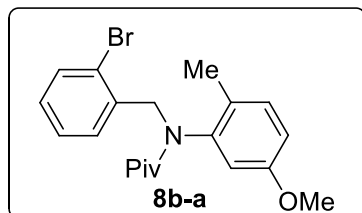


3-((2-Bromobenzyl)amino)-4-methylphenol (8a) The title compound was synthesized according to the general procedure described in 2.2 from **8a-a**.

8a: White solid; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H),

6.92 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 5.63 (br s, 1H), 4.38 (s, 2H), 2.13 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.1, 146.7, 137.9, 132.8, 130.8, 129.4, 128.8, 127.6, 123.4, 114.4,

103.9, 98.4, 48.4, 16.7; ESI-MS: m/z 292.0 $[M+H]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[M+H, C_{14}H_{15}ONBr]^+$: 292.0332; found: 292.0337.

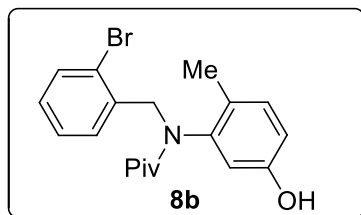


***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-(5-methoxy-2-methylphenyl)pivalamide (8b-a)**

The title compound was synthesized according to condition B described in **2.1** from the corresponding starting material. **8b-a**: Colorless oil; 1H NMR

(500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.41 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.21

(t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.04 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.31 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.57 (d, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.20 (d, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.55 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.06 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 177.8, 157.5, 141.9, 136.7, 132.4, 131.5, 130.4, 128.6, 128.3, 127.4, 124.3, 116.0, 114.1, 55.2, 53.5, 41.2, 28.9, 17.1; ESI-MS: m/z 390.3 $[M+H]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[M+H, C_{20}H_{25}O_2NBr]^+$: 390.1064; found: 390.1069.

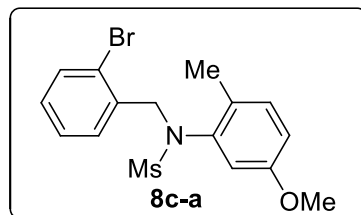


***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-(5-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)pivalamide (8b)**

The title compound was synthesized according to a general procedure described

in **2.2** from **8b-a**. **8b**: White solid; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.44 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 7.02-7.08

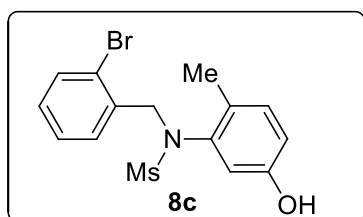
(m, 2H), 6.70 (dd, $J = 8.2, 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.38 (d, $J = 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.75 (s, 1H), 5.49 (d, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.24 (d, $J = 14.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 1.08 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 178.2, 153.9, 142.0, 136.4, 132.5, 131.7, 130.0, 128.6, 128.0, 127.4, 121.2, 117.3, 115.5, 53.9, 41.2, 28.9, 17.1; ESI-MS: m/z 376.1 $[M+H]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[M+H, C_{19}H_{23}O_2NBr]^+$: 376.0908; found: 376.0906.



***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-(5-methoxy-2-methylphenyl)methanesulfonamide (8c-a)**

The title compound was synthesized according to condition B

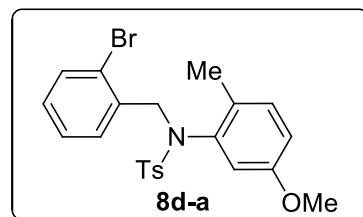
described in **2.1** from the corresponding starting material. **8c-a**: Colorless oil; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.43(d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.77-6.73 (m, 2H), 4.90 (s, 2H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.02 (s, 3H), 2.10 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.0, 137.9, 135.0, 132.8, 132.0, 131.8, 131.1, 129.6, 127.5, 124.5, 115.0, 114.2, 55.4, 54.4, 38.8, 17.4; ESI-MS: m/z 383.3 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{NBrS}]^+$: 383.0221; found: 383.0223.



***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-(5-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)methanesulfonamide**

(8c) The title compound was synthesized according to a general procedure described in **2.2** from **8c-a**. **8c**: White solid; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.46 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H),

7.10 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.73-6.67 (m, 2H), 4.90 (br s, 2H), 4.79 (s, 1H), 3.04 (s, 3H), 2.09 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 154.1, 137.8, 134.8, 132.8, 132.0, 131.0, 129.6, 127.4, 124.5, 116.2, 54.4, 39.0, 17.3; ESI-MS: m/z 392.0 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_3\text{NBrS}]^+$: 370.0107; found: 370.0113.

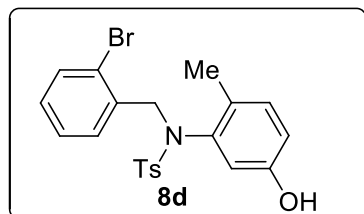


***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-(5-methoxy-2-methylphenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide**

(8d-a) The title compound was synthesized according to condition B described in **2.1** from the corresponding starting material. **8d-a**: Colorless oil; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.64 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.46

(d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.04 (br s, 1H), 4.58 (br s, 1H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.96 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.4, 143.6, 138.0, 135.8, 135.0, 132.6, 131.9, 131.8, 131.5, 129.5, 129.3, 128.1, 127.3, 124.3, 55.2, 54.7, 21.5, 17.3;

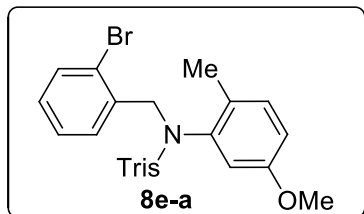
ESI-MS: m/z 460.3 $[M+H]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[M+H, C_{22}H_{23}O_3NBrS]^+$: 460.0577; found: 460.0582.



***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-(5-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide (8d)** The title compound was synthesized according to a general procedure described in **2.2** from **8d-a**. **8d**: White solid; 1H NMR (500 MHz,

$CDCl_3$) δ 7.64 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.0

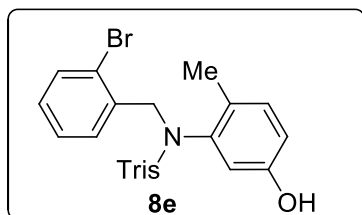
Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (br s, 1H), 5.01 (br s, 1H), 4.55 (br s, 1H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 1.90 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 153.6, 143.7, 138.0, 135.6, 134.9, 132.6, 131.8, 131.7, 131.5, 129.5, 129.3, 128.0, 127.3, 124.2, 115.9, 115.8, 54.7, 21.6, 17.2; ESI-MS: m/z 468.0 $[M+Na]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[M+H, C_{21}H_{21}O_3NBrS]^+$: 446.0422; found: 446.0426.



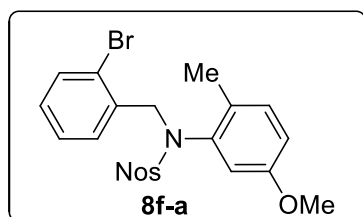
***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-2,4,6-triisopropyl-*N*-(5-methoxy-2-methylphenyl)benzenesulfonamide (8e-a)** The title compound was synthesized according to condition B described in **2.1** from the corresponding starting material. **8e-a**:

Colorless oil; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.42-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.18 (t, J =

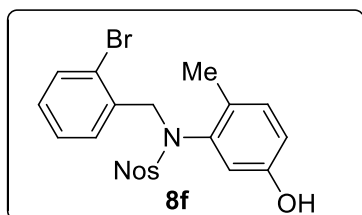
7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (s, 2H), 7.05 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 5.20-4.88 (m, 2H), 3.84-3.78 (m, 2H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 2.93-2.84 (m, 1H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.24 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 1.12 (br s, 12H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 157.7, 152.9, 151.1, 137.0, 135.5, 133.2, 132.6, 132.2, 131.5, 131.4, 129.3, 127.3, 124.9, 123.8, 116.4, 115.6, 55.2, 54.3, 34.1, 30.3, 24.9, 23.6, 17.0; ESI-MS: m/z 594.2 $[M+Na]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[M+H, C_{30}H_{39}O_3NBrS]^+$: 572.1824; found: 572.1829.



***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-2,4,6-triisopropyl-*N*-(5-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)benzenesulfonamide (8e)** The title compound was synthesized according to a general procedure described in **2.2** from **8e-a**. **8e**: White solid; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.41 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (s, 2H), 7.06 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 6.67 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.15-4.83 (m, 3H), 3.83-3.75 (m, 2H), 2.92-2.84 (m, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.23 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 1.20-1.10 (m, 12H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.8, 152.9, 151.1, 137.0, 135.3, 133.0, 132.6, 132.1, 131.7, 131.2, 129.3, 127.3, 124.8, 123.8, 118.4, 116.1, 54.2, 34.0, 30.4, 24.9, 23.5, 16.8; ESI-MS: m/z 580.1 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{37}\text{O}_3\text{NBrS}]^+$: 558.1674; found: 558.1678.

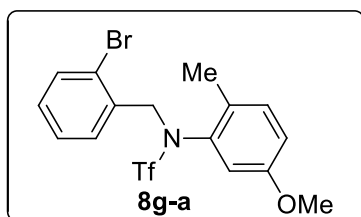


***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-(5-methoxy-2-methylphenyl)-4-nitrobenzenesulfonamide (8f-a)** The title compound was synthesized according to condition B described in **2.1** from the corresponding starting material. **8f-a**: Light yellow solid; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.35 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.21 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.22 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.05 (br s, 1H), 4.69 (br s, 1H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 1.91 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.7, 150.1, 144.7, 137.0, 134.2, 132.8, 131.9, 131.3, 129.7, 129.2, 127.4, 124.5, 124.1, 114.7, 114.6, 55.3, 54.9, 17.2; ESI-MS: m/z 515.0 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_5\text{N}_2\text{BrS}]^+$: 491.0274; found: 491.0276.



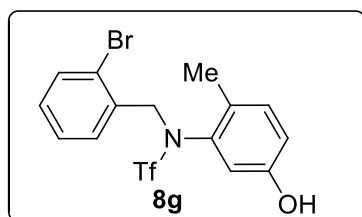
***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-(5-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)-4-nitrobenzenesulfonamide (8f)** The title compound was synthesized according to a general procedure described in **2.2** from **8f-a**. **8f**: Yellow solid; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.35 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, $J = 8.4$

Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, $J = 15.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.68 (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.24 (d, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.04 (br s, 1H), 4.67 (br s, 1H), 1.88 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.7, 150.1, 144.6, 137.1, 134.1, 132.9, 132.1, 131.8, 131.4, 129.8, 129.1, 127.5, 124.4, 124.1, 116.3, 115.9, 54.9, 17.1; ESI-MS: m/z 499.2 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_2\text{N}_5\text{BrS}]^+$: 477.2932; found: 477.2928.



***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-1,1,1-trifluoro-*N*-(5-methoxy-2-methylphenyl)methanesulfonamide (8g-a)** The title compound was synthesized according to condition A described in **2.1** from the corresponding starting material. **8g-a**: Colorless oil; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.50 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.40

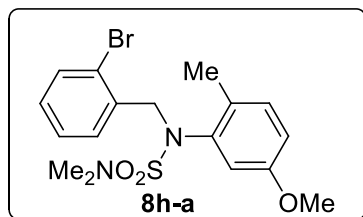
(d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 (dd, $J = 8.5, 2.7$, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 5.13 (d, $J = 14.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, $J = 14.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 1.95 (s, 3H); ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -73.3; ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.9, 135.3, 133.3, 133.0, 132.4, 131.9, 130.8, 130.2, 127.7, 125.1, 120.3 (q, $J = 325.2$ Hz), 115.6, 115.2, 55.8, 55.4, 17.0; ESI-MS: m/z 460.0 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_3\text{NBrF}_3\text{S}]^+$: 437.9979; found: 437.9981.



***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-1,1,1-trifluoro-*N*-(5-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)methanesulfonamide (8g)** The title compound was synthesized according to a general procedure described in **2.1** from **8g-a**. **8g**: White solid; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.49 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.28

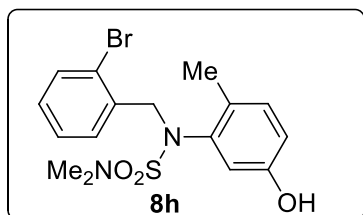
(t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.73-6.67 (m, 2H), 5.14 (d, $J = 14.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 4.95 (d, $J = 14.2$ Hz, 1H), 1.96 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 153.9, 135.4, 133.2, 133.0, 132.3, 132.1, 131.0, 130.3, 127.7, 125.0, 120.3 (q, $J = 319.2$ Hz), 117.0, 116.7, 55.9, 17.0; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -73.3; ESI-MS: m/z 422.9 $[\text{M}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H},$

$C_{15}H_{14}O_3NBrF_3S]^+$: 423.9828; found: 423.9830.



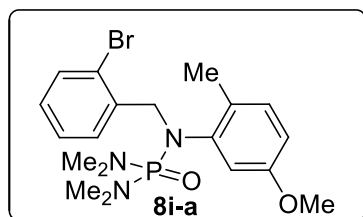
***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-(5-methoxy-2-methylphenyl)dimethylaminosulfonamide (8h-a)** The title compound was synthesized according to condition B described in **2.1** from the corresponding starting material. **8h-a**: Colorless oil; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.44 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.2

Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (dd, J = 8.2, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.83 (br s, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.87 (s, 6H), 2.07 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 157.8, 139.1, 135.1, 132.7, 132.1, 131.5, 130.6, 129.4, 127.2, 124.7, 114.8, 114.1, 55.4, 38.5, 17.2; ESI-MS: m/z 413.3 $[M+H]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[M+H, C_{17}H_{22}O_3N_2BrS]^+$: 413.0531; found: 413.0528.



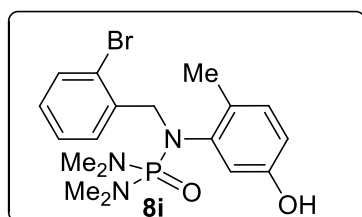
***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-(5-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)dimethylaminosulfonamide (8h)** The title compound was synthesized according to a general procedure described in **2.2** from **8h-a**. **8h**: White solid; 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.44 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t, J = 7.5

Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (br s, 1H), 4.80 (br s, 2H), 2.88 (s, 6H), 2.00 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 154.2, 138.9, 134.9, 132.7, 132.2, 131.6, 130.3, 129.4, 127.2, 124.7, 116.0, 115.8, 55.5, 38.5, 17.1; ESI-MS: m/z 399.0 $[M+H]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[M+H, C_{16}H_{20}O_3N_2BrS]^+$: 399.0373; found: 399.0378.



