

COMMUNICATION

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# Enantioselective Total Synthesis of (–)-Limaspermidine and (–)-Kopsinine by a Nitroaryl Transfer Cascade Strategy

Brendan Horst, Daniël S. Verdoorn, Sven Hennig, Gydo van der Heijden, and Eelco Ruijter\*

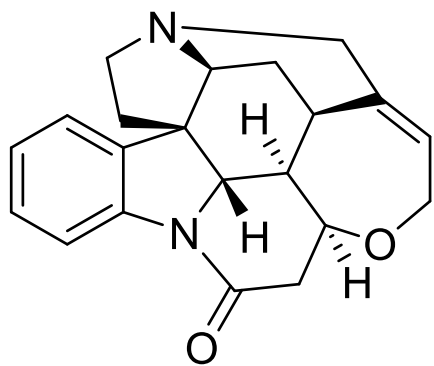
Dedicated to Prof. Dr. Henk Hiemstra on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday

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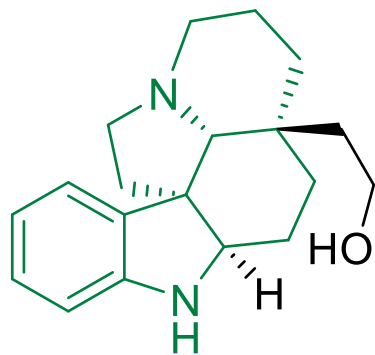
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Amsterdam Institute of Molecular and Life Sciences (AIMMS)  
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E-mail: [e.ruijter@vu.nl](mailto:e.ruijter@vu.nl)

Supporting information for this article is given via a link at the end of the document.

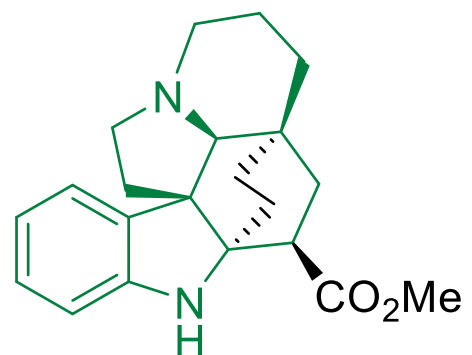
# Background



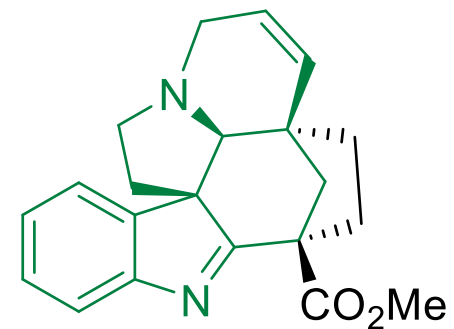
(-)-strychnine (1)



(+)-limaspermidine (2)

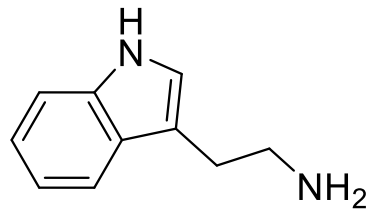


(-)-kopsinine (3)

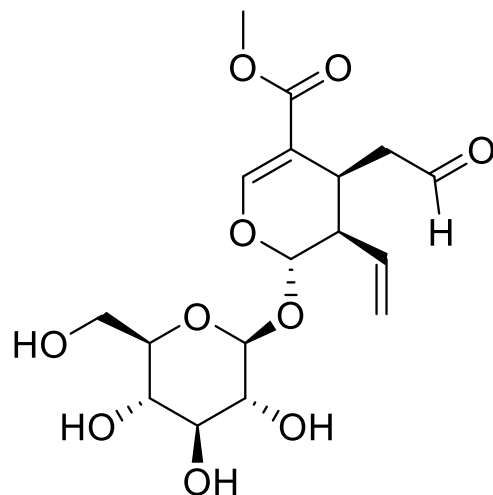


(-)-kopsifoline D (4)

