### Electronic supplementary information (ESI) for Chem. Commun.

### First total synthesis of (±)-apparicine

M.-Lluïsa Bennasar,\* Ester Zulaica, Daniel Solé and Sandra Alonso

Laboratory of Organic Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, and Institut de Biomedicina (IBUB), University of Barcelona, 08028-Barcelona, Spain

bennasar@ub.edu

<u>Contents</u> Experimental procedures Copies of the NMR spectra

pages S2-S9 pages S10-S31

#### 2-Isopropenyl-1-(methoxymethyl)indole-3-carbaldehyde (2).



Tetraethylammonium bromide (0.42 g, 2.01 mmol), Bu<sub>3</sub>Sn(CH<sub>3</sub>)C=CH<sub>2</sub> (1.33 g, 4.02 mmol) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (42 mg, 0.06 mmol) were successively added to a solution of aldehyde  $1^{1}$  (0.45 g, 2.01 mmol) in DMF (30 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 85 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with AcOEt and washed with brine. The organic solution was dried and concentrated and the resulting residue was chromatographed (SiO<sub>2</sub>, flash, 9:1 hexanes-AcOEt) to give **2** as an oil: 0.37 g (80%); IR (film) 3057, 2934, 1663 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  2.25 (s, 3H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 5.44 (s, 2H), 5.76 (s, 1H), 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.49 (dm, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (dm, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 10.0 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.6 MHz)  $\delta$  25.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 56.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 75.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 110.4 (CH), 115.2 (C), 122.1 (CH), 123.4 (CH), 123.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 124.3 (CH), 125.2 (C), 133.4 (C), 136.8 (C), 153.3 (C), 186.8 (CH); ESI-HRMS [M+H]<sup>+</sup>calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> 230.1175, found 230.1183.

<sup>1</sup>Hagiwara, H.; Choshi, T.; Nobuhiro, J.; Fujimoto, H.; Hibino, S. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **2001**, *49*, 881-886.

# **3-**[*N*-(**3-**Butenyl)-*N*-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aminomethyl]-**2**-isopropenyl-**1**-(methoxymethyl)indole (**3**a).



3-Butenylamine (0.24 mL, 2.60 mmol), NaBH(OAc)<sub>3</sub> (0.82 g, 3.90 mmol) and AcOH (0.08 mL, 1.36 mmol) were successively added to aldehyde 1 (0.30 g, 1.30 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred at rt overnight. The reaction mixture was partitioned between CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and 10% aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic extracts were dried and concentrated to give the crude secondary amine (0.30 g). This compound was dissolved in MeOH (10 mL) and treated with (t-BuOCO)<sub>2</sub>O (0.45 g, 2.06 mmol) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.58 mL, 4.12 mmol). After the mixture was heated at reflux for 4 h, the solvent was removed and the residue was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and washed with HCl 1N and brine. The organic solution was dried and concentrated and the residue was chromatographed (SiO<sub>2</sub>, flash, 8:2 hexanes-AcOEt) to give carbamate **3a** as a pale yellow oil: 0.33 g (65%); IR (film) 1689, 1462, 1415 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.53 (br s, 9H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 2.13 (m, 2H), 3.10 (m, 2H) 3.26 (s, 3H), 4.66 (s, 2H), 4.96 (m, 2H), 5.15 (s, 1H), 5.38 (s, 2H), 5.60 (s, 1H), 5.65 (m, 1H), 7.15 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (m, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.6 MHz) δ 24.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.5 (3CH<sub>3</sub>), 32.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 39.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 44.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 74.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 79.2 (C), 109.8 (CH), 116.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 120.1 (C), 120.4 (CH), 121.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 122.4 (CH), 122.5 (CH), 127.9 (C), 135.5 (CH), 135.6 (C),

136.9 (C), 141.3 (C), 155.7 (C); ESI-HRMS  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $C_{23}H_{33}N_2O_3$  385.2485, found 385.2477.

