

The **ophiobolins** are a class of sesterterpenes isolated from fungi that possess a 5-8-5 ring system. The **ceroplastins** are similar but are found in insects and display different stereochemistry at the ring junctions. **Fusicoccin** diterpenes have the same ring system but have a shorter side chain.

1958 - isolation from plant fungus (*J. Agr. Chem. Soc. Jpn.* **1958**, 32, 739-744)

1965 - structural identification (*JACS*, **1965**, 87, 4968-4970)

1968 - structural identification of ceroplastol I (*JACS*, **1968**, 1092-1093)

1977 - ophiobolin A shown to be phytotoxin

1982 - ophiobolin A shown to be inhibitor of calmodulin (9 $\mu$ m)

1989 - synthesis of (+)-ophiobolin C (Kishi)

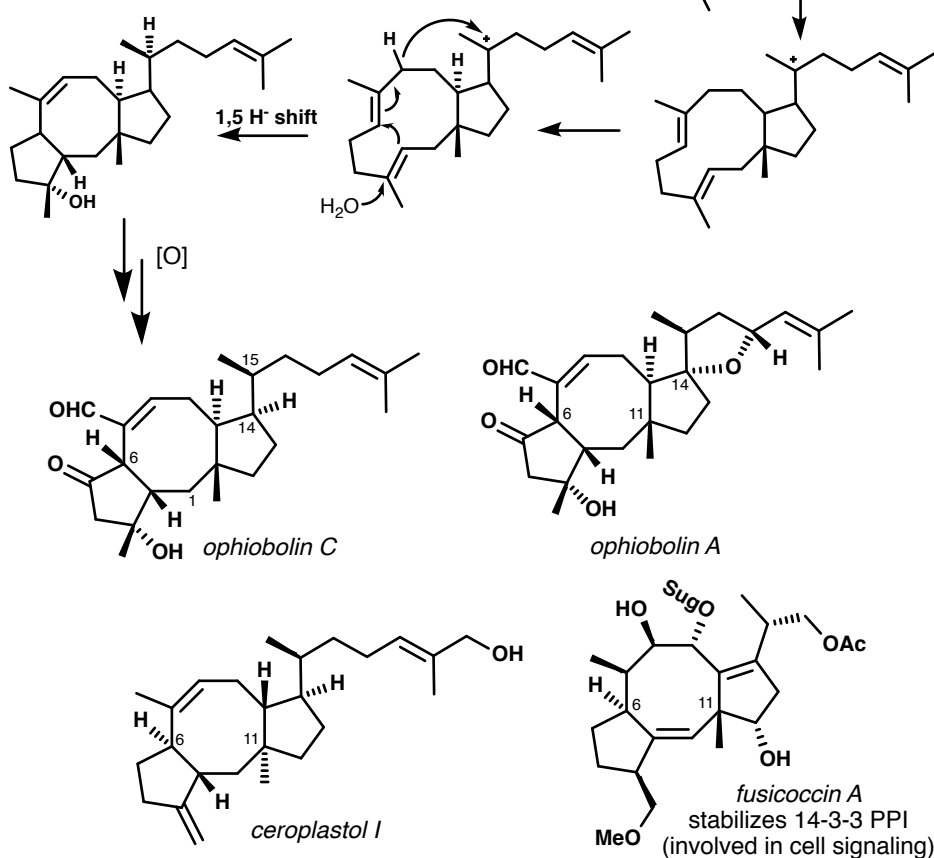
1996 - synthesis of (-)-cotylenol (Kato)

2000s - cytotoxic to human cancer cell lines

2011 - synthesis of (+)-ophiobolin A (Nakada)

2016 - synthesis of (-)-6-*epi*-ophiobolin N (Maimone)

Possible biosynthesis -  
*JCS Perkin Trans 1*, **1975**, 1405-1410

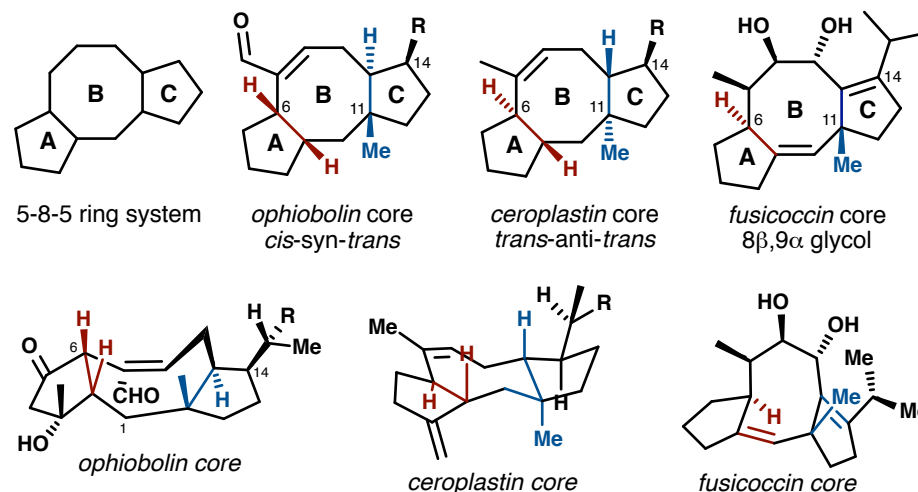


Why make them?  
\*biological significance  
\*structural features

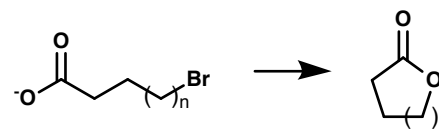
covalent binder to  
calmodulin (via Lys)

different reports  
on *epi* activity

ophiobolin A  
\*phytotoxin  
\*cytotoxin



(1) Ring strain and (2) transannular strain make medium-sized rings difficult to synthesize.