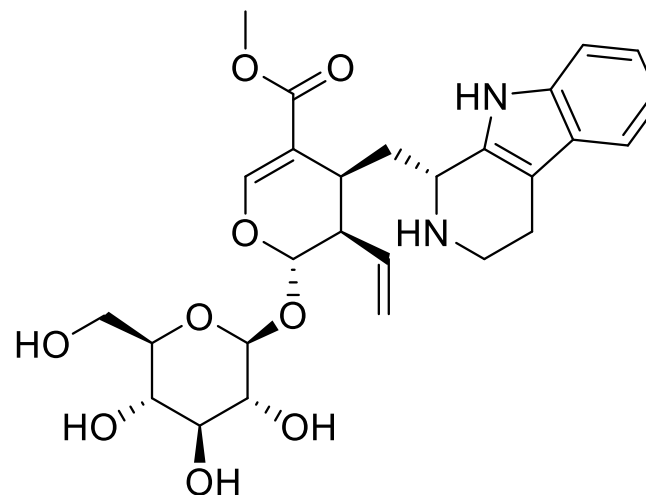
# Background



Tryptamine

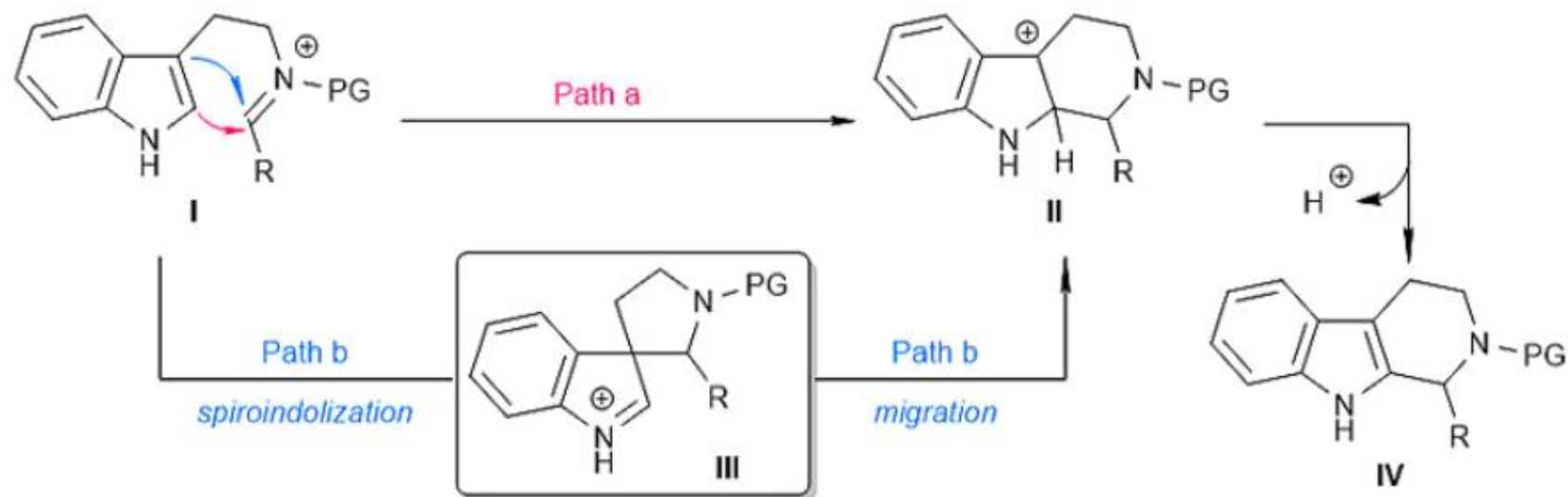


Secologanin

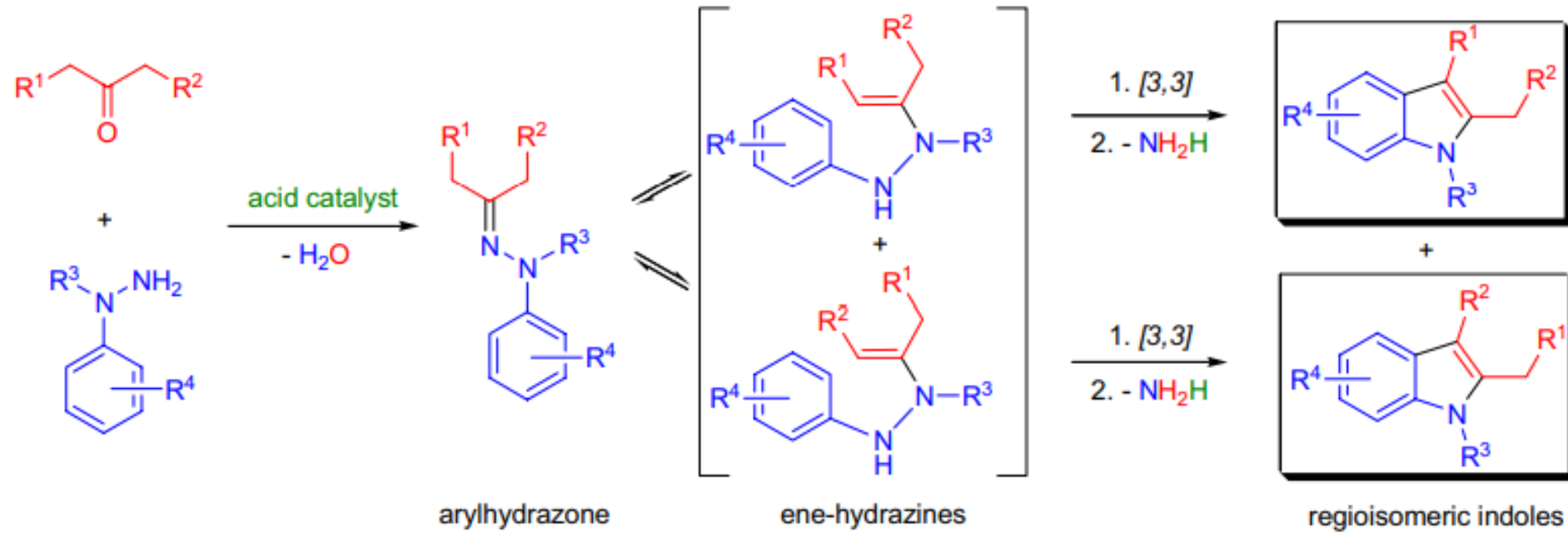


Strictosidine

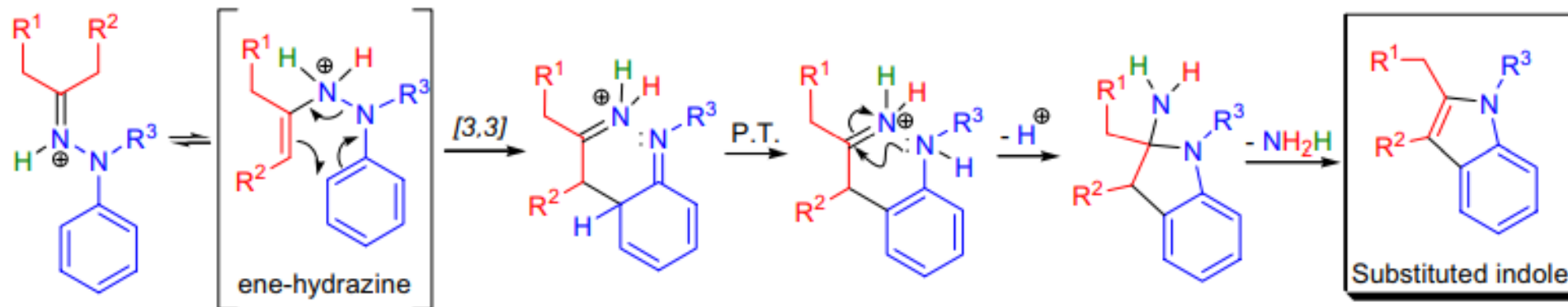
# Pictet-Spengler reaction mechanism

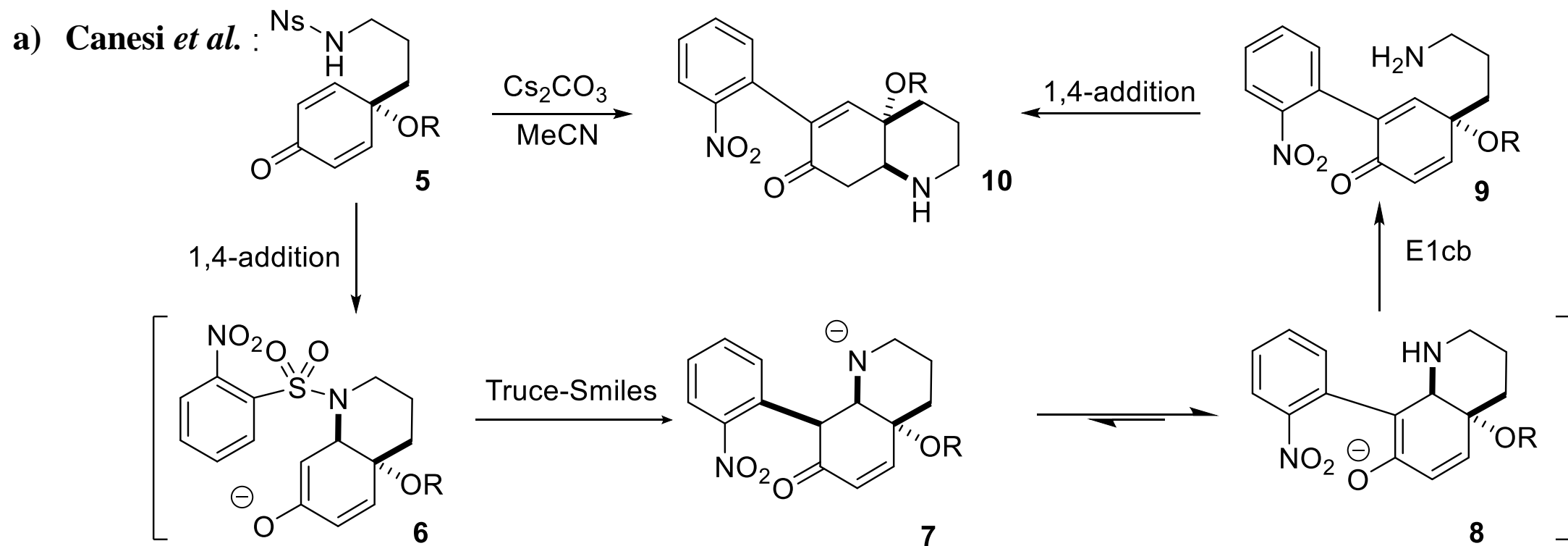