# **3-**[*N*-(**3-**Butenyl)-*N*-(tosyl)aminomethyl]-**2**-isopropenyl-**1**-(methoxymethyl)indole (**3**b).



Aldehyde 2 (0.25 g, 1.09 mmol) was allowed to react as above with 3-butenylamine and NaBH(OAc)<sub>3</sub>. The resulting secondary amine (0.25 g) was dissolved in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (12 mL) and treated with TsCl (0.20 g, 1.05 mmol) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.15 mL, 1.05 mmol) at rt overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and washed with 1N HCl and brine. The organic solution was dried and concentrated and the resulting residue was chromatographed (SiO<sub>2</sub>, flash, 9:1 hexanes-AcOEt) to give sulfonamide 3b as a pale yellow solid: 0.29 g (60%); mp 88 °C (Et<sub>2</sub>O); IR (KBr) 1463, 1332, 1158 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) § 1.92 (m, 2H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 3.04 (m, 2H), 3.28 (s, 3H), 4.48 (s, 2H), 4.70 (dm, J = 17 Hz, 1H), 4.78 (dm, J = 10 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 5.36 (s, 2H), 5.40 (m, 1H), 5.53 (br s, 1H), 7.14 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.6 MHz) δ 21.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 32.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 43.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 46.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 55.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 74.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 107.1 (C), 109.8 (CH), 116.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 120.1 (CH), 120.7 (CH), 121.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 122.7 (CH), 127.3 (2 CH), 127.7 (C), 129.2 (2 CH), 134.8 (CH), 135.2 (C), 136.9 (2C), 141.4 (C), 143.0 (C); ESI-HRMS  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S 439.2049, found 439.2039;  $[M+Na]^+$  calcd for  $C_{25}H_{30}NaN_2O_3S$  461.1869, found 461.1866. Anal. calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S: C, 68.46%; H, 6.88%; N, 6.38%. Found: C, 68.22%; H, 6.43%; N, 6.25%.

#### 2-(1-Methyl-2-(*E*)-butenyl)-1-(phenylsulfonyl)indole (7).



*n*-BuLi (1.6 M in hexane, 5.83 mL, 9.33 mmol) was slowly added to a cooled (0 °C) solution of 1-(phenylsulfonyl)indole (2 g, 7.78 mmol) in THF (20 mL) and the solution was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h and then cooled to -78 °C. CuCN (0.84 g, 9.38 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to rt (2-3 h) and then cooled again to -78 °C. (*E*)-4-chloro-2-pentene (0.98 g, 9.38 mmol) was added and the stirring was continued at rt for 12 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with 20% NH<sub>4</sub>OH and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic extracts were dried and concentrated and the resulting residue was chromatographed (SiO<sub>2</sub>, flash, hexanes and 95:5 hexanes-AcOEt) to give indole 7 as an oil: 2.15 g (85%); IR (neat) 1448, 1367, 1173 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, signals due to a minor isomer are omitted)  $\delta$  1.45 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.67 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3H), 4.34 (m, 1H), 5.52 (m, 1H), 5.66 (m, 1H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 7.24-7.50 (m, 6H), 7.72 (m, 2H), 8.23 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.6

MHz)  $\delta$  17.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 35.0 (CH), 108.6 (CH), 115.3 (CH), 120.3 (CH), 123.7 (CH), 124.0 (CH), 124.9 (CH), 126.2 (2CH), 129.0 (2CH), 129.9 (C), 133.5 (CH), 134.0 (CH), 137.5 (C), 139.0 (C), 147.1 (C); ESI-HRMS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S 326.1209, found 326.1212.

2-(1-Methyl-2-(E)-butenyl) 1-(phenylsulfonyl)indole-3-carbaldehyde (8).



Indole 7 (1 g, 3.07 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) was added to a cooled (– 78 °C) solution of TiCl<sub>4</sub> (1 M in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 6.15 mL, 6.15 mmol) and Cl<sub>2</sub>CHOCH<sub>3</sub> (0.55 mL, 6.15 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred at –78 °C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with H<sub>2</sub>O, basified with a saturated aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic extracts were dried and concentrated and the residue was chromatographed (SiO<sub>2</sub>, flash, hexanes and 95:5 hexanes-AcOEt) to give aldehyde **8** as an amorphous solid: 0.83 g (76%); IR (film) 1666, 1449, 1382, 1174 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  1.47 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.61 (dm, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 4.76 (m, 1H), 5.40 (m, 1H), 5.61 (dm, *J* = 15 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.82 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 8.32 (m, 2H), 10.45 (s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.6 MHz)  $\delta$  17.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 33.8 (CH), 114.7 (CH), 119.3 (C), 122.1 (CH), 125.2 (CH), 125.7 (CH), 125.9 (CH), 126.3 (C), 126.5 (2CH), 129.6 (2CH), 133.1 (CH), 134.4 (CH), 136.4 (C), 139.4 (C), 155.3 (C), 187.5 (CH); ESI-HRMS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>S 354.1158, found 354.1165.