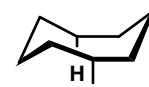


Relative Rates

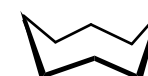
n = 1	10 <sup>6</sup>
n = 2	10 <sup>4</sup>
n = 3	100
n = 4	1

*ACR*, **1981**, 14, 95-102

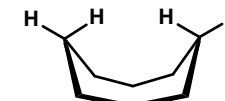
Confirmations of 8-membered rings -



boat-chair



crown



boat-boat

Strategies to synthesize these rings include

- 1) Intramolecular C-C bond formation
- 2) ring expansion
- 3) fragmentation

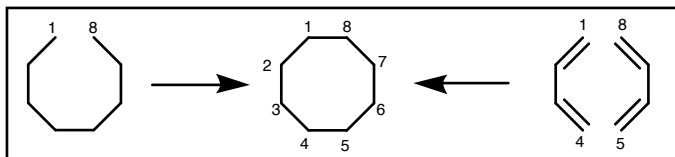
Recommended reviews:

Petasis, *Tet*, **1992**, 48, 5757-5821

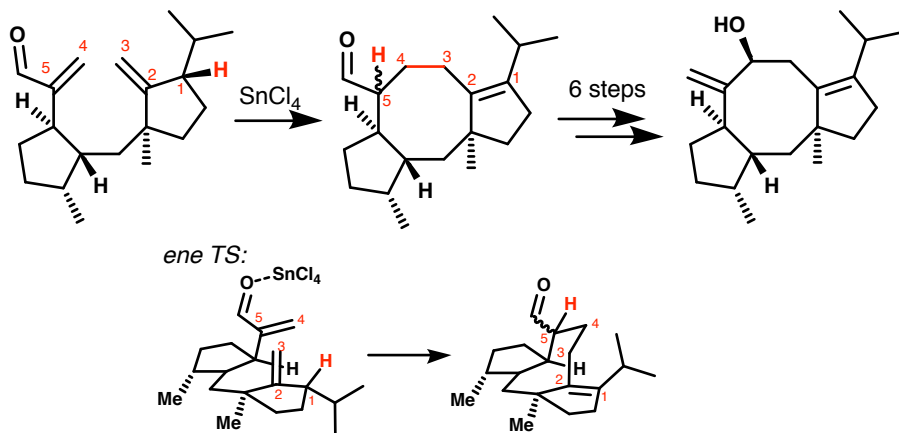
Singh, *Chem. Rev.*, **1999**, 99, 881-930

Yet, *Chem. Rev.*, **2000**, 100, 2963-3007

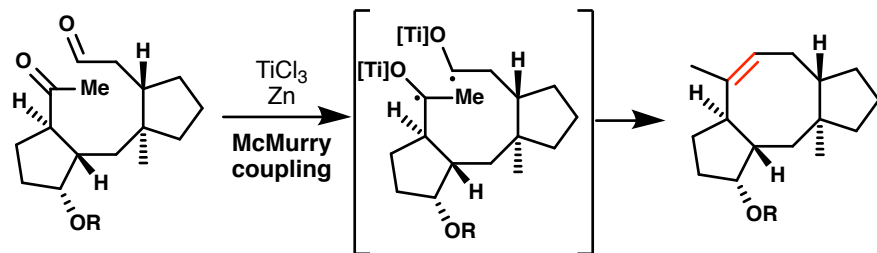
Intramolecular C–C bond formation



\*addition into Michael acceptor (ene reaction)  
Synthesis of **hydroxycycloaraneosene** (Kato, *CL*, 1989, 91)

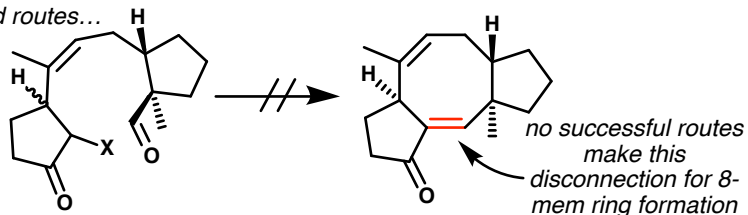


\*carbonyl coupling  
Synthesis of ceroplastin nucleus (Snider, *JOC*, 1992, 57, 3615-3626)



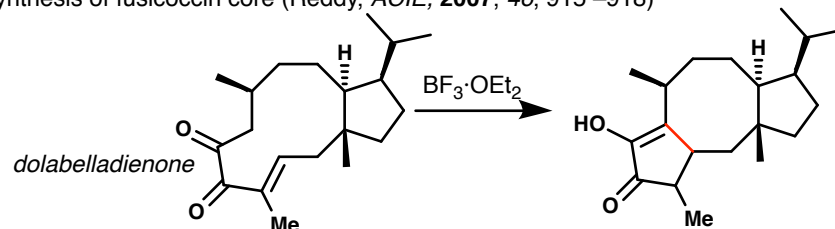
but only after failed routes...

X = H  
X = SO<sub>2</sub>Tol  
X = PO(OEt)<sub>2</sub>



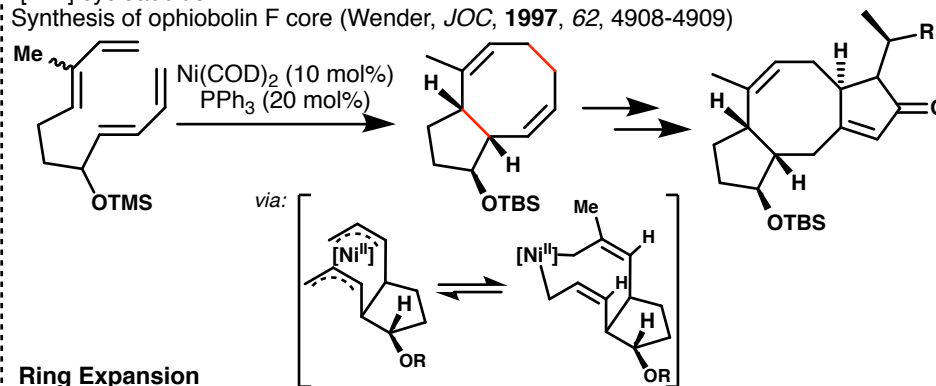
\*Nazarov cyclization

Synthesis of fusicoccin core (Reddy, *ACIE*, 2007, 46, 915–918)