# Fischer Indole Synthesis

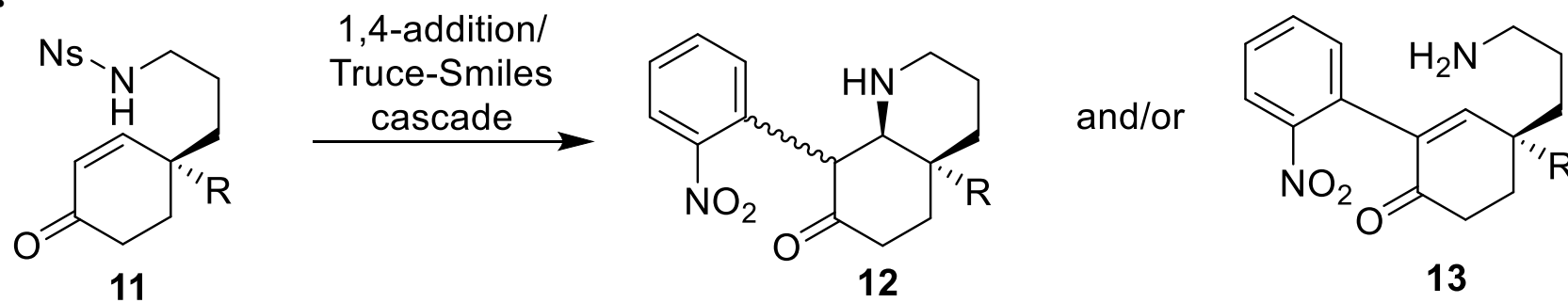


## Mechanism

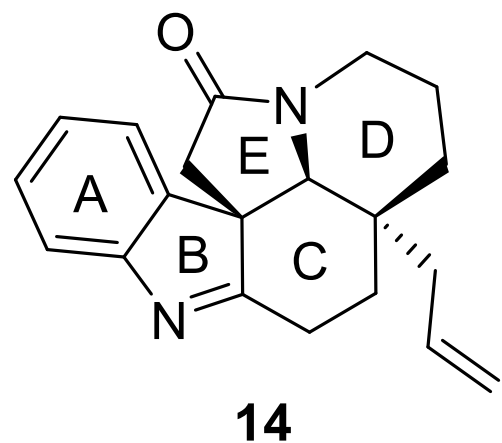




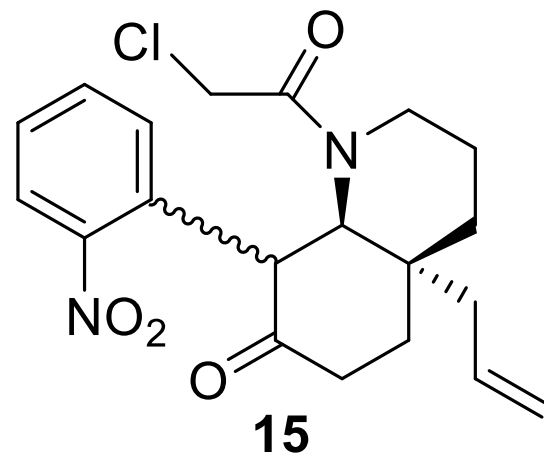
**b) This work:**



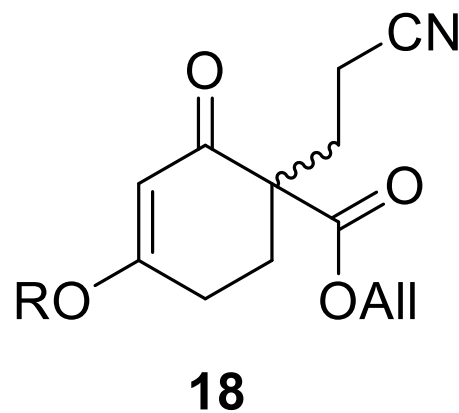
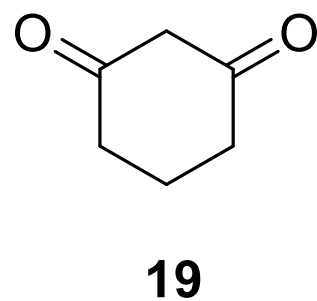
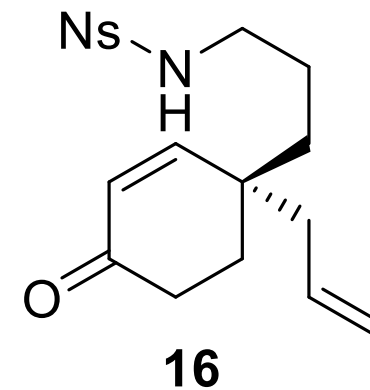
# Retrosynthetic Analysis