**3-**[*N*-Allyl-*N*-(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)aminomethyl]-2-(1-methyl-2-(*E*)-butenyl)-1-(phenylsulfonyl)indole (9).



Allylamine (0.21 mL, 2.83 mmol), NaBH(OAc)<sub>3</sub> (0.90 g, 4.25 mmol) and AcOH (0.08 mL, 1.41 mmol) were successively added to aldehyde **8** (0.50 g, 1.41 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (17 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred at rt overnight. The reaction mixture was partitioned between CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and 10% aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic extracts were dried and concentrated to give the crude secondary amine (540 mg). This compound was dissolved in MeOH (5 mL) and treated with (*t*-BuOCO)<sub>2</sub>O (0.54 g, 2.47 mmol) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.70 mL, 4.94 mmol). After the mixture was heated at reflux for 5 h, the solvent was removed and the residue was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and washed with 2N HCl and brine. The organic extracts were dried and concentrated to give the crude product. Flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, hexanes and 95:5 hexanes-AcOEt) gave diene **9** as a pale yellow oil: 0.63 g (90%); IR (film) 1690, 1450, 1368, 1173 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  1.21 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.42 (s, 9H), 1.52 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 3.38 (br s, 2H), 4.44 (m, 1H), 4.57 (m, 2H), 4.83 (dd, *J* = 17.2 and 1.5

Hz, 1H), 4.92 (dd, J = 10.4 and 1.5 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (m, 1H), 5.44 (dm, J = 15.2 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (m, 1H), 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, J = 2H), 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.60 (dm, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.18 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.6 MHz)  $\delta$  18.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 20.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.6 (3CH<sub>3</sub>), 33.5 (CH), 40.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 46.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 80.1 (C), 115.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 115.6 (CH), 117.2 (C), 119.7 (CH), 123.9 (CH), 124.7 (CH), 125.2 (CH), 126.5 (2CH), 129.2 (C), 129.3 (2CH), 132.8 (CH), 133.8 (CH), 133.9 (CH), 137.1 (C), 139.7 (C), 142.9 (C), 156.1 (CO); ESI-HRMS [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>34</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NaS 517.2131, found 517.2144.

2-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-6-methyl-7-(phenylsulfonyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydroazocino[4,3-*b*]indole (10).



The second-generation Grubbs' catalyst (24 mg, 7 mol%) was added under Ar to a solution of diene 9 (200 mg, 0.40 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5.7 mL) and the resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 4.5 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was chromatographed (SiO<sub>2</sub>, flash, 9:1 hexanes-AcOEt) to give azocinoindole 10 as a white foam: 146 mg (80%); IR (KBr) 1689, 1450, 1370, 1172 cm<sup>-1</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, assignments aided by gHSQC and <sup>1</sup>H gCOSY, mixture of rotamers)  $\delta$  1.42 (br s, 9H, Boc), 1.47 (br s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.85 (m, 1H, 3-H), 3.81 and 4.03 (2m, 1H, 3-H), 4.37 (br s, 1H, 1-H), 4.65 (m, 1H, 6-H), 4.89 and 5.01 (2m, 1H, 1-H), 5.44 (br s, 1H, 4-H), 5.80 (br d, J = 11 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.38 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.6 MHz, assignments aided by gHSQC) & 24.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.4 (3CH<sub>3</sub>), 32.5 (CH, C-6), 37.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-1), 38.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-3), 79.90 (C), 115.6 (CH, C-8), 118.7 (CH, C-11), 118.9 (C), 121.0 (CH, C-4), 123.8 (CH, C-10), 124.8 (CH, C-9), 126.0 (2CH, Ph), 129.2 (2CH, Ph), 130.8 (C), 133.8 (CH, Ph), 136.9 (C), 137.6 (CH, C-5), 138.8 (C), 142.2 (C), 155.0 (CO); ESI-HRMS  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $C_{25}H_{29}N_2O_4S$  453.1842, found 453.1851;  $[M+Na]^+$  calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NaS 475.1662, found 475.1670.

2-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-6-methyl-7-(phenylsulfonyl)-1,2,5,6-tetrahydroazocino[4,3-*b*]indole (11).