***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-(5-methoxy-2-methylphenyl)-*N,N,N',N'*-tetramethyl-1-oxophosphorotriamine (8i-a)** The title compound was synthesized according to condition B described in **2.1** from the corresponding starting

material. **8i-a**: Colorless oil; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.89 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.02-6.92 (m, 2H), 6.64-6.57 (m, 2H), 4.66 (d, $J = 10.5$ Hz, 2H), 3.60 (s, 3H), 2.53 (d, $J = 9.1$ Hz, 12H), 2.24 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 157.4, 141.5, 137.0, 132.9, 132.2, 131.2, 129.0, 128.6, 127.2, 124.7, 116.0 (d, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 112.7, 55.3, 52.9, 37.3 (d, $J = 15.1$ Hz), 17.7; ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 22.1; ESI-MS: m/z 440.1 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{BrP}]^+$: 440.1098; found: 440.1097.

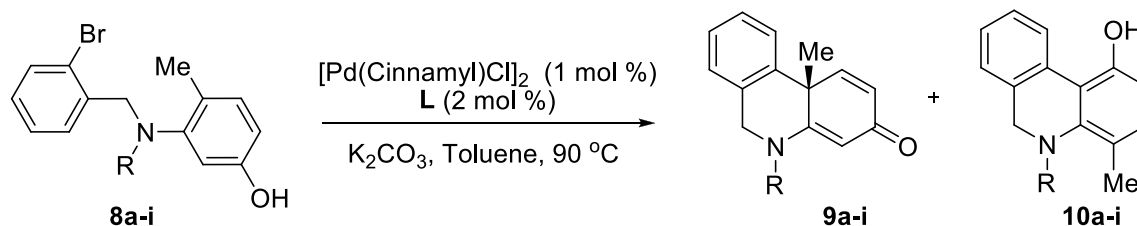


***N*-(2-Bromobenzyl)-*N*-(5-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)-*N,N,N',N'*-tetramethyl-1-oxophosphoranetriamine (**8i**)**

The title compound was synthesized according to a general procedure described in **2.2** from **8i-a**. **8i**: White solid;

^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (s, 1H), 7.00-6.94 (m, 2H), 6.88 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.64 (dd, $J = 8.3, 2.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.60 (d, $J = 11.5$ Hz, 2H), 2.57 (s, 12H), 2.23 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.3, 140.8, 136.4, 132.5, 132.2, 131.4, 128.5, 127.0, 125.4 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz), 124.4, 116.8, 114.2, 53.2, 37.6 (d, $J = 15.1$ Hz), 17.8; ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 22.0; ESI-MS: m/z 426.1 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_2\text{N}_3\text{BrP}]^+$: 426.0928; found: 426.0936.

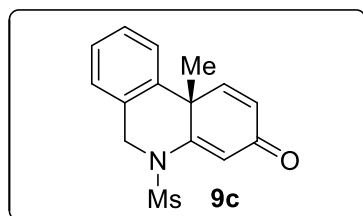
3. General procedures for Pd-catalyzed asymmetric dearomative cyclization



To a flame-dried Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged substrate **8** (0.10

mmol, 1.0 equiv), [Pd(cinnamyl)Cl]₂ (0.001 mmol, 0.01 equiv), **L** (0.002 mmol, 0.02 equiv), K₂CO₃ (0.15 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The mixture was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Toluene (10 mL) was added via syringe and the resulting mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 16 h, and then quenched with EtOAc (5 mL). The mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and concentrated. The product was purified by silica gel flash chromatography. The enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC on a Chiralcel OD-H or Chiralpak AD-H column.

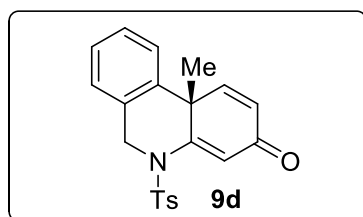
Characterization data of compounds **9c-i**



(R)-10b-Methyl-5-(methanesulfonyl)-5,6-dihydrophenanthridin-3-one (9c):

white solid (16 %); m.p. 74-77 °C; 95% ee; Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, 25 °C, flow rate: 1

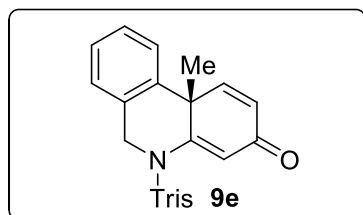
mL/min, hexane/isopropanol: 70/30, 254 nm, 21.2 min (*S*), 22.7 min (*R*); the absolute configurations of **9c** was assigned by analogy on the basis of compound **13**. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -65.3$ (*c* = 1.2, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.43 (d, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.31 (m, 3H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.41 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 4.94 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (s, 3H), 1.57 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 185.2, 156.6, 147.7, 136.9, 130.3, 128.7, 128.1, 127.3, 126.9, 123.9, 112.7, 49.7, 43.2, 38.6, 26.9; ESI-MS: *m/z* 290.1 [M+H]⁺; HMRS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₁₅H₁₆O₃NS]⁺: 290.0845; found: 290.0845.



(R)-10b-Methyl-5-tosyl-5,6-dihydrophenanthridin-3-one (9d):

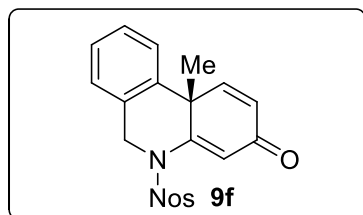
white solid (61%); m.p. 102-104 °C; 91% ee; Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, 25 °C, flow rate: 1 mL/min, hexane/isopropanol: 70/30, 254 nm, 13.00 min (*S*), 16.62 min (*R*)); the

absolute configurations of **9d** was assigned by analogy on the basis of compound **13**. $[\alpha]_D^{26} = -129.6$ ($c = 1.5$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.80 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.26 (m, 7H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 6.31 (dd, $J = 10.2, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.14 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 2H), 4.92 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 1.10 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 187.6, 158.0, 150.0, 147.2, 139.3, 136.9, 132.6, 132.1, 130.8, 130.2, 129.9, 129.5, 129.2, 126.0, 116.6, 52.3, 45.3, 28.2, 23.8; ESI-MS: m/z 366.2 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{NS}]^+$: 366.1157; found: 366.1158.



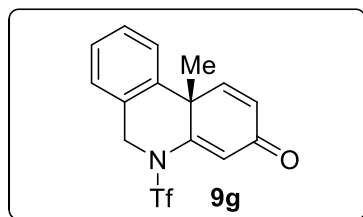
(R)-10b-Methyl-5-((2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl)sulfonyl)-5,6-dihydrophenanthridin-3(10bH)-one (9e): white solid (54%); m.p. 131-133 °C; 90% ee; Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, 25

°C, flow rate: 1 mL/min, hexane/isopropanol: 70/30, 254 nm, 8.77 min (*S*), 9.70 min (*R*); the absolute configurations of **9e** was assigned by analogy on the basis of compound **13**. $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -93.2$ ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.38 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.25 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.20 (s, 2H), 6.32 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.05 (s, 1H), 5.03 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.88 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.06-3.97 (m, 2H), 2.95-2.86 (m, 1H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 1.28 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 6H), 1.26 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H), 1.14 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.0, 157.0, 154.4, 151.0, 147.8, 137.4, 132.3, 130.9, 128.6, 127.8, 127.2, 126.9, 124.5, 123.9, 113.7, 48.8, 43.3, 34.1, 29.5, 26.8, 24.8, 24.4, 23.4 (d, $J = 5.7$ Hz); ESI-MS: m/z 478.2 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_3\text{NS}]^+$: 478.2406; found: 478.2410.



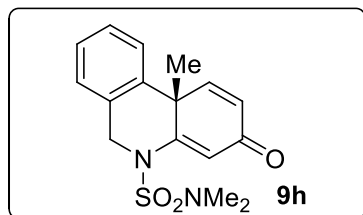
(R)-10b-Methyl-5-((4-nitrophenyl)sulfonyl)-5,6-dihydrophenanthridin-3(10bH)-one (9f): white film (37%); 86% ee; Enantiomeric excess was

determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 25 °C, flow rate: 1 mL/min, hexane/isopropanol: 90/10, 254 nm, 8.02 min (*S*), 9.98 min (*R*). the absolute configurations of **9f** was assigned by analogy on the basis of compound **13**. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -104.5$ ($c = 1.0$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.37 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 8.11 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.26 (m, 5H), 6.59 (s, 1H), 6.34 (dd, $J = 10.2$, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.16 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.97 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.12 (s, 3H) ; ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.0, 155.0, 150.6, 148.0, 143.2, 136.8, 129.6, 128.9, 128.8, 128.2, 127.3, 127.0, 124.5, 123.9, 115.6, 50.3, 43.1, 26.1; ESI-MS: m/z 397.0 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_5\text{N}_2\text{S}]^+$: 397.0853; found: 397.0853.



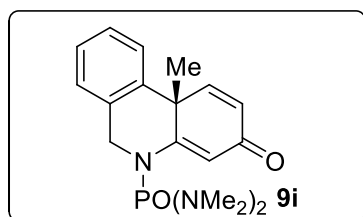
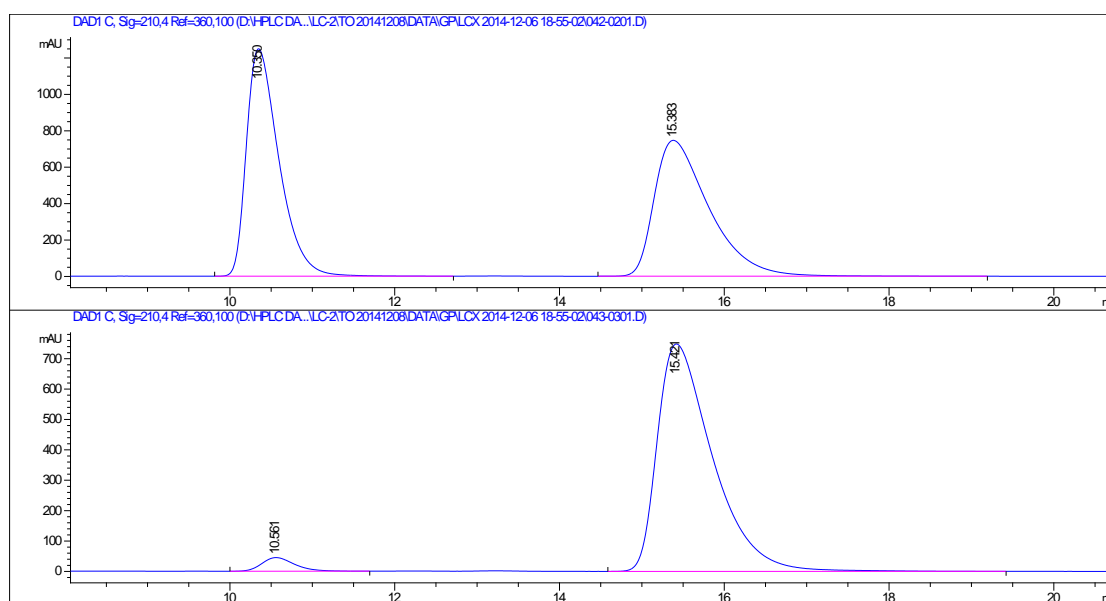
(*R*)-10b-Methyl-5-((trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)-5,6-dihydrophenanthridin-3-one (9g): white foam (70%); 84% ee; Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, 25 °C, flow rate: 1 mL/min,

hexane/isopropanol: 80/20, 254 nm, 21.23 min (*S*), 22.69 min (*R*). the absolute configurations of **9g** was assigned by analogy on the basis of compound **13**. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -67.5$ ($c = 1.2$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.48 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.21 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.51 (s, 1H), 6.43 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 2H), 5.15 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz, 1H), 4.93 (d, $J = 15.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.62 (s, 3H), 1.59 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.0, 153.8, 149.2, 136.9, 129.0, 128.8, 128.2, 127.5, 126.7, 124.3, 120.6, 120.0 (q, $J = 325.3$), 51.7, 43.1, 27.7; ^{19}F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl_3) δ -73.9; ESI-MS: m/z 366.0 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_3\text{NF}_3\text{S}]^+$: 344.0563; found: 344.0563.



(*R*)-10b-Methyl-5-(*N,N*-dimethylsulfonyl)-5,6-dihydrophenanthridin-3-one (9h): white film (73%); 94% ee; Enantiomeric excess was

determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralcel OD-H, 25 °C, flow rate: 1 mL/min, hexane/isopropanol: 80/20, 254 nm, 10.35 min (*S*), 15.38 min (*R*); the absolute configurations of **9c** was assigned by analogy on the basis of compound **13**. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -90.0$ ($c = 0.65$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.23 (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.38 (d, $J = 10.6$ Hz, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 5.00 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.90 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.93 (s, 6H), 1.56 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.4, 157.0, 147.6, 137.0, 130.8, 128.6, 127.9, 127.3, 126.8, 123.8, 112.4, 51.5, 43.2, 38.2, 27.3; ESI-MS: m/z 319.0 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}_3\text{N}_2\text{S}]^+$: 319.1110; found: 319.1111.