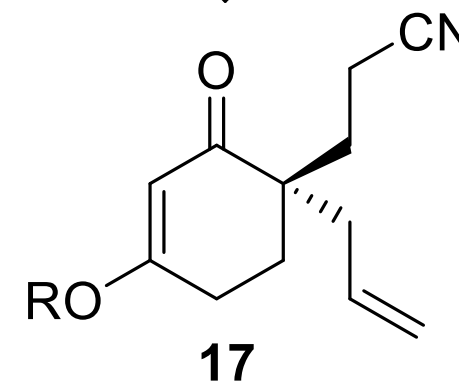
reductive  
cyclization



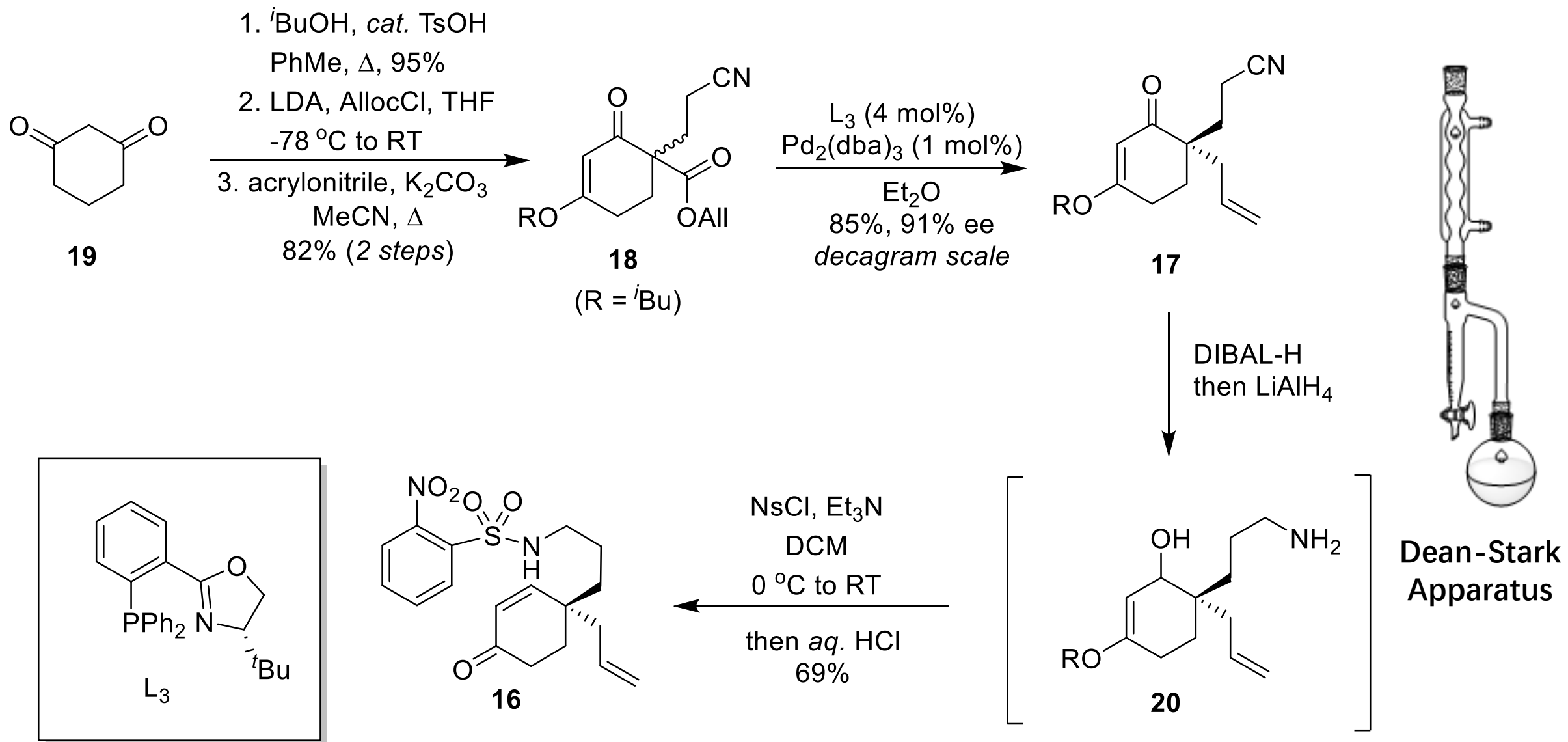
1,4-addition/  
Truce-Smiles  
E1cb

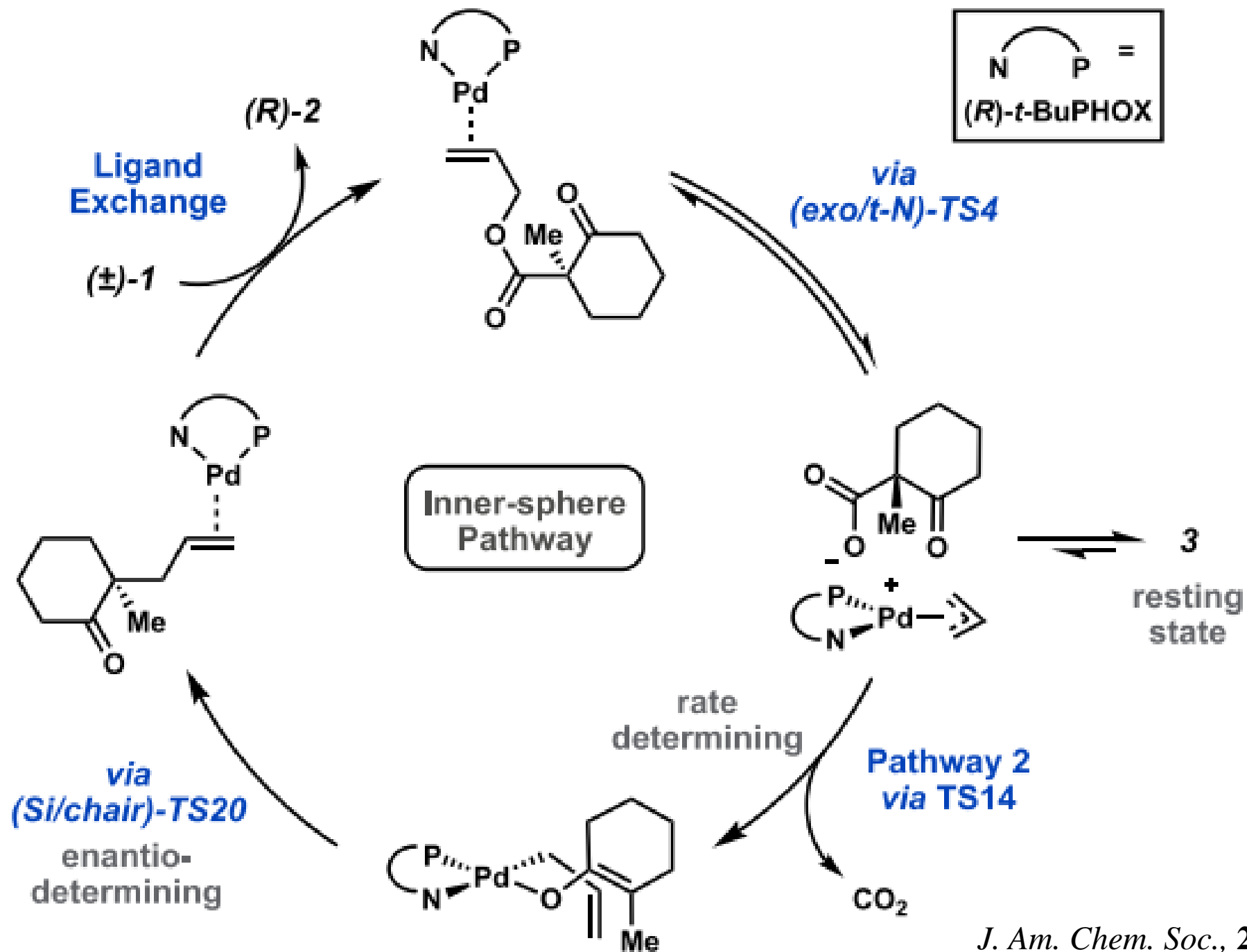


decarboxylative  
allylation

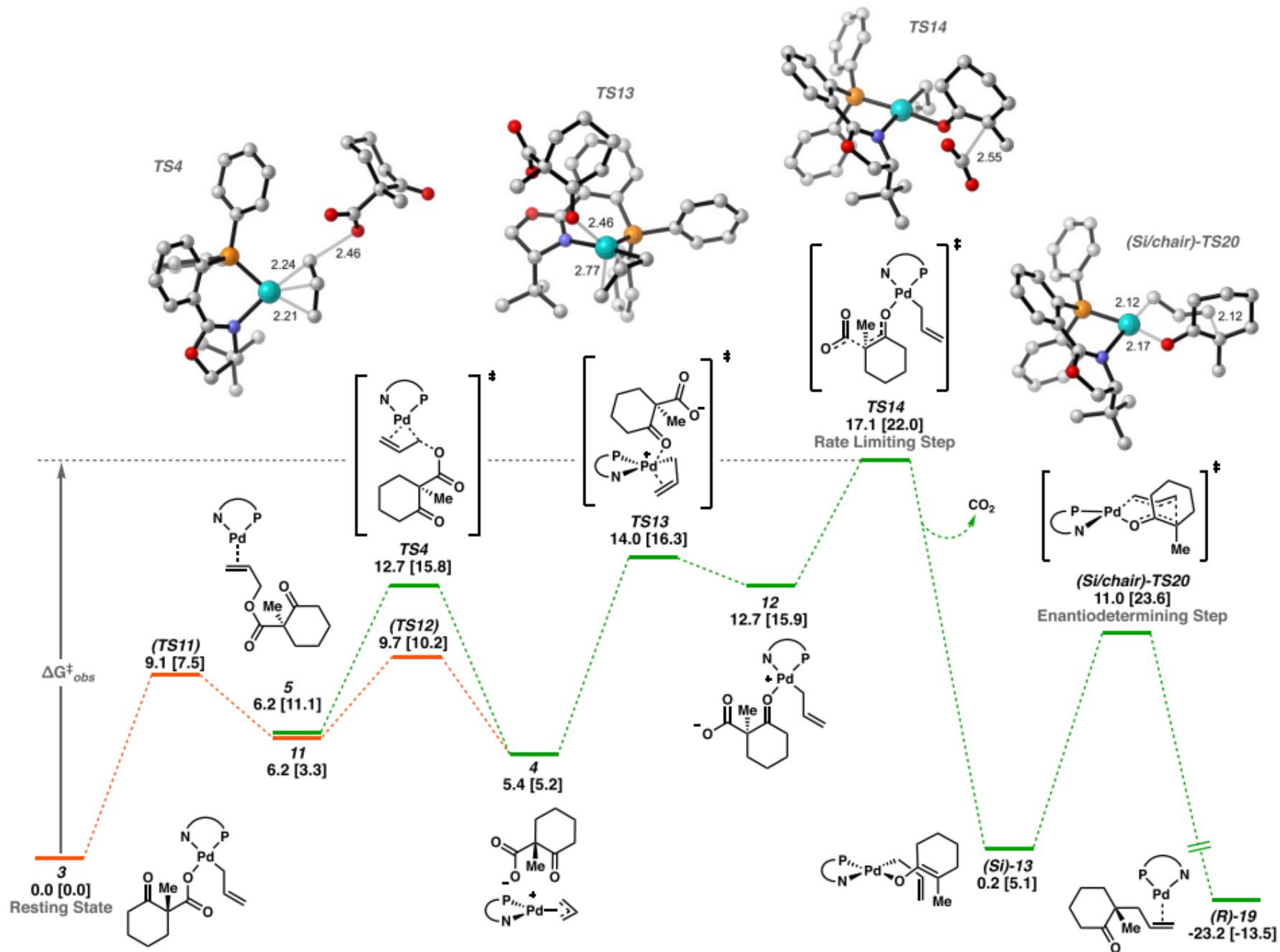


# Synthesis Strategy





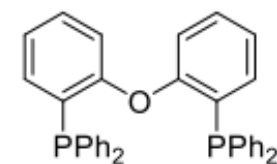




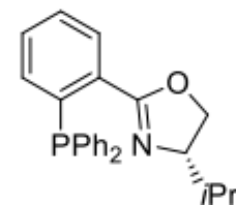
# Reaction Optimization



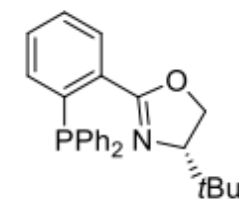
Entry <sup>[a]</sup>	Cat	Ligand	Solvent	T (°C)	Yield (%) <sup>[b]</sup>	ee (%) <sup>[c]</sup>
1	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	L1	THF	65	77	-
2	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	L2	THF	65	93	68
3	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	L3	THF	65	92	81
4	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	L4	THF	65	94	81
5	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	L5	THF	65	92	-53
6	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	L6	THF	65	97	2
7	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	L7	THF	65	92	9
8	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	L8	THF	65	81	4