The second-generation Grubbs' catalyst (4.5 mg, 10 mol %) was added under Ar to a solution of azocinoindole **10** (23 mg, 0.05 mmol) in toluene (5.5 mL) and the resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 18 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the residue was chromatographed (SiO<sub>2</sub>, flash, 5% hexanes-AcOEt) to give enamide **11**: 12 mg (50%); IR (film) 1700, 1650, 1450, 1363, 1173 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz,

assignments aided by gHSQC and gCOSY, mixture of rotamers)  $\delta$  1.44 and 1.46 (2s, 9H, Boc), 1.58 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.16 (m, 1H, 5-H), 3.03 (m, 1H, 5-H), 3.82 (m, 1H, 6-H), 4.45 (m, 1H, 4-H), 4.75 and 4.90 (2d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H, 1-H), 5.30 and 5.52 (2d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H, 1-H), 6.10 and 6.26 (2d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 7.26 (m, 2H), 7.32 (m, 2H), 7.50 (m, 1H), 7.60 (m, 3H), 8.22 (br s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.6 MHz, gHSQC, only CH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub> and CH signals are listed)  $\delta$  24.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.3 (3CH<sub>3</sub>), 32.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-5), 34.3 (CH, C-6), 38.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-1), 107.8 (CH, C-4), 115.4 (CH, C-8), 118.4 (CH, C-11), 124.1 (2CH, C-9, C-10), 126.8 (2CH, Ph), 127.4 (CH, C-3), 129.1 (2CH, Ph), 133.6 (CH, Ph). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S: C, 65.43%; H, 6.40%; N, 6.36%. Found: C, 65.58%; H, 6.24%; N, 5.94%.

#### 2-(*tert*-Butoxycarbonyl)-6-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroazocino[4,3-b]indole (12).



t-BuOK (0.55 g, 4.90 mmol) was added to a solution of azocinoindole 10 (0.22 g, 0.49 mmol) in THF (14 mL) and the resulting solution was heated at reflux for 48 h. The reaction mixture was partitioned between a saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl solution and Et<sub>2</sub>O and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The organic extracts were dried and concentrated to give azocinoindole 12 as a yellow foam: 138 mg (90%). An analytical sample was obtained by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, hexanes and 8:2 hexanes-AcOEt); IR (film) 3321, 1670 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, assignments aided by gHSQC, mixture of rotamers) δ 1.35 and 1.45 (2s, 9H, Boc), 2.13 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.37 (m, 2H, 4-H), 3.60 (m, 2H, 3-H), 4.64 (br s, 2H, 1-H), 5.69 and 5.75 (2t, J = 8 Hz, 1H, 5-H), 7.15 (m, 2H, 9-H, 10-H), 7.28 and 7.31 (2 d, J = 8 Hz, 1H, 8-H), 7.56 and 7.62 (2d, J = 8 Hz, 1H, 11-H), 7.85 and 7.89 (2 br s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.6 MHz, assignments aided by gHSQC,) δ 22.7 and 22.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.4 and 28.5 (3CH<sub>3</sub>, Boc), 28.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-4), 43.4 and 43.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-1), 46.0 and 46.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-3), 79.1 and 79.3 (C), 110.3 and 110.4 (CH, C-8), 110.8 and 111.0 (C), 118.5 and 119.0 (CH, C-11), 119.3 and 119.4 (CH, C-10), 122.1 and 122.2 (CH, C-9), 126.5 and 127.1 (CH, C-5), 127.2 and 127.3 (C), 128.9 and 129.5 (C), 132.8 and 133.4 (C), 135.7 and 135.9 (C), 156.1 and 156.5 (C); ESI-HRMS calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 312.1837, found 312.1837.

2-(2-Iodo-2-(Z)-butenyl)-6-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroazocino[4,3-b]indole (13).