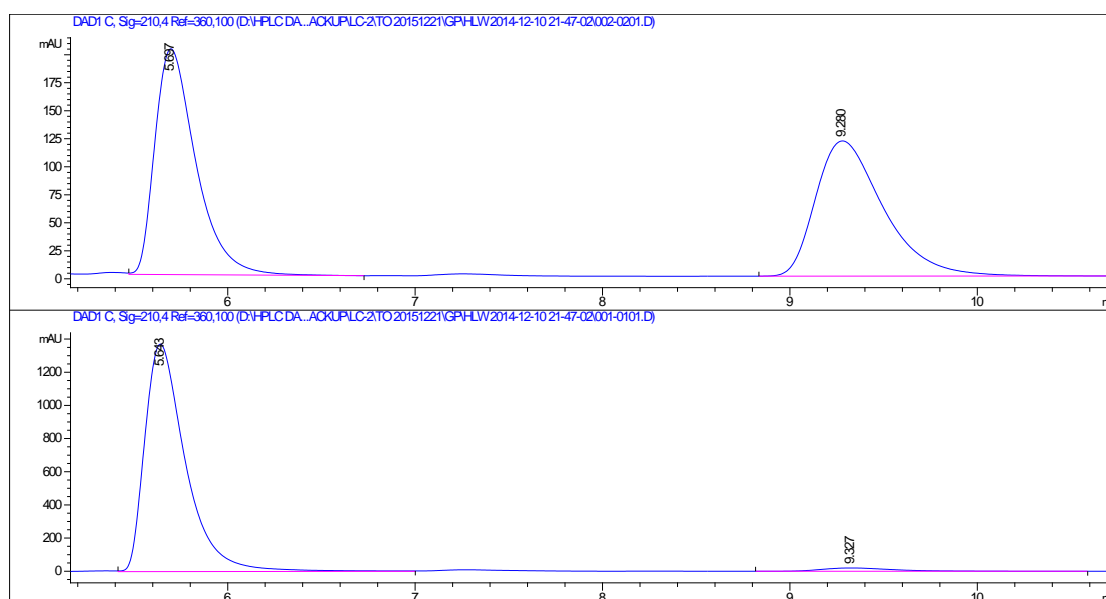
(R)-10b-Methyl-5-(N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl-1-oxophosphyl)-5,6-dihydro

henanthridin-3(10bH)-one (9i): white film (96%); 96% ee; Enantiomeric

excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 25 °C, flow rate:

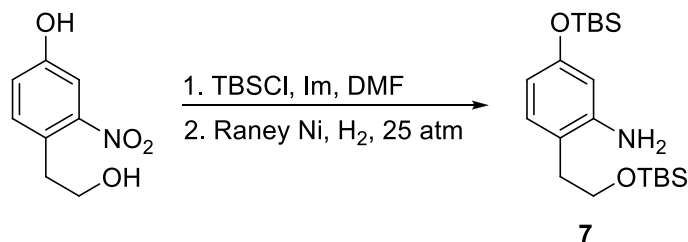
1 mL/min, hexane/isopropanol: 70/30, 254 nm, 5.64 min (*R*), 9.28 min (*S*); the absolute configurations of **9i** was assigned by analogy on the basis of compound **13**. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -88.9$ ($c = 0.5$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (500

MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.38 (d, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (dd, J = 10.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.91 (s, 1H), 4.90 (d, J = 16.7 Hz, 1H), 4.70 (dd, J = 16.7, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 6H), 2.68 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 6H), 1.53 (s, 3H); ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.2; ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 185.7, 162.0, 147.5, 137.5, 132.1 (d, J = 6.1 Hz), 128.2, 127.7, 127.3, 126.6, 123.6, 110.1 (d, J = 2.5 Hz), 50.3 (d, J = 4.3 Hz), 43.2, 37.7 (d, J = 4.7 Hz), 36.4 (d, J = 4.0 Hz), 26.3; ESI-MS: m/z 346.1 [M+H]⁺; HMRS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₁₈H₂₅O₂N₃P]⁺: 346.1679; found: 346.1679.



4. Total synthesis of (-)-Crinine

4.1 Synthesis of aniline **7**



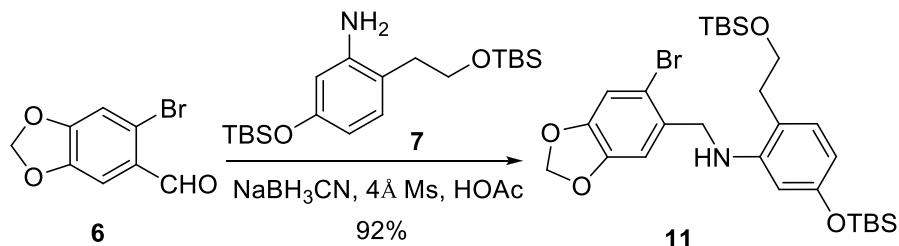
5-((*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-2-(2-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)ethyl)aniline (7**):** To a stirred solution of 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-nitrophenol (30 g, 0.16 mol, 1.0 equiv) (reference: H. M. Woodburn, C. F. Stuntz, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1950**, 72, 1361) and imidazole (33 g, 0.48 mol, 3.0 equiv) in DMF (200 mL) at 0 °C was added TBSCl (74 g, 0.48 mol, 3.0 equiv) over 10 min. The resulting mixture was stirred at rt for 2 h and then concentrated under reduced pressure. Water (200 mL) and EtOAc (200 mL) was added and the organic layer was separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (200 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with water (200 mL×3), brine (200 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, and concentrated to afford the crude TBS-protected product as light yellow oil (65 g), which was used for the next step without further purification.

To a solution of the above-obtained oil in MeOH (500 mL) was added Raney Ni (6.5 g) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at 40 °C under 25 atm of hydrogen pressure in a Parr apparatus for 6 h and then filtered through a pad of Celite. The Celite pad was washed with MeOH (50 mL×3). The combined filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to give a colorless oil. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: *n*-Hexane/EtOAc = 30/1) to afford aniline **7** (50.0 g, 0.13 mol, 79% yield over two steps) as colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.21 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (br s, 2H), 3.84 (t, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 2H), 2.72 (t, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 2H), 1.01 (s, 9H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 0.21 (s, 6H), 0.00 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.0,

146.6, 131.1, 118.4, 110.4, 107.6, 64.7, 34.6, 26.0, 25.8, 18.3, 18.2, -4.3, -5.5; ESI-MS: m/z 382.5 $[M+H]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[M+H, C_{20}H_{40}NO_2Si_2]^+$: 382.2598; found: 382.2586.

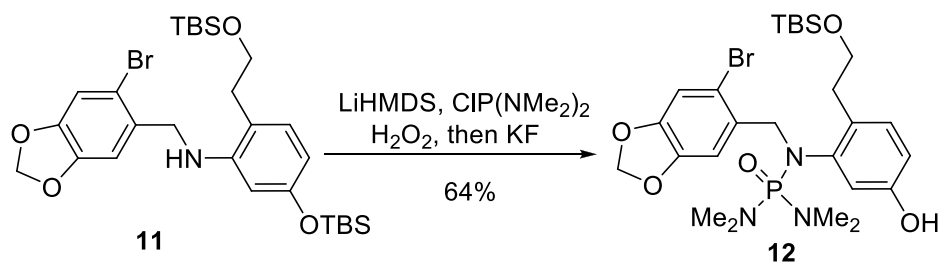
4.2 Total synthesis of crinine from aniline **7** and aldehyde **6**

Preparation of aniline **11**:



To a stirred solution of aniline **7** (50.0 g, 131 mmol), 6-bromopiperonal **6** (33.0 g, 144 mmol), 4 Å MS (5.0 g) and AcOH (7.5 mL, 131 mmol) in DCM (500 mL) at 0 °C was added in portions NaBH₃CN (10.7 g, 17.0 mmol) over 10 min. The resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and was then allowed to stir at rt for 1 h. After aniline **7** was completely consumed, the reaction mixture was quenched by addition of saturated NH₄Cl solution (200 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (200 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with water (200 mL×3), brine (200 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, concentrated, and purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: *n*-Hexane/EtOAc = 30/1) to afford aniline **11** (71.0 g, 92% yield) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.92 (s, 1H), 6.87 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.21-6.17 (m, 1H), 5.95-5.91 (m, 3H), 5.06 (br s, 1H), 4.28 (s, 2H), 3.87 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.78 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.10 (s, 6H), 0.02 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.3, 147.2, 147.6, 147.1, 131.7, 130.9, 118.3, 113.0, 113.7, 108.9, 103.8, 101.6, 64.9, 47.9, 35.0, 26.0, 25.8, 18.4, 18.3, -4.5, -5.4; ESI-MS: m/z 594.5 $[M+H]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[M+H, C_{28}H_{45}BrNO_4Si_2]^+$: 594.2070; found: 594.2050.

Preparation of phenol **12**

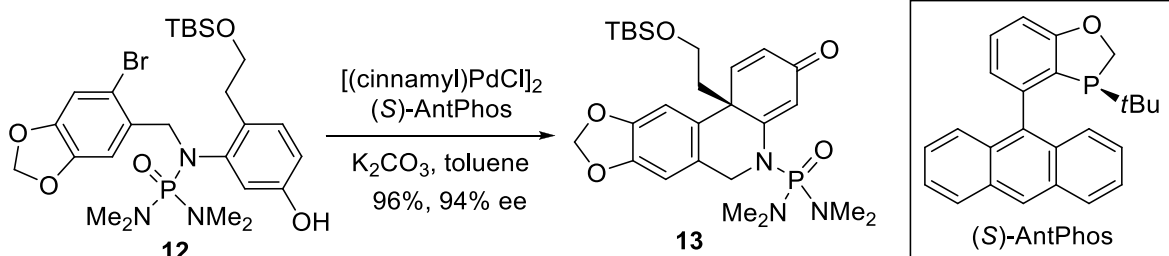


To a flame-dried Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was added aniline **11** (30.0 g, 50 mmol) and THF (300 mL). LiHMDS (75 mL, 75 mmol, 1.5 equiv, 1.0 M in *n*-hexane) was added dropwise over 30 min at -10 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. CIP(NMe₂)₂ (11.0 mL, 75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added dropwise and the resulting mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred overnight. To the mixture at 0 °C was added 30% H₂O₂ (20 mL) and the resulting mixture was further stirred at the same temperature for 30 min. A saturated NaHSO₃ solution (100 mL) was added carefully to quench the excess H₂O₂. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (100 mL×3). The combined organic phases were washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford light yellow oil, which was used for the next operation without further purification.

To a flame-dried Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was added potassium fluoride (4.4 g, 75 mmol, 1.5 equiv) and tetraethylene glycol (300 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 min. To the mixture was added the aforementioned yellow oil in EtOAc (5 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred at rt overnight, and then quenched with water (300 mL) and EtOAc (400 mL×3). The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was washed with EtOAc (200 mL×3). The combined organic phase was washed with water (200 mL×3), brine (200 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford crude phenol **12** (27.4 g) as a yellow solid, which was further recrystallized from *n*-hexane/DCM to afford pure **12** as white crystalline solid (19.7 g, 64%). m.p.

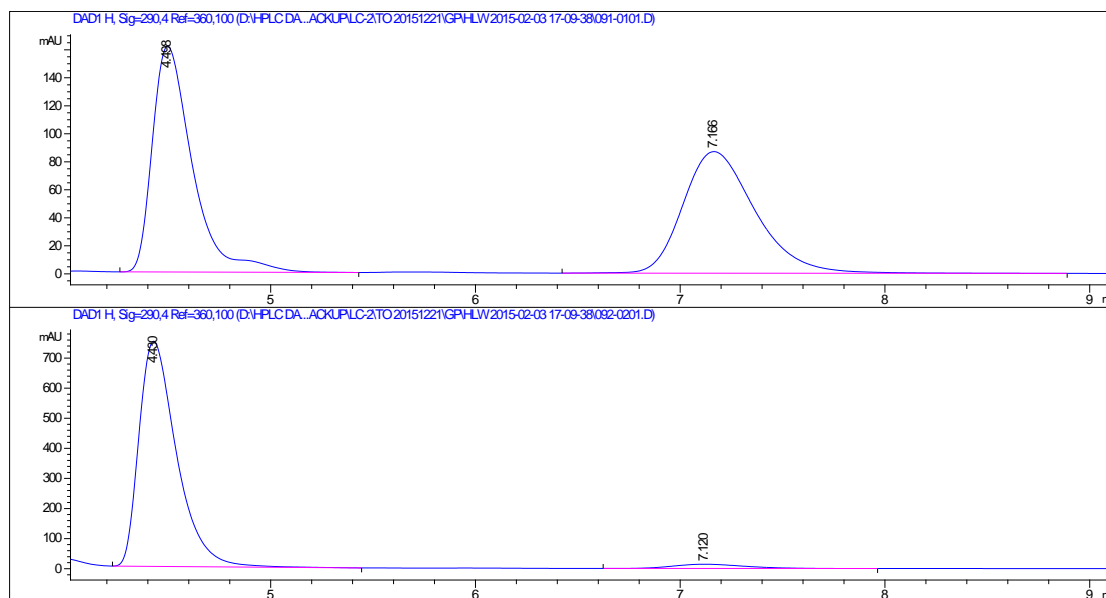
111-113 °C; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 10.41 (br s, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.07 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.69 (dd, $J = 8.4, 2.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.70 (s, 2H), 4.51 (d, $J = 11.0$ Hz, 2H), 3.80 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.85 (t, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.58 (br s, 12H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.04 (s, 6H); ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 21.3; ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 156.6, 147.4, 147.0, 141.4, 129.8, 126.3, 116.8, 114.8, 114.3, 112.0, 111.9, 101.4, 63.3, 54.5, 37.7, 33.2, 26.0, 18.3, -5.3; ESI-MS: m/z 614.5 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{42}\text{BrN}_3\text{O}_5\text{PSi}_2]^+$: 614.1815; found: 614.1810.