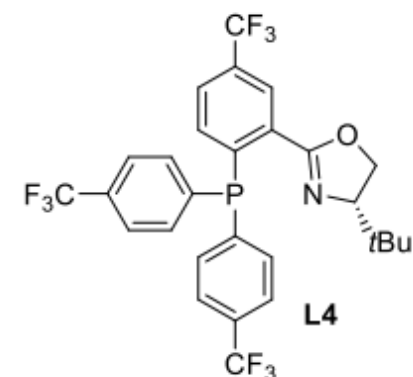
L1



L2



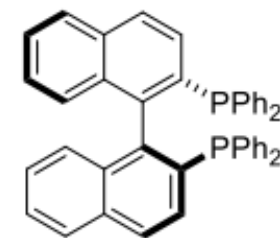
L3



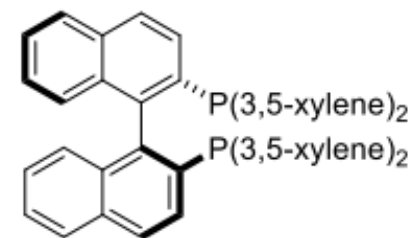
L4



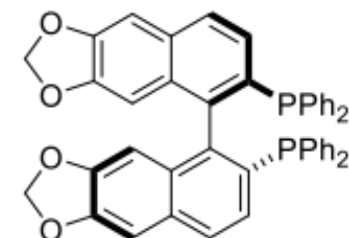
L5



L6

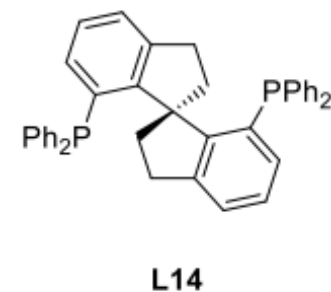
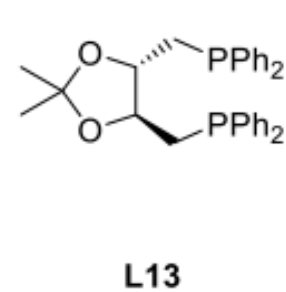
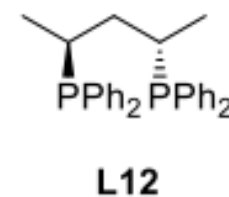
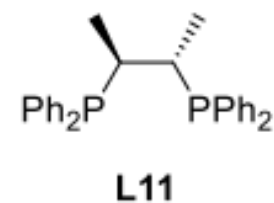
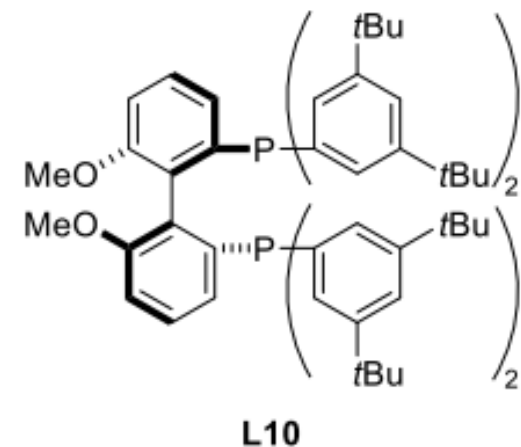
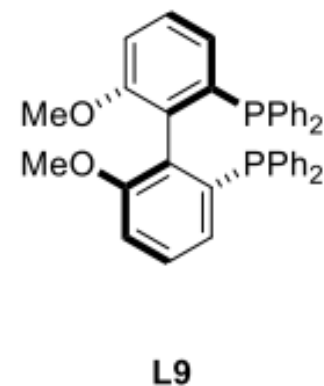


L7



L8

# Reaction Optimization

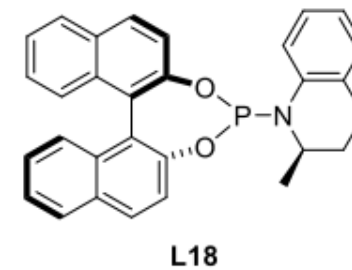
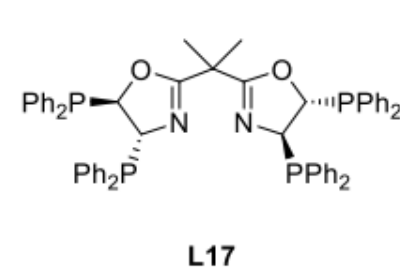
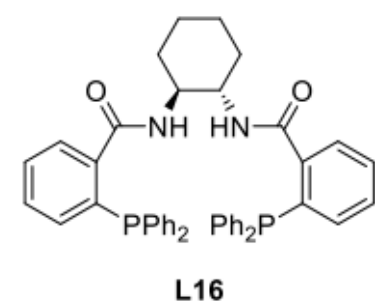
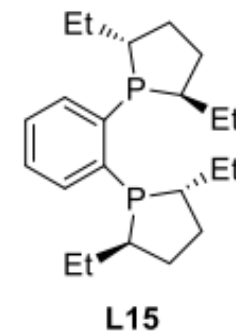
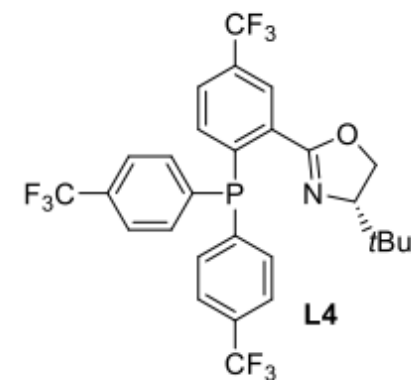
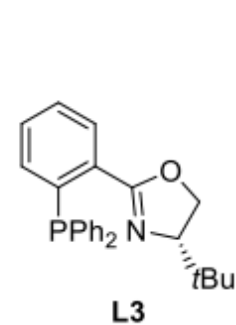


Entry <sup>[a]</sup>	Cat	Ligand	Solvent	T (°C)	Yield (%) <sup>[b]</sup>	ee (%) <sup>[c]</sup>
9	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L9</b>	THF	65	98	1
10	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L10</b>	THF	65	85	-6
11	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L11</b>	THF	65	80	1
12	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L12</b>	THF	65	90	1
13	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L13</b>	THF	65	69	-5
14	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L14</b>	THF	65	77	0

# Reaction Optimization



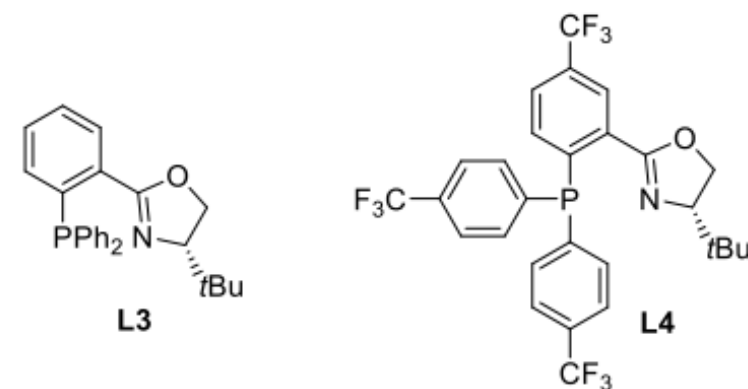
Entry <sup>[a]</sup>	Cat	Ligand	Solvent	T (°C)	Yield (%) <sup>[b]</sup>	ee (%) <sup>[c]</sup>
15	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L15</b>	THF	65	97	-10
16	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L16</b>	THF	65	no conv. <sup>d</sup>	-
17	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L17</b>	THF	65	no conv. <sup>d</sup>	-
18	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L18</b>	THF	65	no conv. <sup>d</sup>	-
19	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L3</b>	toluene	RT	35	87
20	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L4</b>	toluene	RT	40	90