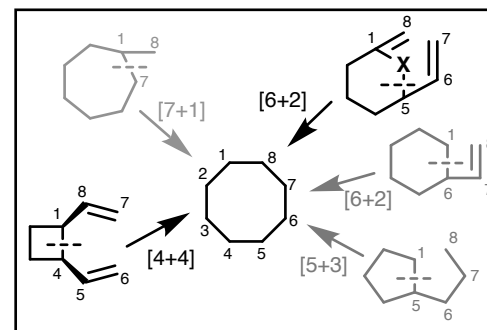


\*[4+4] cycloaddition

Synthesis of ophiobolin F core (Wender, *JOC*, 1997, 62, 4908-4909)

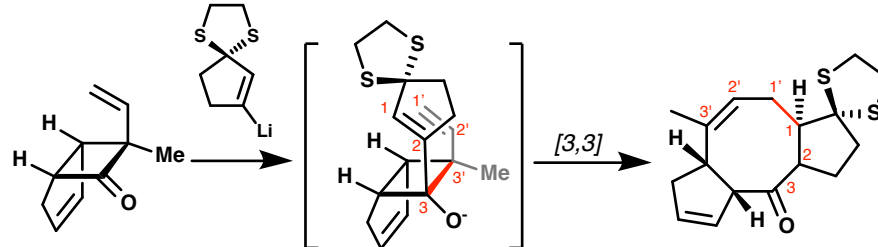


Ring Expansion



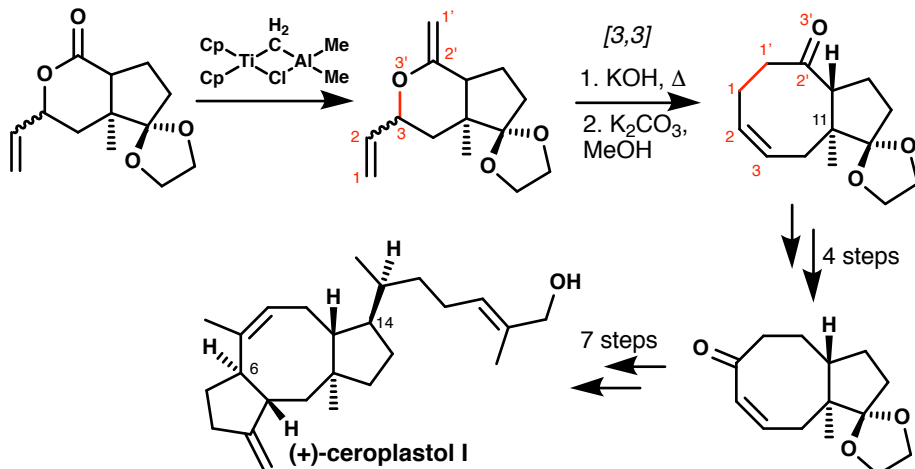
\*[4+4] ring expansion

ophiobolin F core (Paquette, *JOC*, 1985, 50, 201-205; *JOC*, 1983, 48, 1147-1149)

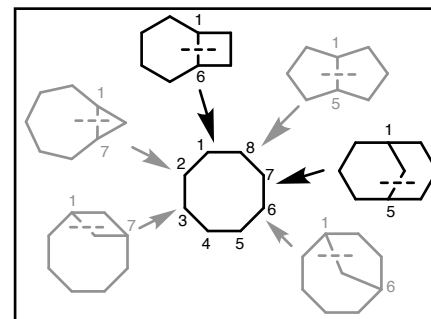


\*[6+2] ring expansion

Synthesis of (+)-ceroplastol I (Paquette, *JACS*, **1993**, *115*, 1676-1683; *JACS*, **1991**, *113*, 2762-2764)

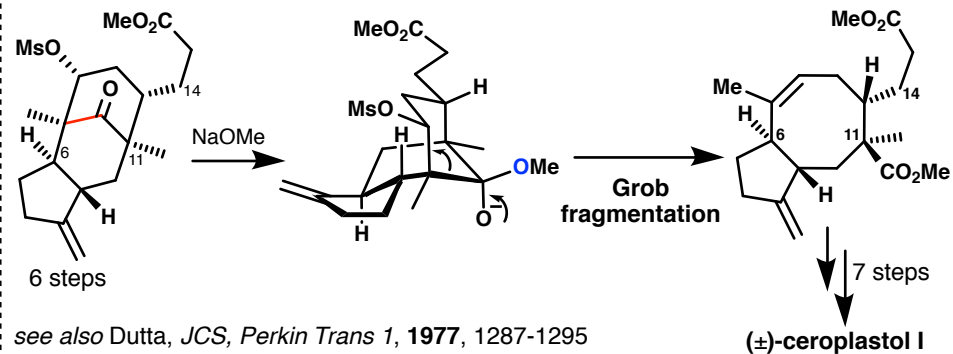


Fragmentation



\*bicyclo[3.3.1]nonane

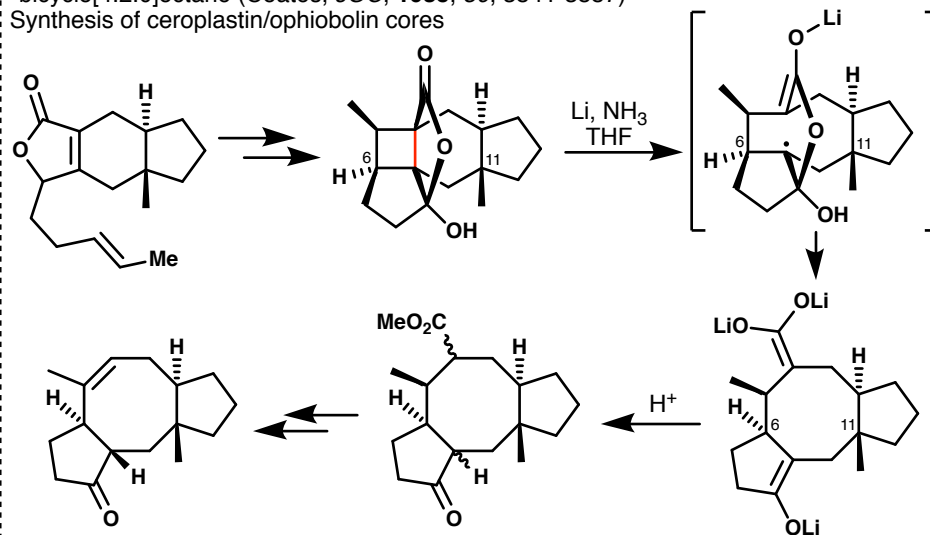
Synthesis of ceroplastol I (Boeckman, *JACS*, **1989**, *111*, 2737-2739)



see also Dutta, *JCS, Perkin Trans 1*, **1977**, 1287-1295

\*bicyclo[4.2.0]octane (Coates, *JOC*, **1985**, *50*, 3541-3557)