Preparation of cyclization product **13**

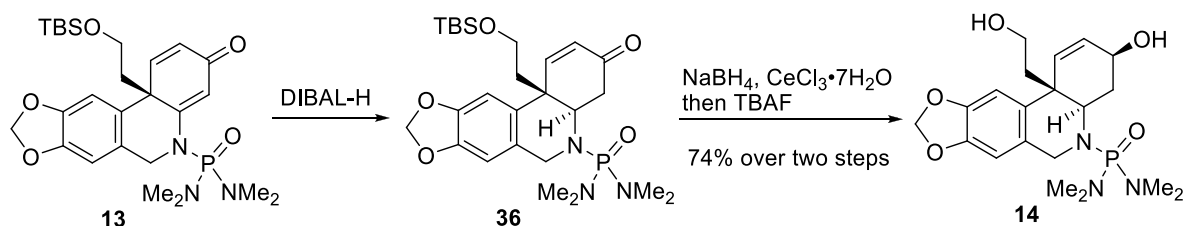


To a flame-dried Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged phenol **12** (922 mg, 1.5 mmol), $[\text{Pd}(\text{cinnamyl})\text{Cl}]_2$ (7.8 mg, 0.015 mmol, 1 mol %), (*S*)-AntPhos (11.1 mg, 0.030 mmol, 2 mol %), and K_2CO_3 (414 mg, 3.0 mmol, 2 equiv). The mixture was pumped and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Toluene (15 mL) was added via syringe and the resulting mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 12 h and then diluted with EtOAc (30 mL). The mixture was filtered over a pad of Celite and the filtrate was concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: Hexane/EtOAc = 1/1) to afford the compound **13** (745 mg, 96%, 94% ee) as a light yellow film. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{28} = -109.0$ ($c = 0.26$, CHCl_3); Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 25 °C, flow rate: 1 mL/min, hexane/isopropanol: 70/30, 254 nm, 4.49 min (*R*), 7.17 min (*S*); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.40 (dd, $J = 10.3, 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.31 (dd, $J = 10.2, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 5.93 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.91 (s, 2H), 4.67 (d, $J = 16.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.54 (dd, $J = 16.7, 4.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.50-3.45 (m, 1H), 3.45-3.38 (m, 1H), 2.70 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 6H), 2.63 (d, $J = 10.5$ Hz, 6H), 2.07-2.00 (m, 1H), 1.99-1.92 (m,

1H), 0.80 (s, 9H), -0.07 (s, 6H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 185.7, 160.8, 160.7, 147.6, 147.1, 146.8, 129.5, 127.6, 125.7, 125.6, 110.9, 110.8, 106.8, 105.7, 101.4, 59.2, 50.3, 50.2, 45.9, 45.9, 40.2, 37.8, 36.4, 25.8, 18.0, -5.5. ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 19.3; ESI-MS: m/z 534.6 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5\text{PSi}]^+$: 534.2553; found: 534.2540.



Preparation of diol 14



To a stirred solution of compound **13** (10.7 g, 20.0 mmol) in THF (150 mL) at $-60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ was added dropwise DIBAL-H (26.0 mL, 26.0 mmol, 1.3 equiv, 1.0 M in *n*-hexane). After completion of addition, the reaction mixture was stirred at $-60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 30 min and then quenched by addition of saturated potassium sodium tartaric acid solution (200 mL). The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 1 h. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (100 mL \times 3). The combined

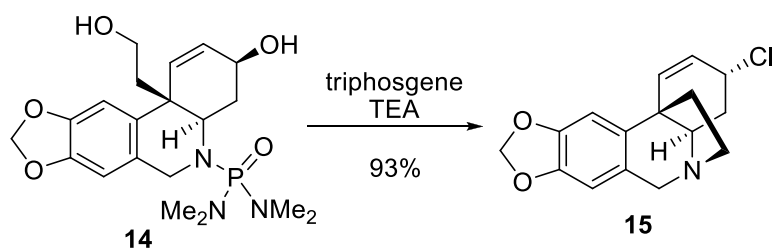
organic layer was washed with brine (150 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: EtOAc/actone = 5:1) to afford ketone **36** (8.3 g) as a light yellow solid. $[\alpha]_D^{28} = -102.6$ ($c = 0.27$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.49 (d, $J = 10.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 5.94 (d, $J = 1.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.91-5.87 (m, 2H), 4.22 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.15 (dd, $J = 15.8, 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.81-3.75 (m, 1H), 3.71-3.63 (m, 1H), 3.63-3.54 (m, 2H), 2.65 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 6H), 2.57 (d, $J = 9.5$ Hz, 6H), 2.28-2.20 (m, 2H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.03 (s, 3H), 0.00 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.3, 158.2, 146.4, 146.3, 131.1, 127.4 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz), 126.1, 107.7, 105.8, 101.1, 61.1 (d, $J = 2.8$ Hz), 59.6, 51.6 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz), 43.7, 40.8, 39.2, 36.8 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz), 36.6 (d, $J = 4.9$ Hz), 25.9, 18.1, -5.33, -5.52; ESI-MS: m/z 536.6 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{43}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5\text{PSi}]^+$: 536.2710; found: 536.2691.

To a stirred solution of the above product (6.0 g, 11.2 mmol) in MeOH (110 mL) was added $\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (8.3 g, 22.4 mmol) at 0 °C. After 10 min, NaBH_4 (560 mg, 14.6 mmol) was added in small portions and the resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. The reaction was quenched by addition of acetone (50 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred at rt for additional 15 min, and then poured into H_2O (100 mL) and stirred for 30 min. The mixture was concentrated to remove most of organic solvent and the residue was further treated with DCM (100 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (50 mL \times 4). The combined organic layer was washed with brine (100 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, and concentrated to afford a light yellow oil, which was used for the next operation without further purification.

To the aforementioned yellow oil in THF (50 mL) at 0 °C was added TBAF (22.4 mL, 22.4 mmol 1.0 M in THF) over 10 min. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for 6 h and then concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: DCM/MeOH = 10:1) to afford the desired diol **14** (4.5 g, 74% over two steps) as a white solid. **14**: m.p. 63-66 °C; $[\alpha]_D^{28} = -116.6$ ($c = 0.25$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.45 (s, 1H), 6.14 (d, $J = 10.3$ Hz,

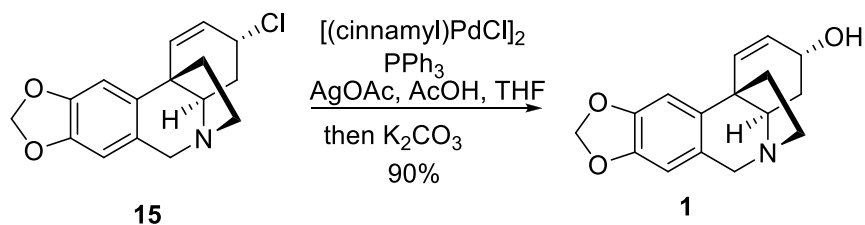
1H), 5.90 (dd, $J = 6.0, 1.4$ Hz, 2H), 5.73 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 4.27 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.22 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1H), 4.10 (dd, $J = 15.6, 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.73-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.64-3.57 (m, 1H), 3.27-3.20 (m, 1H), 2.68 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 6H), 2.63 (d, $J = 9.3$ Hz, 6H), 2.54-2.47 (m, 1H), 2.33-2.25 (m, 1H), 2.08-2.01 (m, 1H), 1.81-1.73 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 146.2, 145.8, 135.1, 132.5, 130.8, 125.9, 106.3, 105.7, 100.9, 68.3, 60.2, 52.1, 51.0, 42.1, 41.8, 36.9 (d, $J = 4.6$ Hz), 36.5 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz), 33.2; ^{31}P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 20.8; ESI-MS: m/z 423.4 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_3\text{O}_5\text{P}]^+$: 423.1910; found: 423.1922.

Preparation of Compound 15



δ 146.2, 145.8, 137.8, 132.3, 126.5, 126.1, 107.0, 102.7, 100.8, 62.5, 62.3, 53.8, 53.4, 44.6, 44.1, 33.0;
ESI-MS: m/z 290.1 $[M+H]^+$; HMRS (ESI) calculated for $[M+H, C_{16}H_{16}NO_2Cl]^+$: 290.1825; found:
290.1823.

Preparation of (-)-Crinine



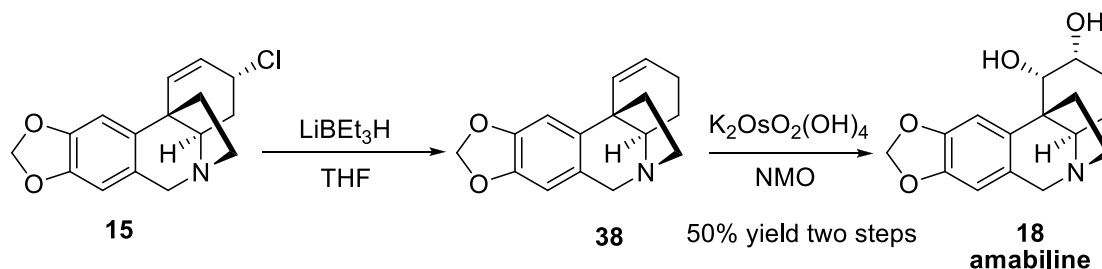
To a flame-dried Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged **15** (1.3 g, 4.5 mmol), $[Pd(cinnamyl)Cl]_2$ (118.8 mg, 0.23 mmol, 5 mol %), PPh_3 (118.0 mg, 0.45 mmol, 10 mol %), and $AgOAc$ (901.3 mg, 5.4 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The mixture was pumped and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. THF/AcOH (10/1, v/v, 20 mL) was added via syringe and the resulting mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h. The reaction mixture was filtered over a pad of Celite and the filtrate was concentrated. The residue was dissolved with DCM (100 mL), washed with saturated $NaHCO_3$ solution, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a yellow oil, which was used directly for next operation without further purification.

To a stirred solution of the aforementioned oil in MeOH (20 mL) was added K_2CO_3 (3.4 g, 24.8 mmol, 5.5 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at rt overnight and then filtered through a pad of Celite. The Celite pad was washed with MeOH (20 mL x 3) and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was diluted with $CHCl_3$ (50 mL), washed with saturated $NaHCO_3$ solution (50 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: DCM/MeOH = 4:1) to afford **1** (1.1 g, 90 %) as a light yellow solid. $[\alpha]_D^{28} = -25.8$ ($c = 0.25$, $CHCl_3$) (literature: $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -25.8$ ($c = 0.24$, $CHCl_3$), natural;² $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -26.1$ ($c =$

0.26, CHCl₃), synthetic²); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.84 (s, 1H), 6.58 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 6.47(s, 1H), 5.95 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 5.88 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 4.39 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 4.36-4.31(m, 1H), 3.76 (d, *J* = 16.8 Hz, 1H), 3.41-3.30 (m , 2H), 2.88 (ddd, *J* = 14.7, 8.8, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (ddd, *J* = 14.7, 8.5, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 2.01-1.88 (m, 2H), 1.73 (td, *J* = 13.6, 4.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.1, 145.7, 138.3, 132.3, 127.4, 126.4, 107.0, 102.8, 100.7, 64.1, 62.8, 62.4, 53.6, 44.2, 32.7; ESI-MS: *m/z* 272.1 [M+H]⁺; HMRS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₁₆H₁₈NO₃]⁺: 272.1287; found: 272.1284. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR were in full agreement with reported data.³

5. Synthesis of buphanisine (16), epibuphanisine (17) and amabiline (18)

5.1 Synthesis of amabiline (18)

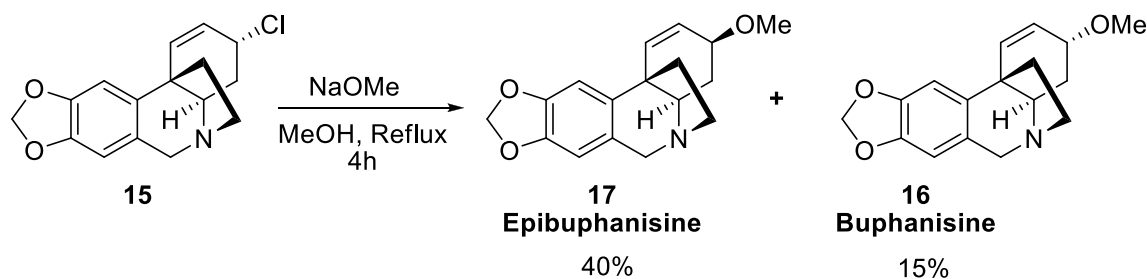


To a solution of compound **15** (66 mg, 0.228 mmol, 1 equiv) in THF (2 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise a solution of LiBEt_3H in THF (0.456 mmol, 1.0 M, 2 equiv) over 2 minutes. The desired mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 8 h. After cooled to rt, the reaction was quenched by addition of 1 *N* NaOH (2 mL). Dichloromethane (5 mL) was added and the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (5 mL \times 2). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, concentrated, and purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (Eluents: EtOAc/MeOH/ NEt_3 = 100:5:0.5) to give compound **38** (56 mg) as a white foam. **38**: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{28} = -61.1$ ($c = 0.56$, EtOH); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.82 (s, 1H), 6.47 (s, 1H), 6.36 (d, $J = 9.8$ Hz, 1H), 5.86 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2H), 5.77-5.75 (m, 1H), 4.38 (d, $J = 16.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.76 (d, $J = 16.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.38-3.32 (m, 1H), 3.08 (dd, $J = 13.0, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.87-2.82 (m, 1H), 2.21-2.10 (m, 3H), 2.02-1.96 (m, 1H), 1.77-1.75 (m, 1H), 1.62-1.54 (m, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 146.1, 145.6, 139.6, 128.4, 126.9, 126.4, 106.9, 103.1, 100.8, 67.3, 62.6, 52.8, 45.4, 44.3, 25.0, 24.6; ESI-MS: 256.2 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2\text{N}]^+$: 256.1332; found: 256.1330.