A solution of carbamate **12** (224 mg, 0.72 mmol) in 1.2 M HCl in MeOH (3.2 mL) was stirred at rt for 4.5 h. 20% NH<sub>4</sub>OH was added and the organic solvent was removed. The residue was partitioned between  $CH_2Cl_2$  and  $H_2O$  and extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The

organic extracts were dried and concentrated to give the secondary amine (127 mg), which was directly used in the next step. Diisopropylethylamine (0.15 mL, 0.89 mmol) and (Z)-2-iodo-2-butenyl tosylate<sup>2</sup> (230 mg, 0.65 mmol) were added to a solution of the above amine (127 mg, 0.59 mmol) in 1:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-acetonitrile (21 mL). After the reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 2 h, MeNH<sub>2</sub> (2 M in MeOH, 1.5 mL, 3 mmol) was added and the stirring was continued for 1 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and washed with a saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution. The organic solution was dried and concentrated and the residue was chromatographed (hexanes and 9:1 hexanes-EtOAc) to give pure tertiary amine 13 (yellow oil): 70 mg (30%); IR (film) 3408, 2923, 1612, 1460, 742 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  1.79 (dd, J = 6.2 and 1.2 Hz, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.14 (br s, 2H), 2.77 (br s, 2H), 3.35 (br s, 2H), 3.99 (br s, 2H), 5.81 (q, J = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (m, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (br s, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.6 MHz)  $\delta$  21.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 26.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 48.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 50.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 65.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 110.1 (C), 110.5 (CH), 110.6 (C), 118.9 (CH), 119.5 (CH), 121.9 (CH), 126.9 (C), 128.8 (C), 130.0 (CH), 131.3 (CH), 135.8 (C), 136.1 (C); ESI-HRMS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>IN<sub>2</sub> 393.0822, found 393.0831.

<sup>2</sup>(a) Rawal, V. H.; Michoud, C. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1991**, *32*, 1695-1698. (b) Eichberg, M. J.; Dorta, R. L.; Grotjahn, D. B.; Lamottke, K.; Schmidt, M.; Vollhardt, K. P. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2001**, *123*, 9324-9337.

#### (±)-Apparicine



Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (7.6 mg, 0.034 mmol), PPh<sub>3</sub> (26 mg, 0.10 mmol) and Ag<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (93 mg, 0.34 mmol) were added under Ar to a solution of amine 13 (65 mg, 0.17 mmol) in 1:1 toluene-Et<sub>3</sub>N (17 mL) and the mixture was heated at 80 °C for 1.5 h. The solvent was removed and the residue was partitioned between CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and a saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic extracts were dried and concentrated and the resulting residue was chromatographed (SiO<sub>2</sub>, flash, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to 9:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH). An additional chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 0.5% Et<sub>2</sub>O-diethylamine) gave pure (±)-apparicine as an amorphous solid: 6.6 mg (15%); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, assignments aided by gHSQC)  $\delta$  1.46 (dd, J = 6.8 and 2.4 Hz, 3H, 18-H), 1.89 (ddt, J =13.6, 6.8 and 2.4 Hz, 1H, 14-H), 2.16 (dddd, J = 13.6, 11.2, 8 and 5.6 Hz, 1H, 14-H), 3.07 (dddd, J = 13.2, 11.2, 6.8 and 1.2 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 3.20 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H, 21-H), 3.42 (ddd, J = 13.2, 8 and 2 Hz, 1H, 3-H), 3.82 (dt, J = 16 and 2 Hz, 1H, 21-H), 3.92 (broad)s, 1H, 15-H), 4.28 (d, J = 17.8 Hz, 1H, 6-H), 4.51 (d, J = 17.8 Hz, 1H, 6-H), 5.25 (q, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H, 19-H), 5.26 (s, 1H, 17-H), 5.39 (s, 1H, 17-H), 7.06 (ddd, J = 7.6, 7.2 and 1.2 Hz, 1H, 10-H), 7.18 (ddd, J = 8, 7.2 and 1.2 Hz, 1H, 11-H), 7.28 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H, 12-H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H, 9-H), 7.84 (broad s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100.6 MHz, assignment aided by gHSQC) & 12.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-18), 29.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-14), 41.2 (CH, C-15), 45.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-3), 54.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-6), 54.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-21), 110.2 (CH, C-12), 111.5 (C, C-7), 112.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-17), 118.6 (CH, C-9), 119.3 (CH, C-10), 120.1 (CH, C-19), 123.0 (CH, C-11), 129.0 (C, C-8), 131.3 (C, C-20), 135.6 (C, C-16), 137.4 (C, C-13), 145.2 (C, C-2); ESI-HRMS  $[M+H]^+$  calcd for  $C_{18}H_{21}N_2$  265.1699, found 265.1705.