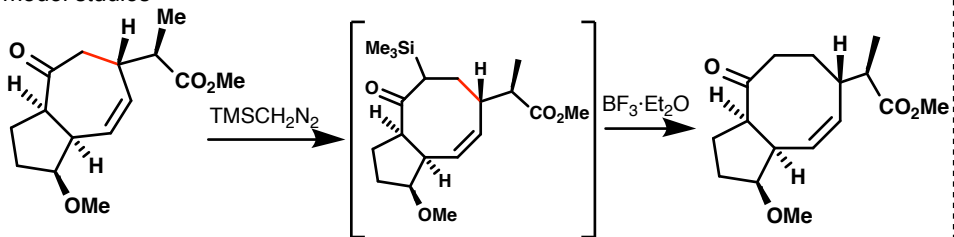
Synthesis of ceroplastin/ophiobolin cores



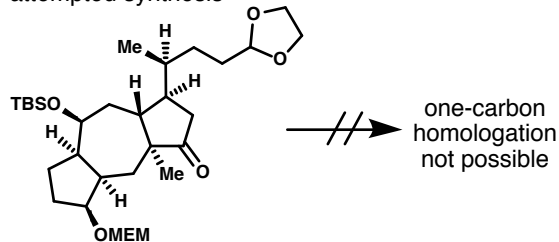
\*[7+1] ring expansion

Attempted ophiobolin ring system (Rigby, *JOC*, **1987**, *52*, 4634-4635; *JCS Perkins Trans. 1*, **1994**, 3449-3457)