To a solution of compound **38** (23 mg, 0.090 mmol, 1 equiv) and citric acid (34 mg, 0.180 mmol, 2 equiv) in *t*BuOH (1.2 mL) at rt was added NMO (21 mg, 0.180 mmol, 2 equiv) in water (0.3 mL) and $\text{K}_2\text{OsO}_2(\text{OH})_4$ (1.6 mg, 0.0045 mmol, 0.05 equiv). The resulting mixture was stirred at rt overnight. The

reaction was quenched by addition of saturated Na₂SO₃ solution (5 mL) and dichloromethane (5 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (5 mL×2). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, concentrated, and purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (Eluents: EtOAc/MeOH/NEt₃ = 100:5:0.5) to give amabiline **18** (13 mg, 50% yield for two steps) as a colorless oil. **18**: [α]_D²⁸ = -31.8 (c = 0.053, EtOH), literature [α]_D²⁸ = -31.6 (c = 0.28, EtOH)³; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.80 (s, 1H), 6.46 (s, 1H), 5.92-5.91 (m, 2H), 4.57 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 4.11-4.07 (m, 1H), 3.72 (d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1H), 3.42-3.31 (m, 2H), 2.85-2.78 (m, 1H), 2.10 (ddd, *J* = 14.0, 8.1, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 1.93-1.83 (m, 2H), 1.81-1.77 (m, 2H), 1.37 (ddd, *J* = 26.1, 12.6, 5.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.8, 145.7, 137.2, 127.2, 107.1, 103.8, 101.0, 69.7, 69.1, 63.3, 62.1, 51.0, 49.8, 37.9, 27.0, 25.8; ESI-MS: 290.0 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₁₆H₂₀O₄N]⁺: 290.1387; found: 290.1387. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR were in full agreement with reported data.³

5.2 Synthesis of Buphanisine (16) and Epibuphanisine (17)

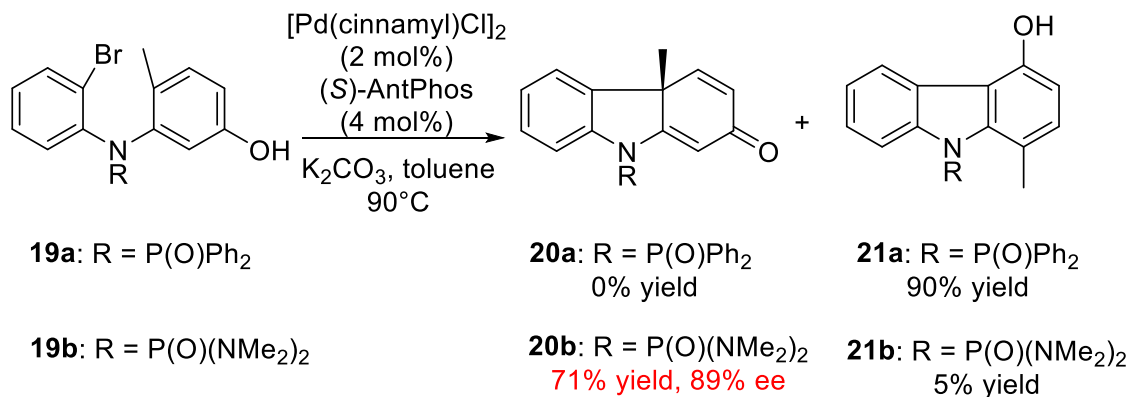


To a solution of compound **15** (47 mg, 0.163 mmol, 1 equiv) in MeOH at rt was added MeONa (10.5 mg, 0.195 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The desired mixture was stirred at reflux for 4 h. After cooled to rt, the mixture was quenched by addition of saturated NH₄Cl aqueous solution (2 mL) and dichloromethane (5 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (5 mL×2). The

combined organic layer was washed with brine. The residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (Eluents: EtOAc/MeOH/NEt₃ = 100:5:0.5) to give compound **17** (epibuphanisine, 18.6 mg, 40%) and compound **16** (buphanisine, 7.0 mg, 15%), respectively, as oils. **Epibuphanisine (17)**: $[\alpha]_D^{28} = -112.9$ ($c = 0.47$, EtOH) (literature: $[\alpha]_D^{22} = 129$ ($c = 0.224$, EtOH) for (+)-epibuphanisine)⁴; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.82 (s), 6.51 (s), 6.40 (dd, $J = 10.3, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.92 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.91 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.85 (d, $J = 10.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.52 (d, $J = 20.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.02-3.97 (m, 1H), 3.88 (d, $J = 20.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.63-3.56 (m, $J = 1$ Hz), 3.42 (s, 3H), 3.34 (dd, $J = 13.4, 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.00 (ddd, $J = 13.2, 7.8, 5.9$ Hz, 1H), 2.44 (br s, 1H), 2.27-2.12 (m, 2H), 1.60 (dd, $J = 24.9, 11.7$ Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.8, 146.4, 137.9, 129.5, 128.4, 107.2, 103.1, 101.2, 76.0, 67.0, 61.7, 56.3, 53.2, 45.0, 44.3, 30.4; ESI-MS: 286.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₁₇H₂₀O₃N]⁺: 286.1438; found: 286.1439. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR were in full agreement with reported data.⁴

Buphanisine (16): $[\alpha]_D^{28} = -24.8$ ($c = 0.25$, CHCl₃) (literature: $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +23.0$ ($c = 0.8$, CHCl₃)⁵; $[\alpha]_D = +18.0$ ($c = 2.1$, CHCl₃) for (+)-buphanisine)⁶; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.84 (s, 1H), 6.61 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.48 (s, 1H), 5.97 (dd, $J = 10.0, 5.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.88 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.42 (d, $J = 16.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.83-3.77 (m, 2H), 3.42-3.33 (m, 2H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 2.94-2.87 (m, 1H), 2.17 (ddd, $J = 12.6, 10.4, 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 2.11 (d, $J = 13.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.96-1.89 (m, 1H), 1.61 (td, $J = 13.8, 3.8$ Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 146.0, 145.6, 138.5, 133.0, 126.4, 125.3, 106.9, 102.9, 100.7, 72.7, 63.1, 62.4, 56.5, 53.6, 44.3, 44.3, 28.9; ESI-MS: 286.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₁₇H₂₀O₃N]⁺: 286.1438; found: 286.1440. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR were in full agreement with reported data.⁵

6. Model reactions using diarylamine substrates



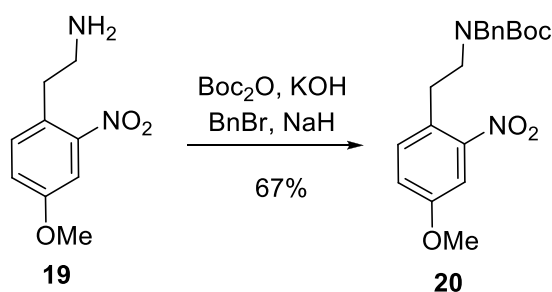
To demonstrate whether an asymmetric dearomative cyclization could be applied to the enantioselective synthesis of aspidospermidine, model reactions were conducted initially to investigate the influence of N-R protecting groups on enantioselective dearomative cyclization for the synthesis of chiral carbazolone products. Bromo aniline substrates **19a** and **19b** were prepared and subjected to dearomative cyclization conditions employed in crinine synthesis with a Pd-(S)-AntPhos catalyst. We were pleased to find that substrate **19b** led to the formation of the desired chiral carbazolone **20b** in 71% yield and 89% ee. The N-P(O)(NMe₂)₂ protecting group in **19b** again proved to be critical for excellent chemoselectivity. In contrast, substrate **19a** bearing an N-P(O)Ph₂ group did not provide the desired product **20a**.

20b: $[\alpha]_D^{28} = -368.2$ ($c = 0.21$, $CHCl_3$); 1H NMR (500 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 7.61 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.33 (dd, $J = 9.6, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.06 (t, $J = 7.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.24 (dd, $J = 9.6, 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.95 (d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.78 (s, 3H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 1.62 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 187.2, 173.2, 145.1, 144.0, 133.2, 128.8, 128.7, 123.2, 120.9, 115.5, 106.7, 50.7, 37.9, 36.7, 36.6; ESI-MS: 332.2 $[M+H]^+$; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $[M+Na, C_{17}H_{22}N_3NaO_2P]^+$: 354.1342; found:

354.1345. Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 25 °C, flow rate: 1 mL/min, hexanes/isopropanol: 80/20, 254 nm, 8.95 min (*S*), 12.69 min (*R*)).

7. Total synthesis of aspidospermidine (2)

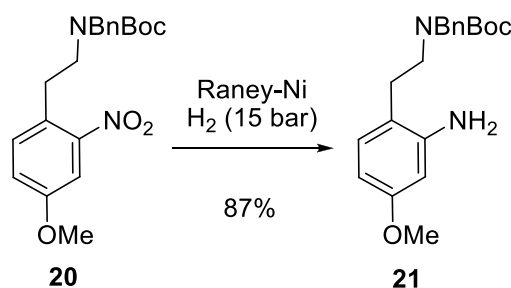
Preparation of phenol ether 20



To a solution of compound **19** (5.0 g, 25.5 mol, 1 equiv) in dioxane (40 mL) was added NaOH (1.22 g, 30.5 mmol, 1.2 equiv) in water (20 mL) and dropwise $(\text{Boc})_2\text{O}$ (5.78 g, 26 mmol, 1 equiv) over 5 min at 0 °C. The solution was stirred for 2 h and was quenched by addition of H_2O (20 mL) and DCM (40 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (30 mL \times 3), the combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. To the above residue (3.0 g, 10.1 mmol, 1 equiv) in dry DMF (20 mL) was added NaH (811 mg, 20.2 mmol, 2 equiv, 60 wt% in mineral oil) at 0 °C. The desired mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 40 min, and then BnBr (3.4 g, 20.2 mmol, 2 equiv) was added at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at rt for 4 h and the reaction was quenched by addition of saturated NH_4Cl (20 mL) and hexane/EtOAc (100 mL, 1/1). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with hexane/EtOAc (1/1) (20 mL \times 3), the combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (Eluents: Hexane/ EtOAc = 10:1) to give the title compound **20** (6.6 g, 67%) as an oil. **20**: ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.44 (br s,

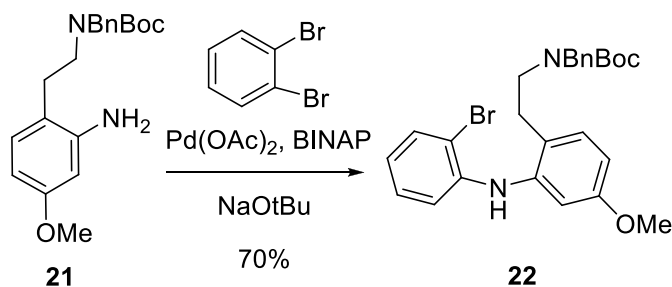
1H), 7.32-7.22 (m, 5H), 7.10-7.05 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.38 (m, 2H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.47-3.40 (m, 2H), 3.07-2.96 (m, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 158.6, 155.9 (155.6), 149.8, 138.6 (138.4), 133.8 (133.7), 128.6, 128.1, 127.6, 127.4, 126.4, 120.1, 109.4 (109.4), 79.9, 55.9, 51.1 (50.1), 47.7 (47.3), 31.6 (31.1), 28.5; ESI-MS: 409.2 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; HRMS (EI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{Na}, \text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{NaO}_5]^+$: 409.1743; found: 409.1734.

Preparation of amine **21**



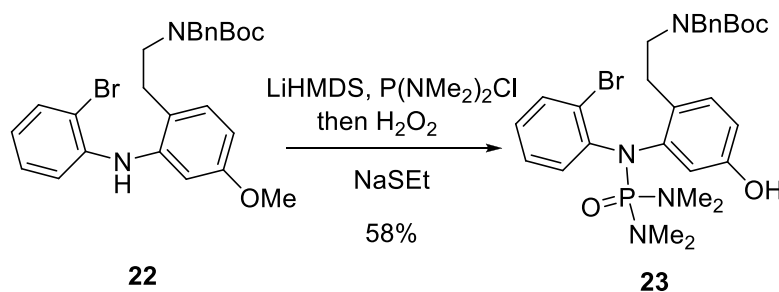
To a solution of compound **20** (3.3 g, 8.5 mmol, 1 equiv) in EtOAc /MeOH (60 mL, 1/1) was added Raney nickel (800 mg) and the desired mixture was stirred for 90 min under 15 atm hydrogen atmosphere at rt . The mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and the catalyst was washed with EtOAc (20 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the desired compound **21** (2.6 g, 87%) as a white solid. m.p. 75-77 °C; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 4H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.26-6.23 (m, 2H), 4.44 (br s, 2H), 4.27 (s, 1H), 3.74 (s, 3H), 3.61 (br s, 1H), 3.29-3.27 (m, 2H), 2.67-2.58 (m, 2H), 1.55-1.50 (m, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 159.5, 155.9, 146.5 (145.6), 138.7 (138.4), 131.1 (131.0), 128.6, 128.0, 127.4, 115.7 (115.4), 104.0 (103.2), 101.3 (101.0), 80.0, 55.1, 51.9 (50.7), 47.4 (46.3), 30.3, 28.5; ESI-MS: 357.5 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; HRMS (EI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_3]^+$: 357.2173; found: 357.2177.

Preparation of diaryl amine **22**



To a flame dried Schlenk tube was added compound **21** (520 mg, 1.46 mmol, 1 equiv), Pd(OAc)₂ (32 mg, 0.146 mmol, 0.1 equiv), BINAP (21 mg, 0.146 mmol, 0.1 equiv), *t*BuONa (210 mg, 2.19 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The mixture was pumped and backfilled with nitrogen for three times. Dibromobenzene (414 mg, 1.75 mmol, 1.2 equiv) was added via syringe followed by addition of toluene (5 mL). The mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 12 h. After cooled to rt, EtOAc (5 mL) was added and the mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (Eluents: Hexane/ EtOAc = 10:1) to give the title compound **22** (520 mg, 70%) as an oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.21 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.06 (m, 4H), 6.92-6.84 (m, 1H), 6.76-6.71 (m, 2H), 6.64 (br s, 1H), 6.11-5.84 (m, 1H), 4.39-4.31 (m, 2H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.37-3.30 (m, 2H), 2.79-2.73 (m, 2H), 1.45 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.2, 155.9 (155.6), 142.5, 140.9 (140.7), 138.6 (138.4), 132.9, 131.7, 128.5, 128.3, 128.0 (127.4), 127.2, 125.1 (124.5), 120.7, 116.5 (115.9), 112.3 (118.3), 110.2 (109.6), 108.9 (108.4), 79.8, 55.4, 51.2 (50.2), 47.5 (47.1), 30.1 (29.7), 28.5; ESI-MS: 511.4 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₂₇H₃₂BrN₂O₃]⁺: 511.1591; found: 511.1592.