# Comparison of the NMR data of synthetic apparicine with those reported for the natural product



Apparicine (biogenetic numbering)

### <sup>1</sup>H NMR data:

Н	synthetic apparicine	natural product <sup>3</sup>	
NH	7.84 (br s)	7.88 (br s)	
3-Н	3.07 (dddd, <i>J</i> = 13.2, 11.2, 6.8, 1.2 Hz)	3.06 (dddd, <i>J</i> = 13.2, 11.4, 7.0, 1.2 Hz)	
	3.42 (ddd, J = 13.2, 8, 2 Hz)	3.40 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 13.3, 8, 2.2 Hz)	
6-H	4.28 (d, <i>J</i> = 17.8 Hz)	4.26 (d, <i>J</i> = 17.7 Hz)	
	4.51 (d, <i>J</i> = 17.8 Hz)	4.49 (d, <i>J</i> = 17.7 Hz)	
9-Н	7.42 (d, <i>J</i> = 7.6 Hz)	7.42 (dd, <i>J</i> = 7.7, 1.2 Hz)	
10-H	7.06 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 7.6, 7.2, 1.2 Hz)	7.05 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 7.7, 7.3, 1.2 Hz)	
11 <b>-</b> H	7.18 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 8, 7.2, 1.2 Hz)	7.17 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 8.1, 7.3, 1.2 Hz)	
12-H	7.28 (d, J = 8 Hz)	7.28 (dd, <i>J</i> = 8.1, 1.2 Hz)	
14-H	1.89 (ddt, J = 13.6, 6.8, 2.4 Hz);	1.88 (dddd, <i>J</i> = 13.6, 7, 2.6, 2.2 Hz)	
	2.16 (dddd, <i>J</i> = 13.6, 11.2, 8, 5.6 Hz)	2.15 (dddd, <i>J</i> = 13.6, 11.4, 8, 5.4 Hz)	
15-H	3.92 (br s)	3.91 (dd, <i>J</i> = 5.4, 2.6 Hz)	
17 <b>-</b> H	5.26 (s)	5.25 (s)	
	5.39 (s)	5.38 (s)	
18-H	$1.46 (\mathrm{dd}, J = 6.8, 2.4 \mathrm{Hz})$	1.45 (dd, $J = 7, 2.3$ Hz)	
19-H	5.25 (q, J = 6.8 Hz)	5.23 (q, <i>J</i> = 7 Hz)	
21-Н	3.20 (d, J = 16 Hz)	3.18 (dd, J = 16, 1.2 Hz)	
	3.82 (dt, <i>J</i> = 16, 2 Hz)	3.80 (dd, <i>J</i> = 16, 2.3 Hz)	

<sup>3</sup> van Beek, T. A.; Verpoorte, R.; Kinh, P. Q. Planta Med. 1985, 51, 277-279.

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009

## <sup>13</sup>C NMR data:

С	synthetic apparicine	natural product <sup>4,5</sup>	
		reference 4	reference 5
C-2	145.2	142.6	144.7
C-3	45.3	45.3	45.2
C-6	54.2	54.3	53.8
C-7	111.5	111.1	$109.9^{b}$
C-8	129.0	129.0	129.0
C-9	118.6	118.6	118.6
C-10	119.3	119.3 <sup><i>a</i></sup>	119.6
C-11	123.0	$123.0^{a}$	123.2 <sup>c</sup>
C-12	110.2	110.2	$110.4^{d}$
C-13	137.4	137.8	136.6
C-14	29.6	29.6	29.1
C-15	41.2	41.3	41.1
C-16	135.6	135.7	135.8
C-17	112.2	112.2	112.6 <sup>b</sup>
C-18	12.6	12.5	12.6
C-19	120.1	120.3	121.4 <sup>e</sup>
C-20	131.3	131.3	131.6
C-21	54.3	54.3	54.2

<sup>*a*</sup> Exchanged assignments in ref. 4 <sup>*b*</sup> Exchanged assignments in ref. 5

<sup>c</sup> Signal assigned as C-12 in ref. 5 <sup>d</sup> Signal assigned as C-19 in ref. 5 <sup>e</sup> Signal assigned as C-11 in ref. 5

<sup>4</sup> Massiot, G.; Zèches, M.; Thépenier, P.; Jacquier, M.-J.; Le Men-Olivier, L.; Delaude, C. J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. **1982**, 768-769.

<sup>5</sup> Atta-ur-Rahman; Fatima, T.; Mehrun-Nisa; Ijaz, S.; Crank, G.; Wasti, S. Planta Med. 1987, 53, 57-59.

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2009









![](_page_13_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Figure_1.jpeg)