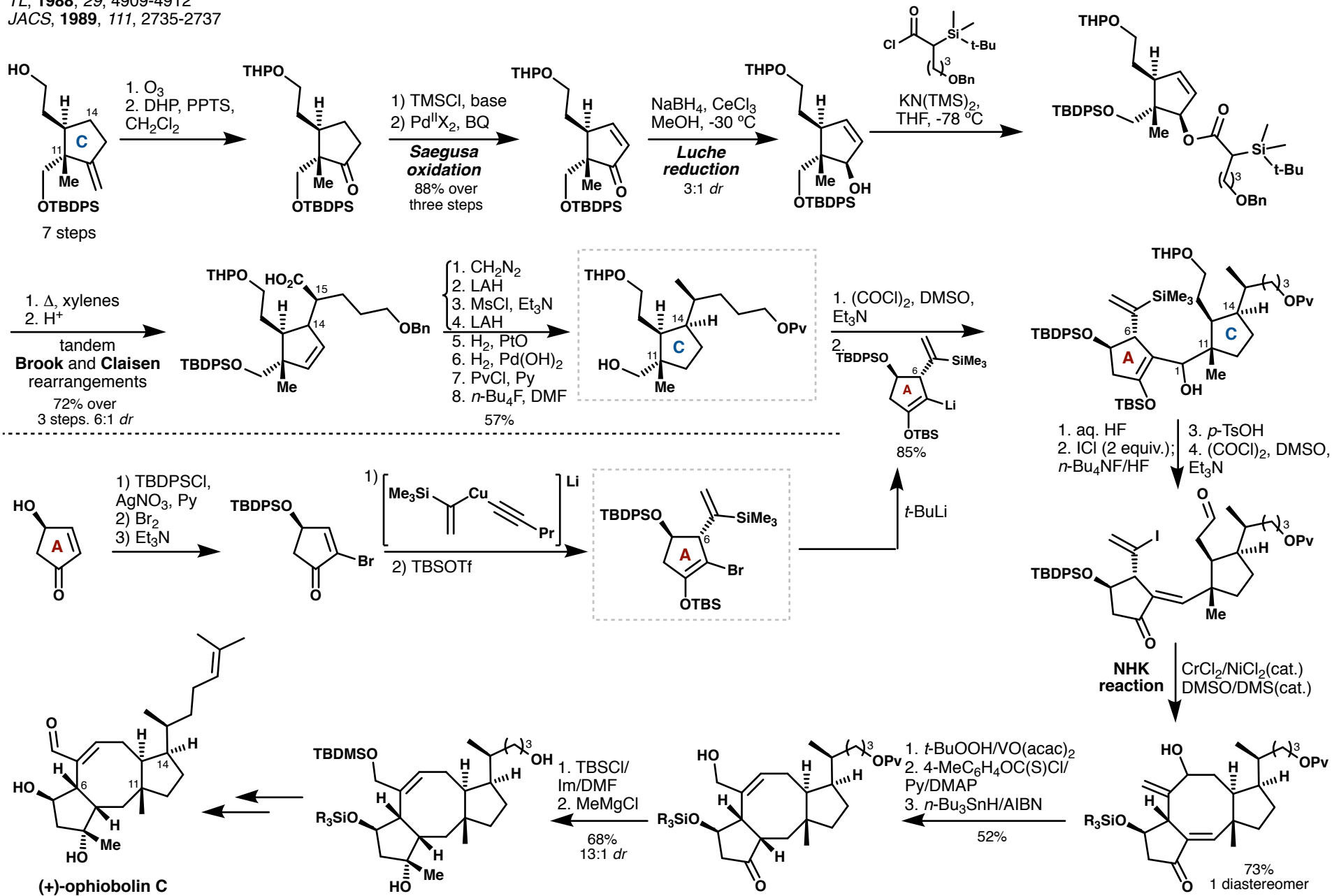
model studies -

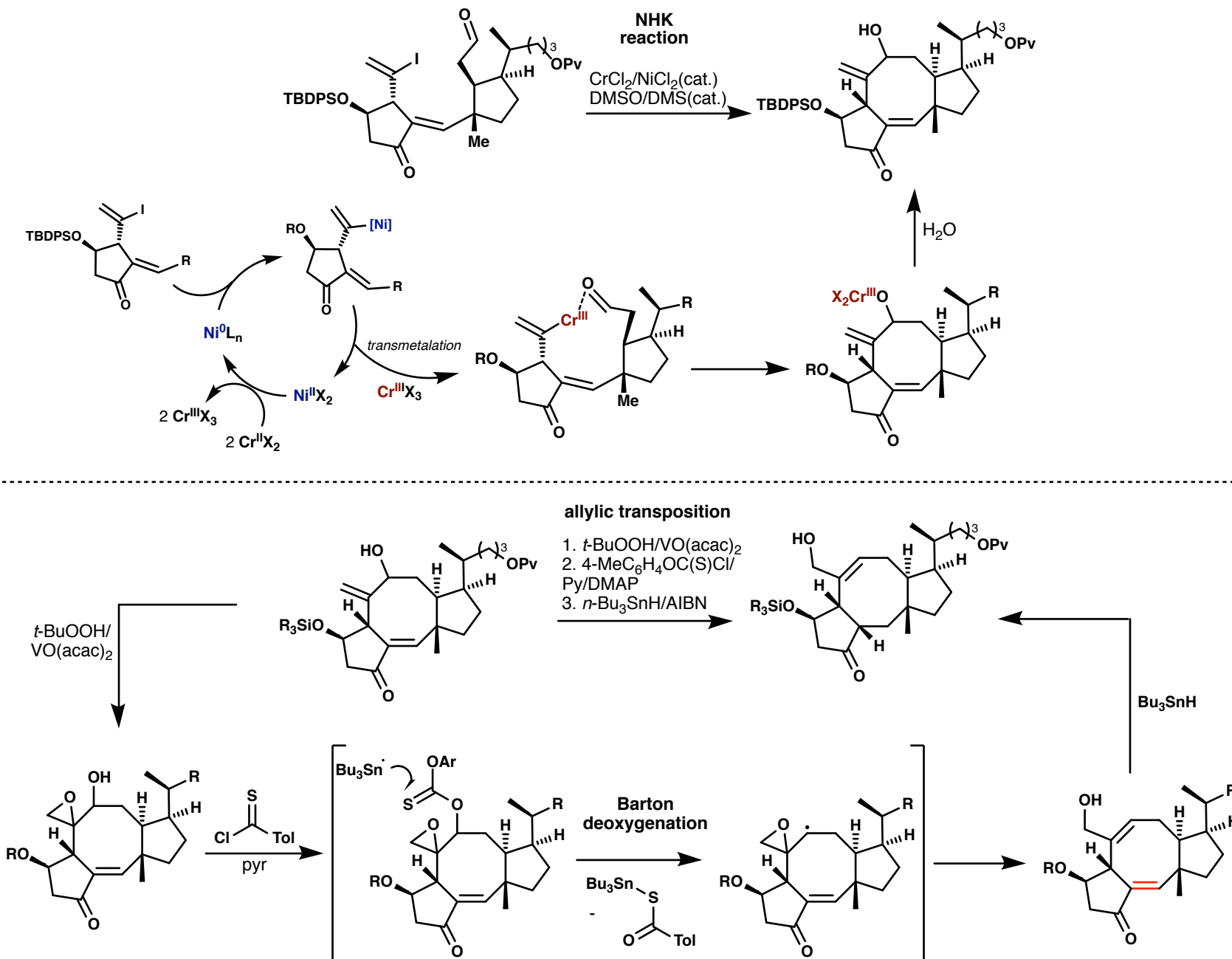


attempted synthesis -

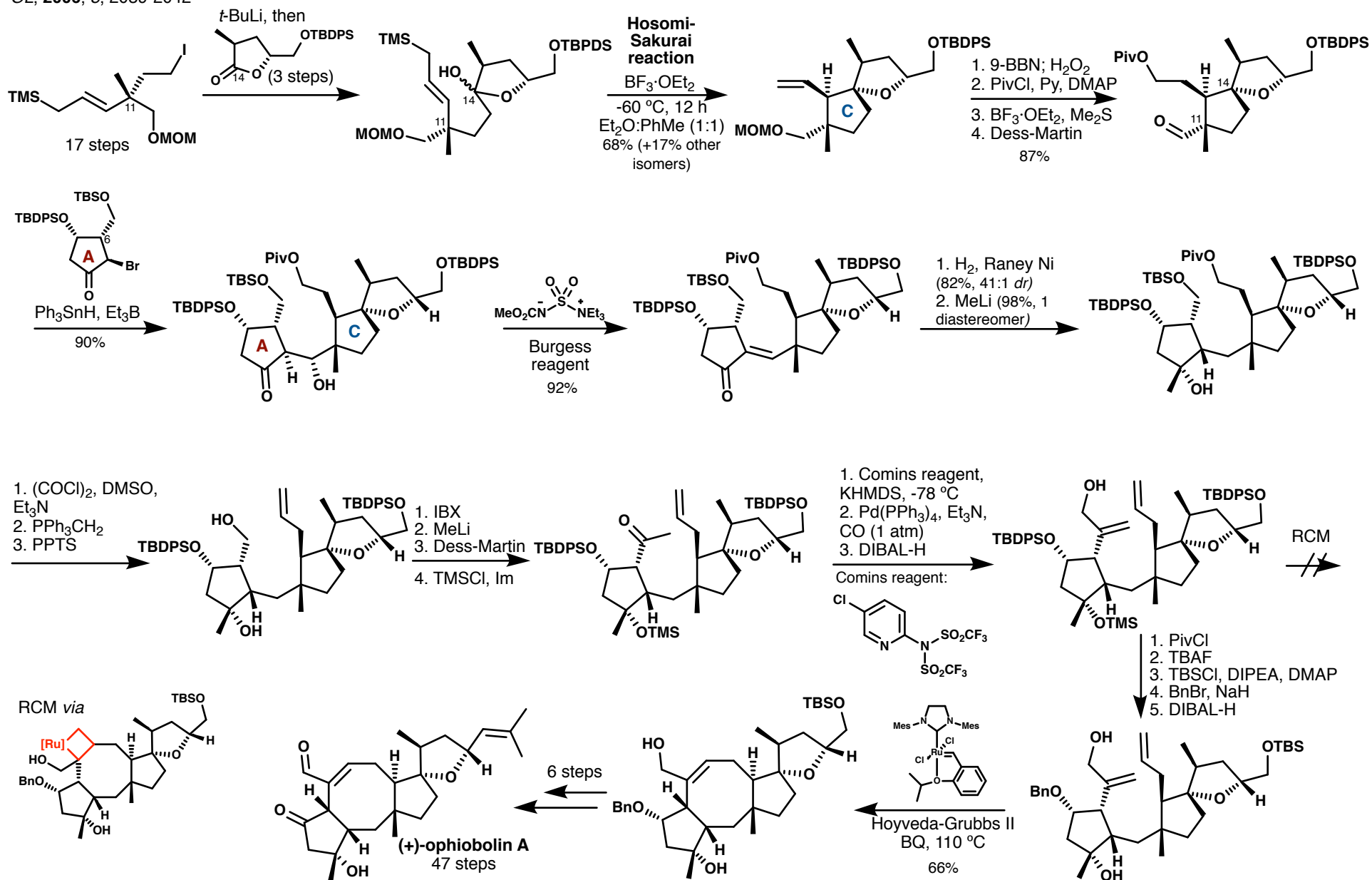


Ophiobolin C (Kishi, 1989)  
TL, 1988, 29, 4909-4912  
JACS, 1989, 111, 2735-2737