Preparation of phenol 23

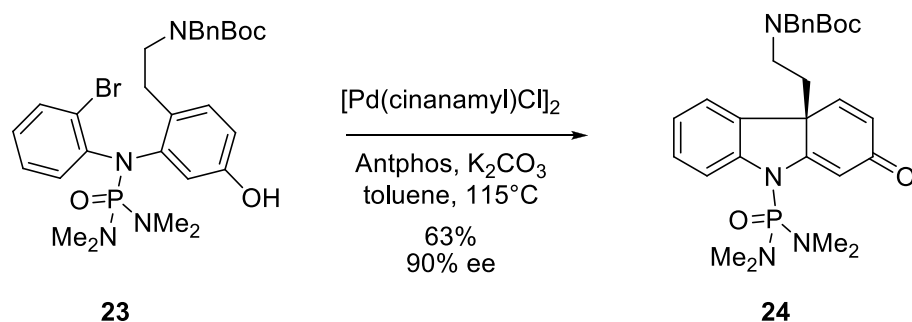


To a solution of compound **22** (550 mg, 1.08 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (15 mL) was added dropwise LiHMDS (1.0 M, 1.40 mmol, 1.3 equiv) at -15°C and the mixture was stirred at -15 °C for 1 h. To the solution was added dropwise P(NMe₂)₂Cl (211 mg, 1.40 mmol, 1.3 equiv) at -15°C and the mixture was stirred at rt overnight. To the mixture at 0°C was added 30% aqueous H₂O₂ (158 mg, 1.4 mmol, 1.3 equiv) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 0.5 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous Na₂SO₃ and EtOAc (20 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was washed with EtOAc (20 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried with sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was used in the next step without further purification.

To a solution of NaH (87 mg, 2.18 mmol, 2 equiv, 60 wt% in mineral oil) in DMF (2 mL) was added dropwise HSEt (161 µL, 2.18 mmol, 2 equiv) at 0 °C and the mixture was stirred at rt for 10 min. To the solution was added a solution of the above crude compound in DMF (700 mg, 1.09 mmol, 1.0 equiv) at rt and the mixture was stirred at 180 °C for 1 h. After being cooled to rt, the reaction was quenched by addition of MeOH and the solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. Saturated NH₄Cl (10 mL) and DCM (20mL) was added. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (20 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with brine, dried with sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography (eluent:

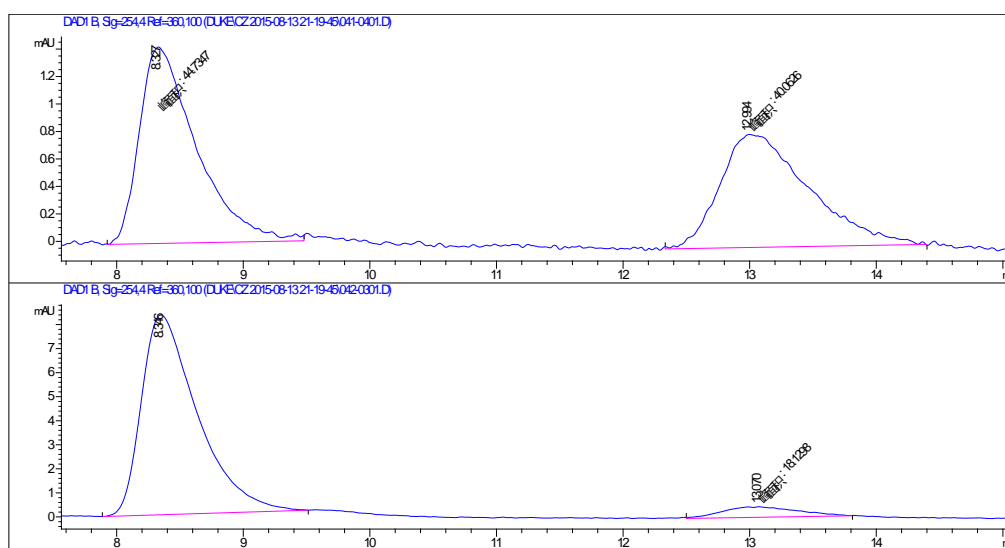
DCM/MeOH = 20/1) to afford compound **23** (400 mg, 58%) as a white solid. m.p. 162-165 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.80 (s, 1H), 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (br s, 1H), 7.24-7.16 (m, 3H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.99-6.88 (m, 3H), 6.81 (br s, 1H), 6.66 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.12-4.07 (m, 2H), 2.84 (br s, 2H), 2.75 (br s, 1H), 2.64 (br s, 1H), 2.51 (s, 6H), 2.50 (s, 6H), 1.47-1.40 (m, 9H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.2, 155.9, 142.6, 138.5, 134.5, 132.7, 131.6, 128.3, 127.9, 127.1, 126.8, 126.6, 123.2, 117.6, 114.1, 79.7, 50.9, 47.4, 37.4, 29.4, 28.6; ESI-MS: 631.6 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₃₀H₄₁BrN₄O₄P]⁺: 631.2043; found: 631.2024.

Synthesis of tricyclic skeleton (**24**)

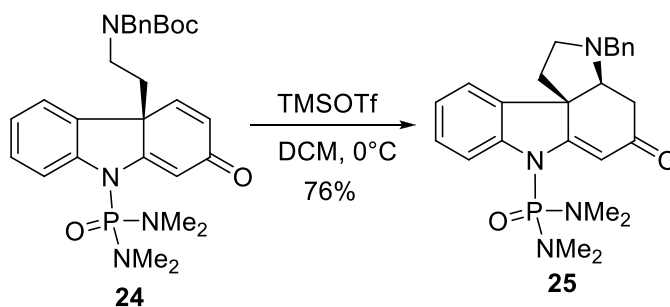


To a flame-dried Schlenk tube was added compound **23** (500 mg, 0.79 mmol, 1 equiv), [Pd(cinamyl)Cl]₂ (8.22 mg, 0.016 mmol, 0.02 equiv), AntPhos (11.7 mg, 0.032 mmol, 0.04 equiv) and K₂CO₃ (164 mg, 1.19 mmol, 1.5 equiv). The mixture was evacuated and back-filled with nitrogen for three times. Toluene (8 mL) was added via syringe and the mixture was stirred at 115 °C overnight. After cooled to rt, EtOAc (20 mL) was added and the mixture was through a pad of Celite and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (Eluents: EtOAc/MeOH = 20:1) to give the title compound **24** (274 mg, 63%) as a white solid. m.p. 98-99 °C; 90% ee; Enantiomeric excess was determined by chiral HPLC (Chiralpak AD-H, 25 °C, flow rate: 1 mL/min, hexane/isopropanol: 80/20, 254 nm, 8.32 min (*S*), 12.99 min (*R*)); The absolute configuration was determined according to the X-ray

crystal structure of **29**; $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -255.4$ ($c = 0.53$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.33-7.19 (m, 6H), 7.07-7.04 (m, 3H), 6.26 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 4.30-4.21 (m, 2H), 3.37-3.07 (m, 2H), 2.70-2.68 (m, 12H), 1.95-1.87 (m, 2H), 1.38 (m, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 186.8, 171.1, 155.4, 144.3, 143.4, 137.9, 129.8, 128.9, 128.7, 128.0, 127.5, 127.3, 123.0, 121.9 (d, $J = 25.2$ Hz), 115.4 (d, $J = 7.6$ Hz), 107.2 (d, $J = 73.1$ Hz), 80.3, 50.4 (d, $J = 47.9$ Hz), 46.9 (d, $J = 228$ Hz), 42.4 (d, $J = 52.9$ Hz), 36.69, 36.66, 36.58, 36.54, 28.5; ESI-MS: 573.6 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{Na}, \text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{39}\text{N}_4\text{NaO}_4\text{P}]^+$: 573.2608; found: 573.2608.

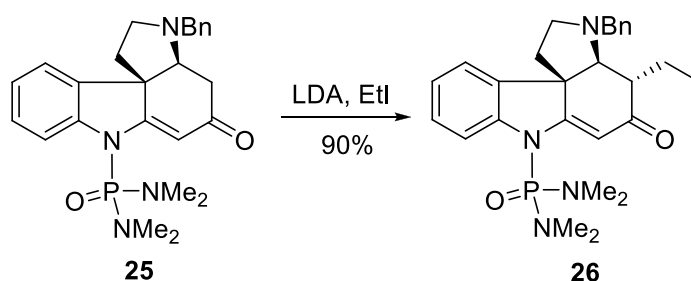


Preparation of compound 25



To a solution of compound **24** (280 mg, 0.509 mmol, 1 equiv) in DCM (12 mL) at 0°C was added TMSOTf (564 mg, 2.54 mmol, 5 equiv) and the resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 5 min. The reaction was quenched by adding saturated NaHCO₃ (20 mL) until PH > 7. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3×10 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with saturated NH₄Cl (aq), dried over sodium sulfate, concentrated and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (Eluent: DCM/MeOH = 20:1) to give the title compound **25** (174 mg, 76%). **25**: [α]_D²⁷ = -252.1 (c = 0.47, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (s, 1H), 3.87 (s, 2H), 3.67 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 3.32-3.28 (m, 1H), 2.87-2.82 (m, 1H), 2.72-2.70 (m, 9H), 2.60 (dd, *J* = 17.5, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (d, *J* = 17.1, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 2.41-2.36 (m, 1H), 2.11-2.08 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.3, 171.0 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz), 142.9 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 138.6, 137.0 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz), 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.2, 123.5 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 114.0, 106.0, 64.0, 54.8, 54.0 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 49.0, 41.7, 36.6, 36.5, 36.43, 36.4, 34.0; ESI-MS: 451.6 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₂₅H₃₂N₄O₂P]⁺: 451.2257.

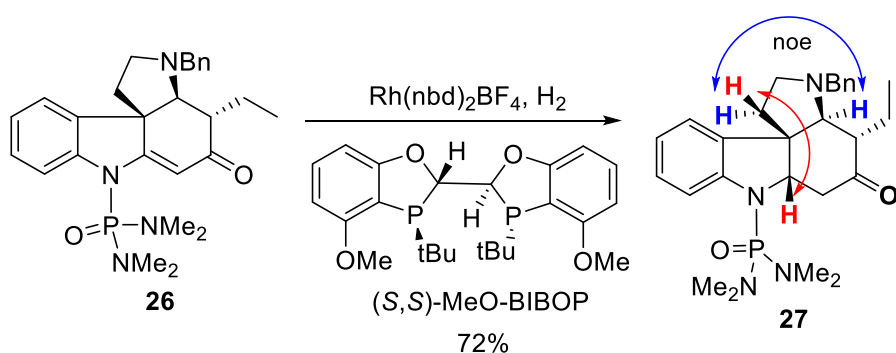
Preparation of compound 26



To a solution of compound **25** (150 mg, 0.33 mmol, 1 equiv) in THF (5 mL) was added dropwise LDA (0.66 mL, 1.0 M in THF, 0.66 mmol, 2 equiv) at -40 °C over 3 min and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C

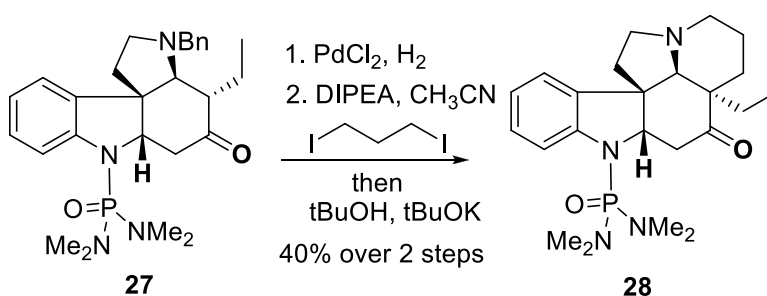
for 60 min, followed by dropwise addition of EtI (103 mg, 0.66 mmol, 2 equiv). The reaction solution was stirred at -78 °C for 60 min and then at rt overnight. The reaction was quenched by addition of saturated NH₄Cl (aq) (10 mL) and DCM (10 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3×10 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with saturated NH₄Cl (aq), dried over sodium sulfate, concentrated and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (Eluent: EA/MeOH = 30: 1) to give the title compound **26** (143 mg, 90%). **26** : [α]_D²⁶ = -169.8 (c = 0.37, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2 H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.06 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 4.07 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1 H), 2.81-2.69 (m, 1H), 2.75 (s, 3H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.72 (s, 3H), 2.71 (s, 3H), 2.56 (td, *J* = 6.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.11-1.99 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.55 (m, 2H), 1.42-1.32 (m, 1H), 0.79 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 201.3, 170.2, 143.1 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 138.8, 137.2 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 128.9, 128.5, 128.3, 127.3, 123.2, 122.2, 114.6, 103.7, 55.6, 57.3, 54.8 (d, *J* = 6.1 Hz), 50.7, 49.2, 47.9, 36.6, 36.5, 27.8, 11.1; ESI-MS: 479.4 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₂₇H₃₆N₄O₂P]⁺: 479.2670; found: 479.2569.

Preparation of compound 27



To a 5 mL dry tube in glove box was added Rh(nbd)₂BF₄ (3.13 mg, 8.4 μmol, 0.05 equiv) and (*S,S*)-MeO-BIBOP (5.04 mg, 8.4 μmol, 0.05 equiv) followed by addition of THF (1 mL). The mixture was stirred at rt for 15 min. the solution of compound **26** (80 mg, 0.167 mmol, 1 equiv) in THF (2 mL) was added. The solution was stirred at 35 °C under 600 psi H₂ atmosphere for 24 h. The reaction was stopped by releasing of H₂. The solution was concentrated and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (Eluents: EA /MeOH = 30:1) to give the title compound **27** (58 mg, 72%). **27**: [α]_D²⁶ = 26.8 (c = 0.7, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32 -7.31 (m, 5H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.47-4.72 (m, 1H), 4.21 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.43 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.06-3.00 (m, 1H), 2.87 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.72 (s, 3H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.57-2.45 (m, 3H), 2.19-2.12 (m, 1H), 1.84-1.77 (m, 1H), 1.61-1.53 (m, 2H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 210.9, 143.9 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 139.0, 136.5 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.0, 123.5, 121.2, 113.4, 69.1, 67.2 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 58.4, 54.4, 53.8 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 50.6, 42.1, 38.5, 36.7, 36.7, 36.6, 36.5, 21.8, 12.2; ESI-MS: 481.5 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₂₇H₃₈N₄O₂P]⁺: 481.2727; found: 481.2722.

Preparation of compound 28

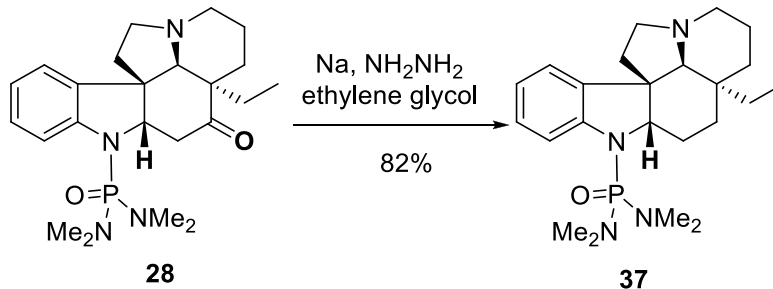


A mixture of **27** (42 mg, 0.087 mmol, 1 equiv), PdCl₂ (4.6 mg, 0.026 μmol, 0.3 equiv) and MeOH (4 mL) was stirred at 30 °C under 1 atm hydrogen atmosphere for 12 h. The mixture was filtrated through a pad of

Celite. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was directly used for next step without further purification.