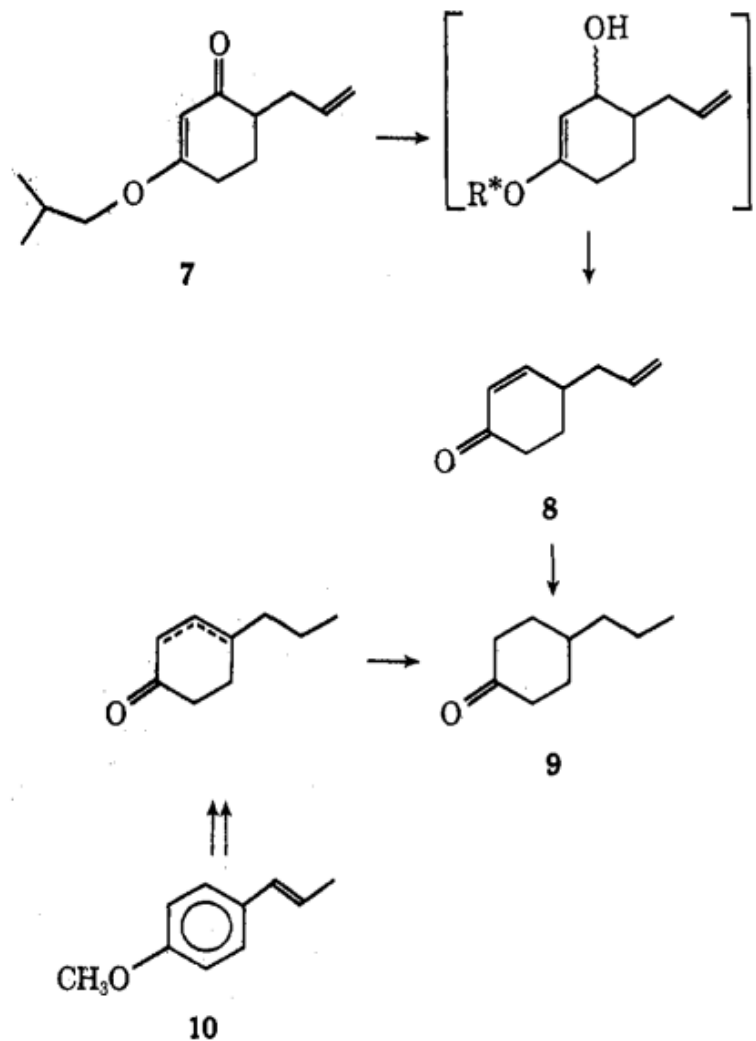
# Reaction Optimization



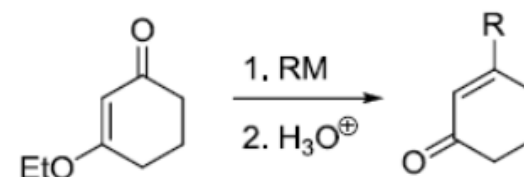
Entry <sup>[a]</sup>	Cat	Ligand	Solvent	T (°C)	Yield (%) <sup>[b]</sup>	ee (%) <sup>[c]</sup>
21	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L3</b>	toluene	65	97	83
22	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L4</b>	toluene	65	46	89
23	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L3</b>	1,4-dioxane	RT	no conv. <sup>d</sup>	
24	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L4</b>	1,4-dioxane	RT	36	90
25	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L3</b>	1,4-dioxane	80	66	80
26	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L4</b>	1,4-dioxane	80	no conv. <sup>d</sup>	
27	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L3</b>	diethyl ether	RT	84	91
28	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L4</b>	diethyl ether	RT	86	90
29 <sup>e</sup>	Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub>	<b>L3</b>	diethyl ether	RT	96	91



# Stork-Danheiser Reaction

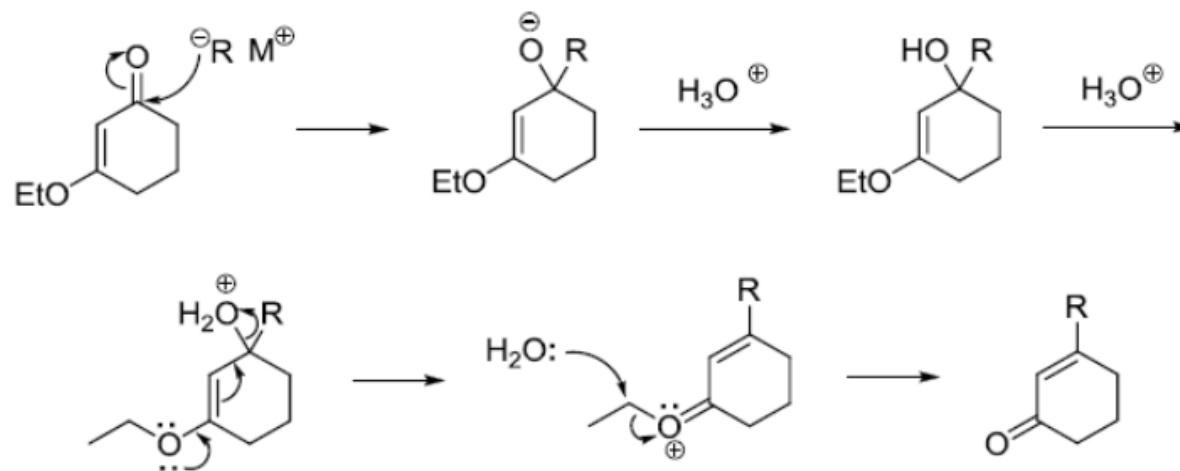


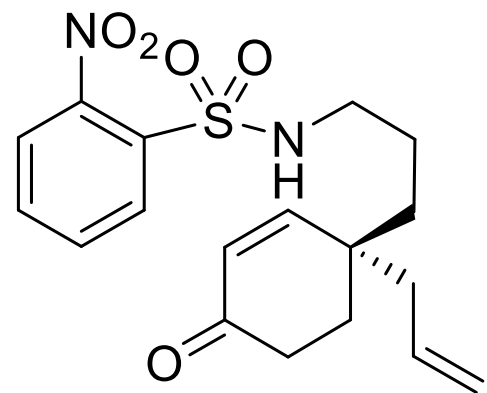
(3)



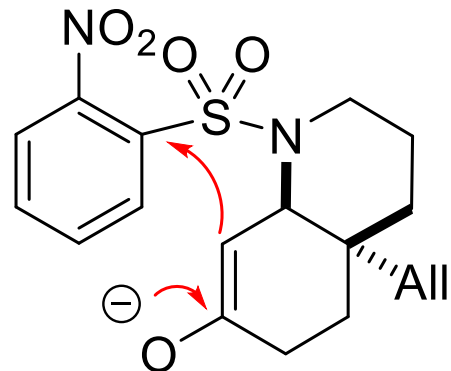
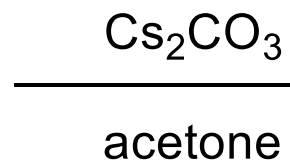
$\beta$ 烷氧基烯酮和有机金属化合物（格氏试剂或有机锂）反应接着进行酸处理得到另一种烯酮的反应，新生成的烯酮的羰基的位置是原料中烯醇醚的烯碳的位置。