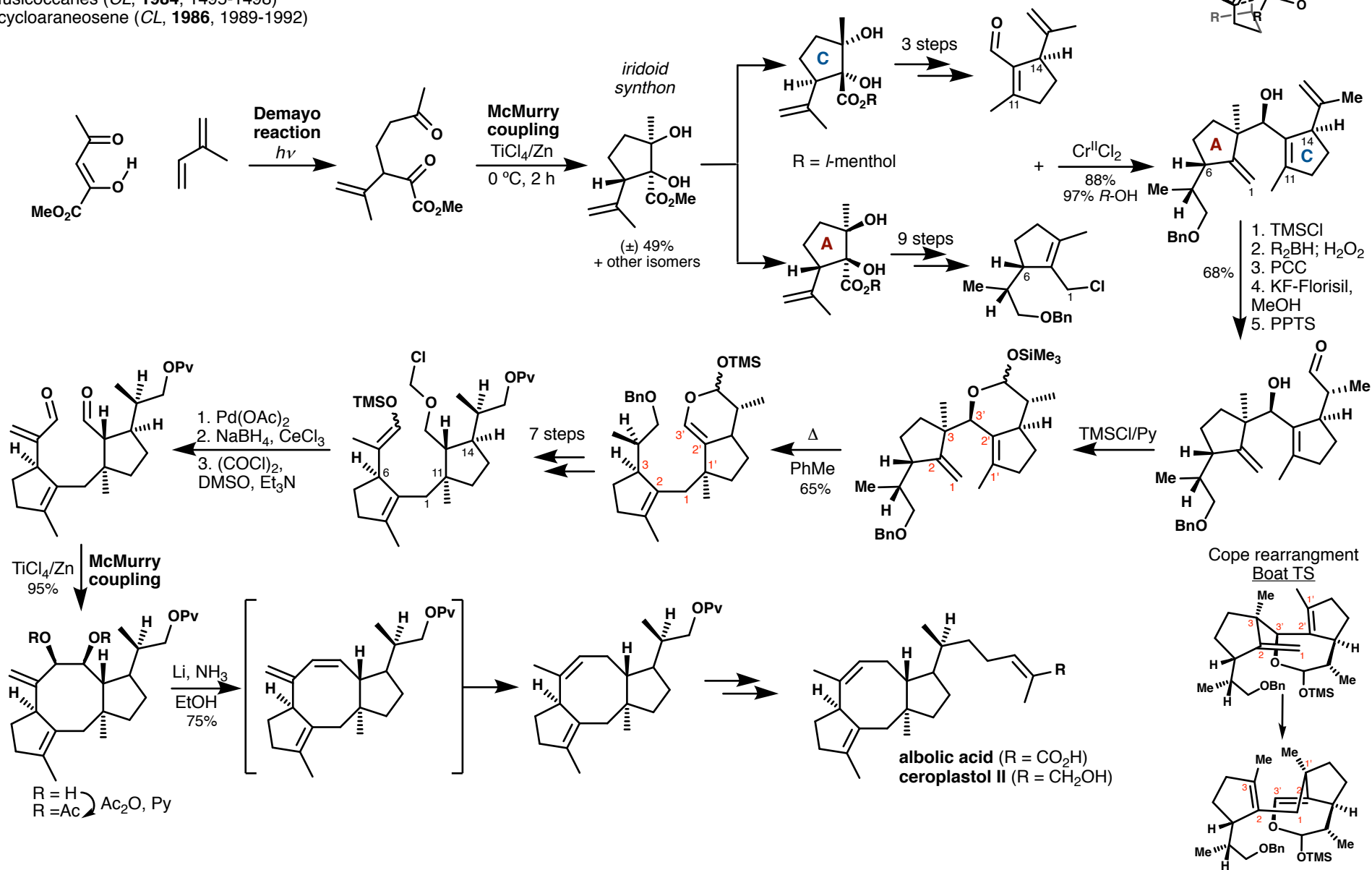




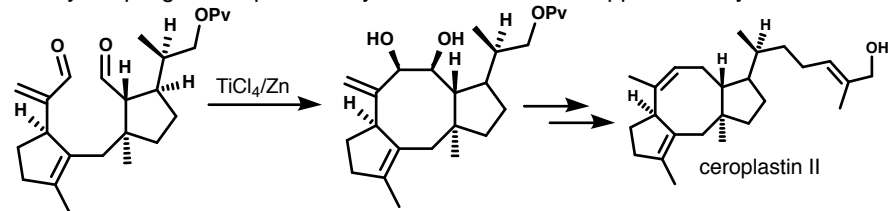
Ophiobolin A (Nakada, 2011)  
*Chem Eur. J.*, **2013**, *19*, 5476-5486  
*ACIE*, **2011**, *50*, 9452-9455  
*OL*, **2006**, *8*, 2039-2042