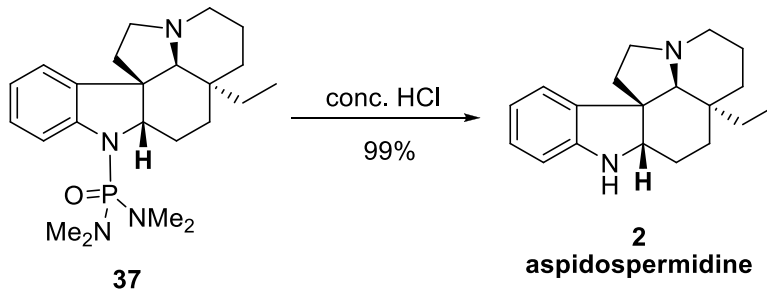
To a solution of the above compound (24 mg, 0.0613 mmol, 1 equiv) in CH₃CN (0.3 mL) under nitrogen was added DIPEA (79 mg, 0.613 mmol, 10 equiv) and 1,3-diiodopropane (296 mg, 0.613 mmol, 10 equiv). The mixture was stirred at 50°C overnight. After being cooled to rt, *t*-BuOH (0.2 mL) and *t*-BuOK (13.7 mg, 0.12 mmol, 2 equiv) was added to the reaction system at 0 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h. The reaction was quenched by addition of DCM (4 mL) and H₂O (2 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3×3 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with saturated NH₄Cl (aq), dried over sodium sulfate, concentrated. and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (Eluent: DCM/MeOH/NEt₃ = 95:5:1) to give the title compound **28** (10.5 mg, 40 %). **28**: [α]_D²⁶ = 32.1 (c = 0.47, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 4.35-4.31 (m, 1H), 3.13 (td, *J* = 9.0, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (d, *J* = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 2.78 (dd, *J* = 10.5, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.72 (s, 3H), 2.68 (s, 3H), 2.66 (s, 3H), 2.58 (dd, *J* = 14.6, 9.7 Hz, 1H), 2.42-2.39 (m, 1H), 2.35-2.28 (m, 1H), 2.26-2.20 (m, 1H), 2.02 (td, *J* = 11.9, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 1.75-1.60 (m, 4H), 1.50-1.48 (m, 1H), 1.24-1.18 (m, 1H), 0.78 (td, *J* = 13.4, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 0.56 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 210.6, 144.4 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 137.0 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 128.2, 123.5, 121.6, 114.1, 73.2, 69.1 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz), 53.7 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 53.6, 52.0, 51.6, 42.9, 38.0, 37.0, 37.0, 37.0, 36.9, 30.8, 29.3, 22.3, 7.8; ESI-MS: 431.4 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₂₃H₃₆N₄O₂P]⁺: 431.2570; found: 431.2569.

Preparation of compound 29



To a solution compound **28** (3 mg, 7.0 μ mol, 1 equiv) in ethylene glycol (0.2 mL) under nitrogen was added Na (28 mg, 1.21 mmol, 175 equiv) and NH₂NH₂•H₂O (83 mg, 1.7 mmol, 240 equiv). The mixture was stirred at 160 °C for 1 h and then at 210 °C for 5 h. After being cooled to rt, the reaction was quenched by addition of DCM (4 mL) and H₂O (2 mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3×3 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with saturated NH₄Cl (aq), dried over sodium sulfate, concentrated, and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (Eluent: DCM/MeOH/NEt₃ = 95:5:1) to give the title compound **37** (2.4 mg, 82 %). **37** : $[\alpha]_D^{26} = 24.1$ ($c = 0.1$, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.12 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.84 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.96-3.92 (m, 1H), 3.11 (td, $J = 7.0, 2.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.02 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.69 (s, 3H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 2.26-2.19 (m, 3H), 2.01-1.89 (m, 3H), 1.77-1.69 (m, 1H), 1.64-1.62 (m, 1H), 1.52-1.40 (m, 4H), 1.12-1.03 (m, 2H), 0.92-0.82 (m, 1H), 0.65 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 144.2, 130.1, 127.3, 123.0, 120.9, 113.5, 71.1, 68.7, 53.9, 53.3, 52.8, 39.4, 37.2, 37.1, 37.0, 36.9, 35.7, 34.5, 30.3, 27.1, 23.3, 21.2, 7.0; ESI-MS: 417.4 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₂₃H₃₈N₄O₂P]⁺: 417.2778; found: 417.2775 .

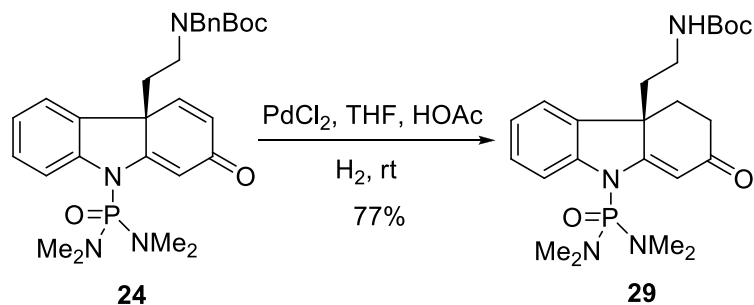
Preparation of Aspidospermidine (2)



A solution of compound **37** (3 mg, 7.0 μmol , 1 equiv) in EtOH (0.1 mL) and 4 M HCl (0.2 mL) was stirred at 110 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ under nitrogen for 24 h. After being cooled to rt, the reaction was quenched by addition of saturated NaHCO_3 (aq) until $\text{pH} > 7$, followed by addition of DCM (5mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3 \times 3 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with saturated NH_4Cl (aq), dried over sodium sulfate, concentrated and the residue was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography (Eluent: DCM/MeOH/ NEt_3 = 95:5:1) to give (-)-**aspidospermidine** (**2**, 2.0 mg, 99%). **2**: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{26} = -18.5$ ($c = 0.067$, CHCl_3); Literature of (+)-aspidospermidine: $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = +20.8$ ($c = 1.00$, CHCl_3) (ref: S. B. Jones, B. Simmons, A. Mastracchio, D. W. C. MacMillan, *Nature* **2011**, 475, 183). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.08 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.01 (td, $J = 7.6, 1.2$ Hz, 1H), 6.72 (td, $J = 7.4, 1.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.64 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 3.51 (dd, $J = 11.0, 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.13-3.10 (m, 1H), 3.05 (d, $J = 10.8$ Hz, 1H), 2.32-2.21 (m, 2H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 1.98-1.91 (m, 2H), 1.74 (qt, $J = 14.5, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.66-1.61 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.45 (m, 3H), 1.43-1.34 (m, 1H), 1.11 (td, $J = 13.6, 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.05 (dt, $J = 13.5, 3.2$ Hz, 1H), 0.90-0.83 (m, 1H), 0.64 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.5, 135.9, 127.2, 123.0, 119.1, 110.5, 71.4, 65.8, 54.0, 53.5, 53.2, 39.0, 35.8, 34.6, 30.1, 28.3, 23.2, 21.9, 7.0; ESI-MS: 283.3 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$. HRMS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{H}, \text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_2]^+$: 283.2169; found: 238.2169.

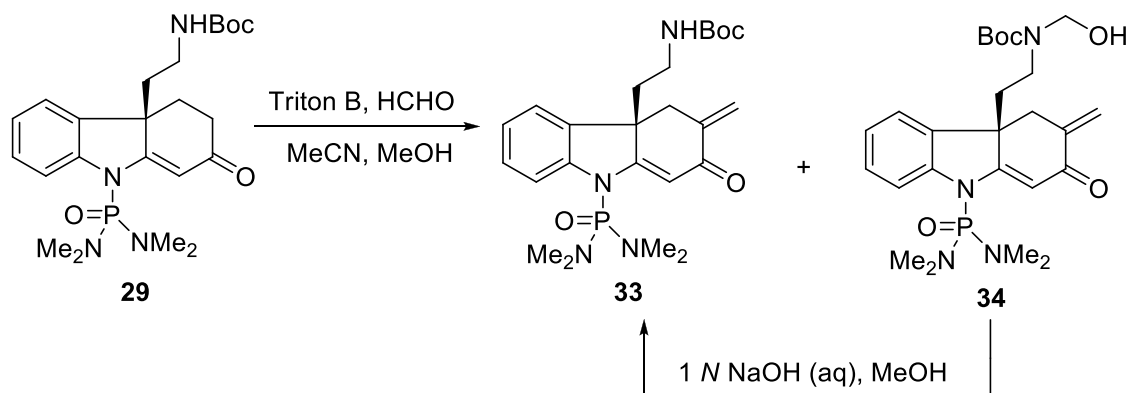
8. Formal Synthesis of Minfiensine (3)

Preparation of compound 29



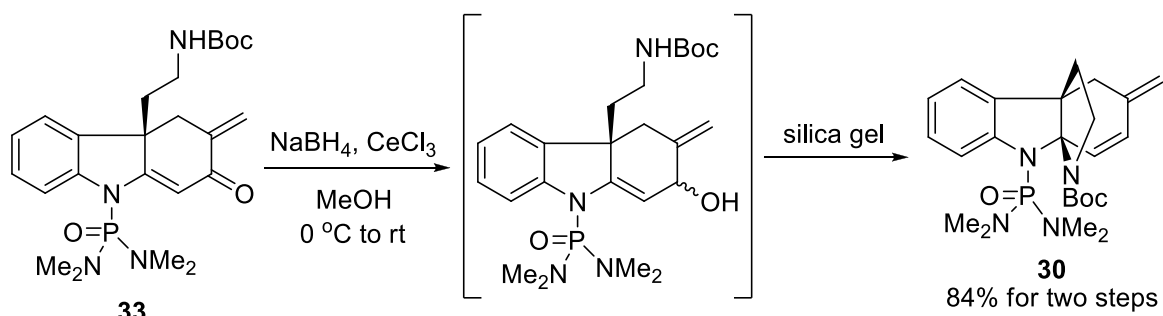
To a 25 mL round-bottom flask containing enone **24** (0.30 g, 0.54 mmol) was added 0.10 g (30 wt%) PdCl₂, THF (4 mL) and one drop of HOAc. The mixture was stirred under 1 atm H₂ at room temperature for 72 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a layer of Celite and the catalyst was washed with MeOH (5 mL×3). The filtrates were combined and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product **29** was purified by column chromatography (eluent: ethyl acetate/THF = 1/1) to give a white solid (0.19 g, 77% yield). m.p. 136-138 °C; [α]_D²³ = -320.3 (c = 0.18, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (s, 1H), 4.47 (br s, 1H), 3.23-3.11 (m, 1H), 2.99-2.89 (m, 1H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.71 (s, 3H), 2.70-2.64 (m, 1H), 2.55 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (dd, *J* = 18.3, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.10-2.03 (m, 1H), 1.98 (td, *J* = 13.4, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 1.93-1.83 (m, 1H), 1.39 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.9, 173.1, 155.7, 144.1, 134.4, 128.7, 123.2, 122.6, 114.5, 105.6, 79.4, 56.6, 48.1, 39.3, 36.6, 36.5, 36.4, 36.3, 32.6, 29.8, 28.4; ESI-MS: 463.1 [M+H]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+H, C₂₃H₃₆N₄O₄P]⁺: 463.2474; found: 463.2466.

Preparation of compound 30



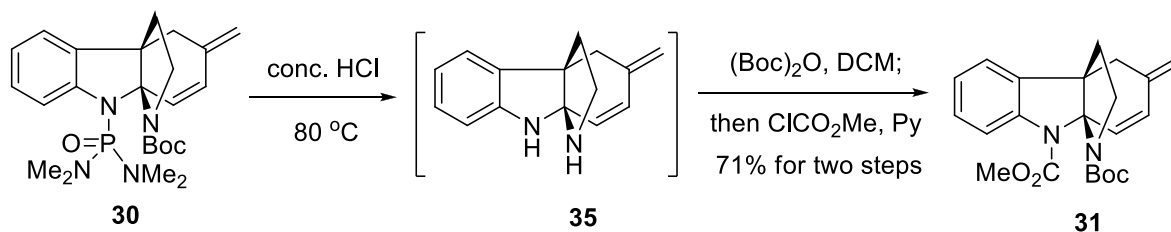
To a suspension of paraformaldehyde (4 mg, 0.13 mmol) in MeCN (0.3 mL) was added a 40% solution of Triton B in MeOH (6 μ L, 0.013 mmol) at room temperature. The resulting mixture was stirred at rt for 10 min and became a clear solution. To the obtained solution was added a solution of enone **4** (20 mg, 0.043 mmol) in MeCN (0.5 mL). The reaction mixture was warmed to 65 °C and stirred for 3 h. Upon fully consumption of starting material, the mixture was partitioned between EtOAc (15 mL) and brine (5 mL). The organic phase was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (10 mL \times 3). The organic phases were combined, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give a mixture of **33** and **34**.

The crude mixture was treated with 1 N NaOH (aq) (0.2 mL) in MeOH (3 mL) for 2 h at rt to give product **33** which was used in the next step without further purification.