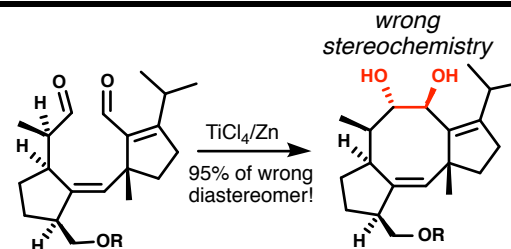
ceroplastol II (Kato, 1988)  
*JCS Chem Commun*, **1988**, 354-356  
*J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 1*, **1989**, 165-174  
 iridoid coupling strategy used for:  
 fusicoccanes (*CL*, **1984**, 1495-1498)  
 cycloaraneosene (*CL*, **1986**, 1989-1992)



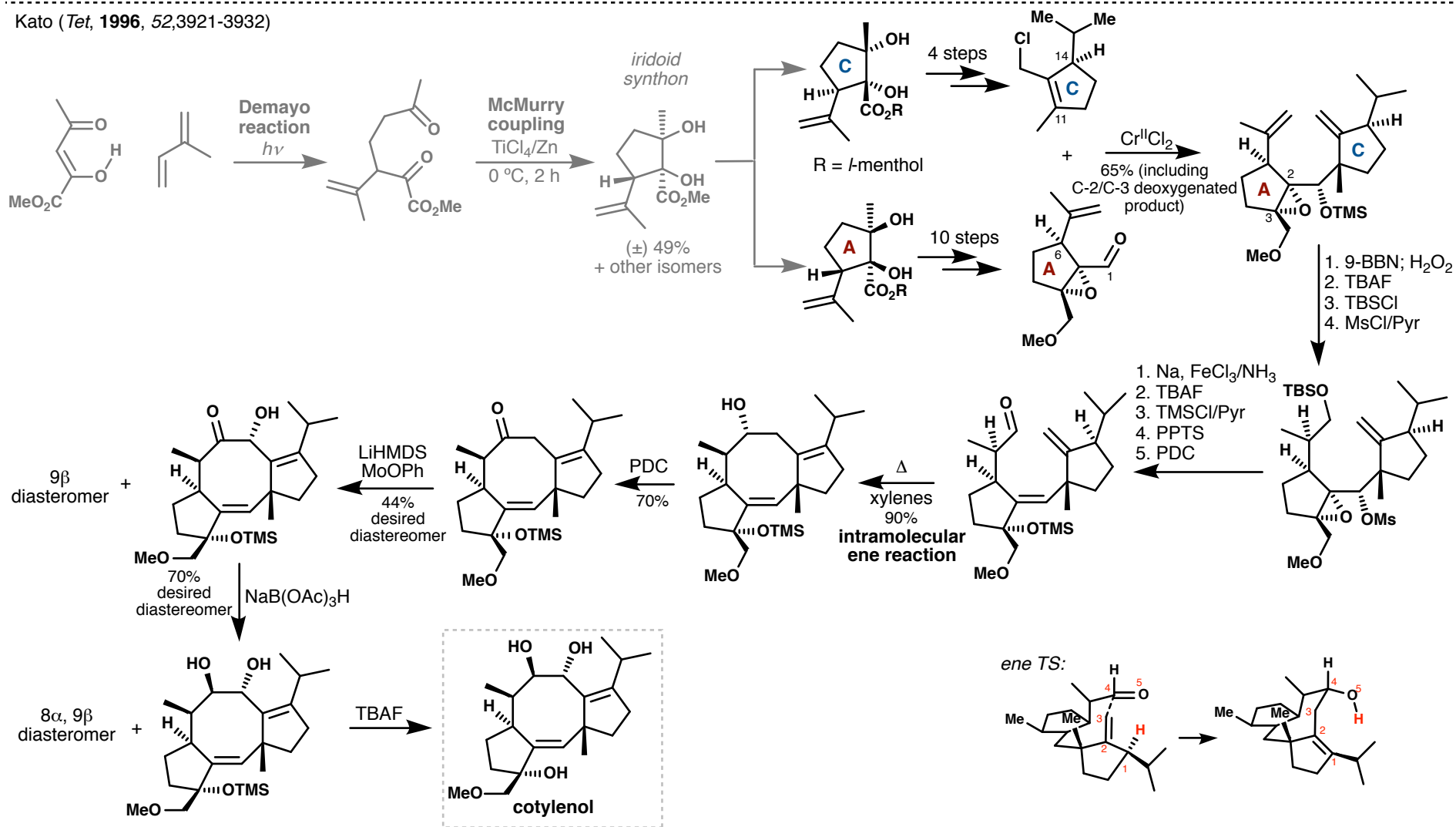
\*McMurry coupling in ceroplastin II synthesis could not be applied to cotylenol route



vs.

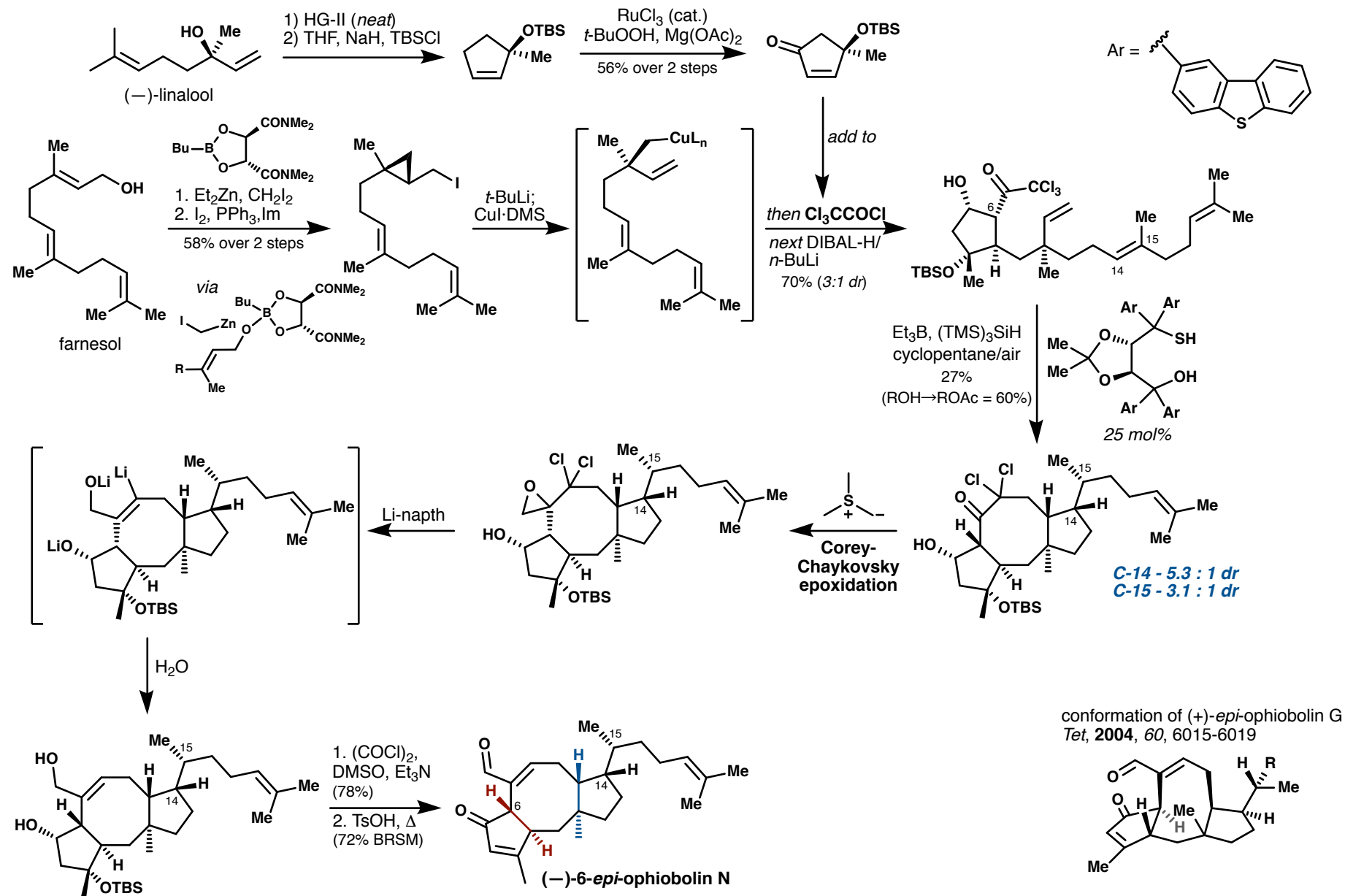


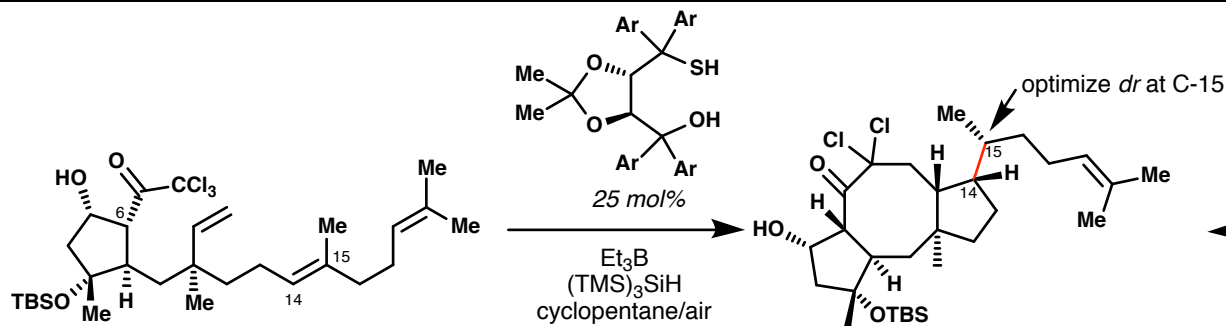
Kato (*Tet*, 1996, 52,3921-3932)



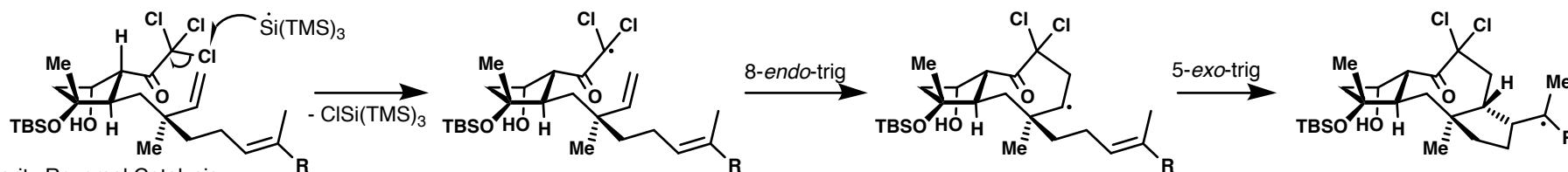
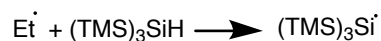
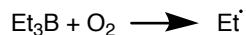


(-)-6-*epi*-ophiobolin N (Maimone, 2016)  
*Science*, 2016, 352, 1078-1082





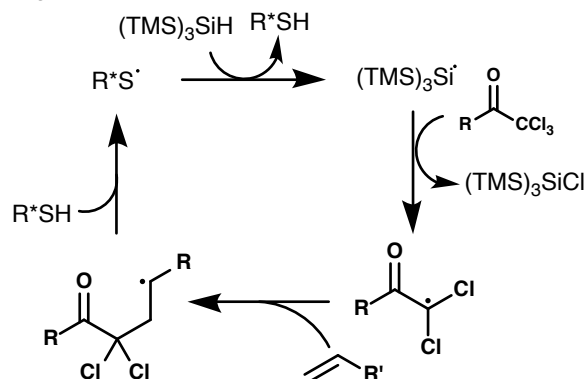
Radical initiation:



#### Polarity Reversal Catalysis

\*strength of Si-H bond is strong enough that it prematurely terminates radical chain

\*Thiols have a lower S-H bond strength and can donate H<sup>•</sup> and propagate radical chain



#### Conclusion

\*potential biological significance and questions makes these targets worth pursuing

\*medium-sized rings display changes in reactivity based on *transannular* interactions, not as important in small or large ring systems

#### Future Directions

\*synthetic potential for this class of molecules exists, particularly with new C-C bond forming R\* reaction methods

\*conformational rigidity important for stereoselective transformations