To a solution of the above dienone **33** (12 mg, 0.025 mmol) in MeOH (0.8 mL) was added $\text{CeCl}_3 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (28 mg, 0.075 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min and then cooled to 0 °C. NaBH_4 (2 mg, 0.050 mmol) was added and the reaction system was stirred for 30 min at 0 °C and 1 h at rt. Upon completion, the reaction was quenched by addition of sat. NH_4Cl (aq) (3 mL) and the mixture was extracted with EA (10 mL \times 3). The organic layers were combined, washed with brine (5 mL), dried over Na_2SO_4 , filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. Upon subjection of the crude product to silica gel column chromatography (eluent: EA/PE = 1/1), alcohol intermediate fully cyclized to give diene **30** (16.7 mg, 84% yield over two steps). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{23} = -32.3$ ($c = 0.52$, CHCl_3); ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.14 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.94 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.80 (d, $J = 10.4$ Hz, 1H), 6.09 (d, $J = 10.4$ Hz, 1H), 5.00 (s, 1H), 4.93 (s, 1H), 3.60-3.47 (m, 1H), 3.10 (dd, $J = 17.7$, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.71 (s, 3H), 2.57 (br s, 6H), 2.47 (br s, 2H), 2.03-1.93 (m, 2H), 1.44 (s, 9H); ^{13}C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 152.9, 144.9, 139.1, 136.3, 128.0, 127.7, 126.9, 125.3, 121.7, 115.8, 114.1, 87.7, 79.2, 60.4, 55.6, 46.2, 37.4, 37.4, 37.1, 29.8, 28.5; ESI-MS: 481.2 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; HRMS (ESI) calculated for $[\text{M}+\text{Na}, \text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{35}\text{N}_4\text{NaO}_3\text{P}]^+$: 481.2344; found: 481.2342.

Preparation of compound 31

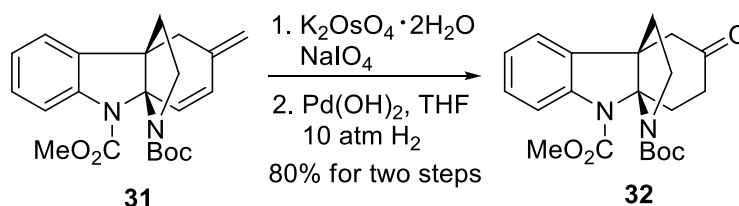


A mixture of diene **30** (30 mg, 0.066 mmol) and conc. HCl (aq) (3 mL) in a sealed tube was heated at 80 °C for 10 h. The reaction solution was cooled to 0 °C and neutralized to pH = 9 with 2 *N* NaOH (aq). The

mixture was extracted with EA (10 mL \times 3). The organic phases were combined, washed with brine (10 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give diamine **35**.

To a solution of crude diamine **35** in anhydrous DCM (5 mL) was added (Boc)₂O (17 mg, 0.079 mmol) and the resulting mixture was stirred at rt for 8 h. Pyridine (11 μ L, 0.13 mmol) and methyl chloroformate (10 μ L, 0.13 mmol) were added to the reaction solution. The mixture was stirred for 3 h. Upon completion, water (5 mL) was added to quench the reaction. The organic phase was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (6 mL \times 3). The organic phases were combined, washed once with brine (4 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (eluent: EA/PE = 1/4) to give diene **31** (17.8 mg, 71% yield). $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -18.0$ ($c = 0.50$, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.27-7.21 (m, 1H), 7.16 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 7.06 (dd, $J = 9.5, 5.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 6.15 (d, $J = 10.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.06 (s, 1H), 4.99 (s, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 3.51 (ddd, $J = 10.6, 8.5, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd, $J = 17.8, 9.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.52-2.42 (m, 2H), 2.08-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.46 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 153.6, 141.1, 138.7, 128.3, 128.0, 126.3, 125.7, 124.3, 123.6, 121.7, 117.8, 115.2, 80.4, 70.2, 52.4, 45.9, 37.7, 37.0, 29.7, 28.6, 20.7; ESI-MS: 405.3 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+Na, C₂₂H₂₆N₂NaO₄]⁺: 405.1790; found: 405.1785;

Preparation of compound 32



To a solution of diene **31** (25 mg, 0.065 mmol) in THF (3 mL) and water (1 mL) was added potassium osmate dihydrate (5 mg, 0.013 mmol) and NaIO₄ (34 mg, 0.16 mmol). The resulting mixture was stirred at

rt for 20 h. Upon fully consumption of diene **31**, saturated sodium thiosulfate solution (5 mL) was added. After being stirred for 10 min, the mixture was extracted with DCM (6 mL \times 3). The organic phases were combined, washed once with brine (4 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in THF (5 mL) and stirred in the presence of Pd(OH)₂ (6 mg) under 10 atm H₂ for 12 h. The reaction mixture was filtered through a layer of Celite. The catalyst was washed with MeOH (5 mL \times 3) and the filtrates were combined and concentrated under reduced pressure. Ketone **32** was purified by column chromatography (eluent: EA/PE = 1/8) (20 mg, 80% yield). $[\alpha]_D^{23} = 55.9$ ($c = 0.30$, CHCl₃), literature $[\alpha]_D = -157$ ($c = 0.52$, CHCl₃) for antipode of **32**⁷; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆, 60 °C) δ 8.08 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.02 (t, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.76 (t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.56 (s, 3H), 3.59-3.53 (m, 1H), 3.11 (ddd, $J = 14.3, 7.9, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.76 (td, $J = 11.3, 6.4$ Hz, 1H), 2.55-2.48 (m, 1H), 2.30 (q, $J = 15.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.15 (ddd, $J = 18.6, 9.1, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 1.96 (ddd, $J = 18.7, 8.0, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.39 (s, 9H), 1.44-1.31 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 206.6, 153.2, 152.3, 142.3, 133.4, 128.7, 123.3, 122.4, 115.2, 88.7, 79.3, 56.9, 51.7, 47.8, 45.2, 38.7, 34.6, 28.9, 28.0; ESI-MS: 409.3 [M+Na]⁺; HRMS (ESI) calculated for [M+Na, C₂₁H₂₆N₂NaO₅]⁺: 409.1739; found: 409.1738. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR were in full agreement with reported data.⁷

9. Computation results

To rationalize the distinct chemoselectivity observed with different *N*-R groups, the substrate structures of **8b** and **8i** were analyzed with the aid of DFT calculations. As shown in Figure 1, the distance between CBr and CMe in substrate **8i** (3.526 Å) is much shorter than that in substrate **8b** (3.910 Å). This is in accordance with the observed formation of dearomative cyclization product **9i** via a shorter CBr--CMe distance for substrate **8i**. NBO analysis demonstrates that the charge on CMe of **8i** is -0.071, more negative

than that of **8b** (-0.050) and that for the C2 of **8i** (-0.017). More nucleophilicity of CMe in substrate **8i** could be another driving force for preference of the dearomatization pathway for substrate **8i**.

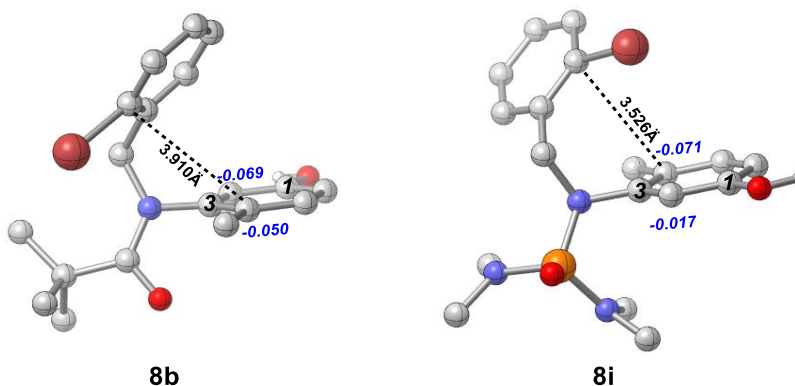


Figure 1. Optimized structure of substrates **8b** and **8i** at the B3LYP/6-31+G(d,p) level.¹ Black bold numbers are distances between CBr and CMe. Blue italic numbers are NPA charges on the carbon atom plus the attached hydrogen. Hydrogens (except the OH) are omitted for clarity.

First, the conformation searches of the substrate structures **8b** and **8i** were performed using Macromodel⁸ (Mixed MCMM/Low-mode sampling method⁹ and OPLS_2005 force field¹⁰) with the default settings. Then, the conformation of the lowest energy was optimized at B3LYP¹¹/6-31+G(d,p) level (ultrafine integral grid, 5d), with SMD solvation model (solvent=toluene), and Grimme's dispersion (GD3),¹² by using Gaussian 09 software package.¹³ NBO population analysis was performed with NBO module¹⁴ in Gaussian 09. The 3D model was generated with CYL view.¹⁵

Cartesian coordinates and energies of all the optimized structures **8b** and **8i**

8b

Opt @ B3LYP-GD3/6-31+G(d,p)/5d in toluene (SMD model)

SCF Done: E(RB3LYP) = -3514.01219296 A.U.

Zero-point correction=

0.371438 Hartree/Particle

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies=

-3513.693824 A.U.

N,-0.1029534167,-1.2683525255,-0.3011891152

C,-1.3664123423,-1.142026445,0.3967904394

C,-1.4559531977,-0.5468199217,1.6641172886

C,-2.7413365389,-0.3960665762,2.2078262238

C,-3.8913198055,-0.8140164805,1.5397095146

C,-3.7718988512,-1.4179691005,0.2854254496

C,-2.5077358506,-1.5784344375,-0.2849678008
O,-4.9234886532,-1.8265684333,-0.3391387546
C,0.0448536413,-0.3342469271,-1.4360199188
C,-0.2162537997,1.1049060801,-1.0325469634
C,-1.4824396219,1.6707853554,-1.2481253277
C,-1.7785412432,2.9787223432,-0.8654010451
C,-0.7971772716,3.7587789692,-0.2495744223
C,0.4760586935,3.22949405,-0.0296243541
C,0.7482754349,1.9183620695,-0.4219207856
Br,2.5314665787,1.2570192872,-0.1045427396
C,0.730960942,-2.2898183058,0.1207833729
O,0.4380147708,-2.8797946205,1.1643274837
C,-0.2361501606,-0.1267506062,2.4396571068
C,1.9897716607,-2.8226121032,-0.6376615131
C,3.1893469342,-2.649159151,0.3212431983
C,1.7156933955,-4.3365676731,-0.8369331541
C,2.3712999479,-2.2467465456,-2.014536213
H,-2.8429066962,0.0643905554,3.1873532947
H,-4.87578797,-0.6855239472,1.9786968052
H,-2.3992683624,-2.0489880702,-1.2597362369
H,-4.7105082087,-2.2773652226,-1.1681449227
H,1.0435930554,-0.4161160747,-1.8388615109
H,-0.6591061207,-0.6096904975,-2.2299456806
H,-2.2506154331,1.057073081,-1.709407276
H,-2.7713848151,3.3819305252,-1.0404815836
H,-1.0131377992,4.7778182727,0.0577847325
H,1.2478132458,3.828684152,0.4410308844
H,-0.4822771776,0.6477197486,3.1725797541
H,0.5489331412,0.2582730595,1.7868405684
H,0.1885879052,-0.9869985892,2.969419096
H,2.982996633,-3.112172542,1.2892338048
H,4.0798835892,-3.1205410559,-0.1101089634
H,3.4145229381,-1.5907018916,0.4871316406
H,2.595181457,-4.8131530059,-1.2841489883
H,1.4964282285,-4.8252799284,0.1139959396
H,0.8658557342,-4.5002275411,-1.5109754472
H,2.7405313402,-1.2190746568,-1.9610245843
H,3.1923517251,-2.8494275465,-2.4193792804
H,1.550232344,-2.3027471263,-2.7365500166

8i

Opt @ B3LYP-GD3/6-31+G(d,p)/5d in toluene (SMD model)

SCF Done: E(RB3LYP) = -3928.61340133 A.U.

Zero-point correction = 0.411262 Hartree/Particle

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -3928.259786 A.U.

N,-0.3565717309,-0.2841055129,-0.3929839484

C,-1.6002093925,0.412911898,-0.1398995247

C,-1.7235238752,1.2549413415,0.9822369643

C,-2.9409595555,1.9321113829,1.1485808346

C,-4.0028528167,1.7876916688,0.2567579379

C,-3.8602666522,0.9378959874,-0.8457040177

C,-2.6599544526,0.2579564854,-1.0430909036

O,-4.858879259,0.7351983392,-1.7635157742

C,0.5382709662,0.3920682504,-1.3755615195

C,1.1678723152,1.6474954556,-0.8093397161

C,2.3192770967,1.5214586203,-0.0132482169

C,2.9262000793,2.6194540864,0.5925001847

C,2.3843940784,3.8950237864,0.4088130784

C,1.2540280861,4.0582580936,-0.3920701828

C,0.6610262798,2.9426045176,-0.9915003784

Br,-0.8768784778,3.2750583209,-2.1013995266

C,-0.6135558472,1.4600727757,1.9840311451

P,-0.4423435153,-1.9830038014,-0.5410339309

N,-1.5552329544,-2.4784014715,0.6185520286

N,1.1311528702,-2.4376623851,-0.1256290736

C,-2.8554924792,-3.0055737308,0.2038348731

C,-1.5189356895,-2.041844408,2.0112285422

C,1.7772853736,-2.0128678838,1.1131499145

C,1.5605601206,-3.7687640811,-0.5651600789

O,-0.8045683474,-2.5281251655,-1.891498363

H,-3.0611100588,2.5914019913,2.0049567506

H,-4.9326000025,2.329061028,0.4180204947

H,-2.5472379119,-0.3904069185,-1.9058904434

H,-5.6321509242,1.2696758301,-1.5351989752

H,1.3310831993,-0.3149057208,-1.6285039408

H,-0.0154792065,0.6107536562,-2.2941029831

H,2.7388023747,0.5299512603,0.1274053817

H,3.8147305012,2.4826164716,1.2019368293

H,2.8417674823,4.763207893,0.8744295501

H,0.8337193352,5.0451220453,-0.5519578135
H,0.129896831,0.6656443415,1.92318939
H,-0.0895900331,2.4068060347,1.8075616149
H,-1.0109846703,1.4875931753,3.0046815475
H,-2.8085886302,-3.3424245839,-0.8317542091
H,-3.1235060488,-3.8584612663,0.8410186908
H,-3.6422619338,-2.2413823356,0.2931850101
H,-2.308721041,-1.3052051685,2.2153864822
H,-1.6671996989,-2.9023597244,2.6770963859
H,-0.5645727556,-1.5813014377,2.2615788728
H,1.4590206661,-1.0060721408,1.3837391156
H,1.5625245335,-2.6940453593,1.9518997182
H,2.8646430078,-1.9976477668,0.9658025175
H,2.6510634342,-3.7725953241,-0.6808836572
H,1.2880158444,-4.5511989908,0.1613164577
H,1.1068934855,-4.0066795598,-1.5279631353

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11. NMR spectra