反应机理

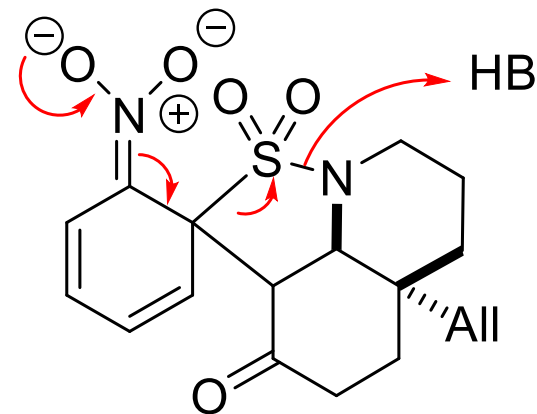




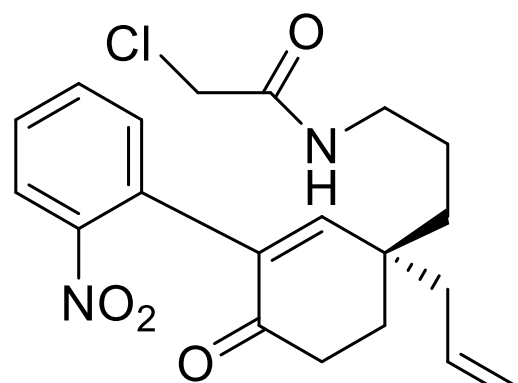
**16**



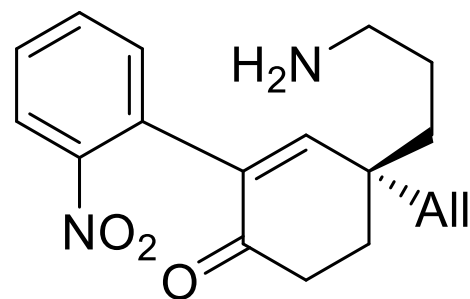
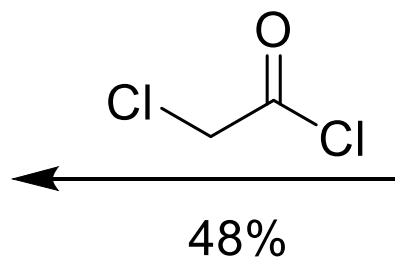
**21**



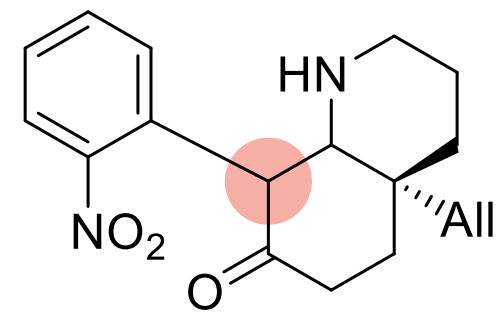
**22**



**25a**

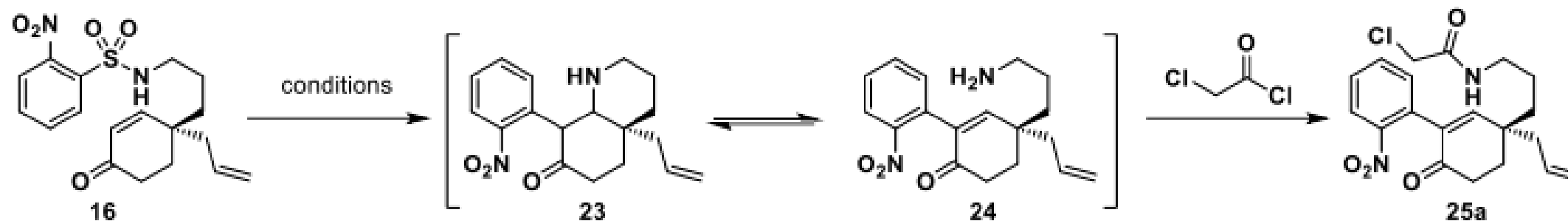


**24**



**23**

# Reaction Optimization

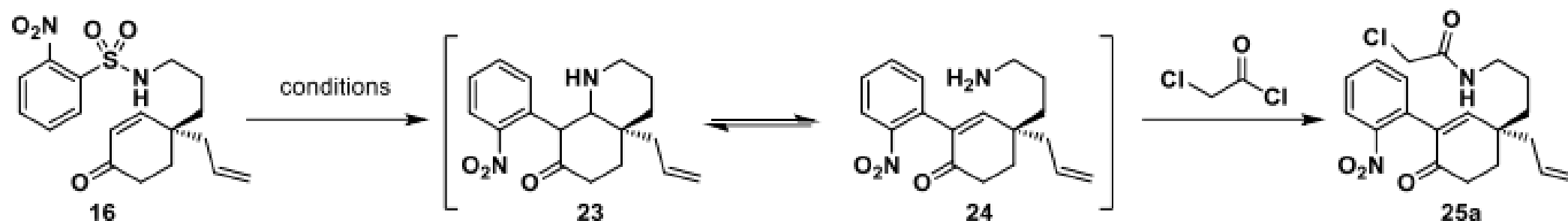


**Table S2.** List of conditions tested.

Entry	Solvent	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (eq.)	Temperature (° C)	Time (h)	Electrophile (eq) <sup>[a]</sup>	Conversion of <b>16</b>	Yield of <b>25a</b> <sup>[b]</sup>
1	acetonitrile	3	60	18	No	Full	Mixture <sup>[c]</sup>
2	DMSO	3	60	18	No	Full	Mixture <sup>[c]</sup>
3	DMSO	2	60	18	No	Full	Mixture <sup>[c]</sup>
4	DMSO	1	60	18	No	Full	Mixture <sup>[c]</sup>
5	DMF	3	60	18	No	Full	Mixture <sup>[c]</sup>
6	acetone	2	56	18	No	Full	Mixture <sup>[c,d]</sup>
7	THF	2	60	18	No	Slow	Mixture <sup>[c]</sup>

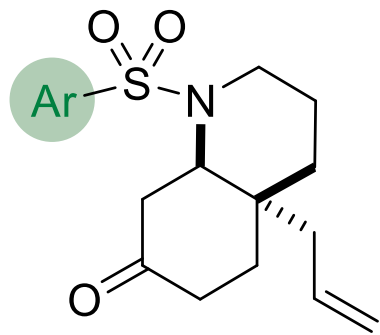


# Reaction Optimization

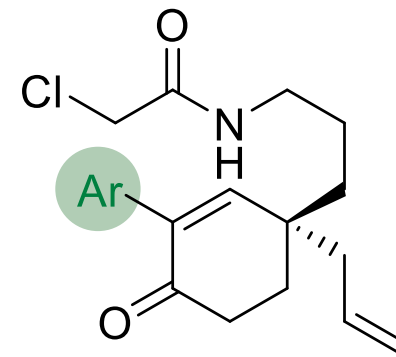
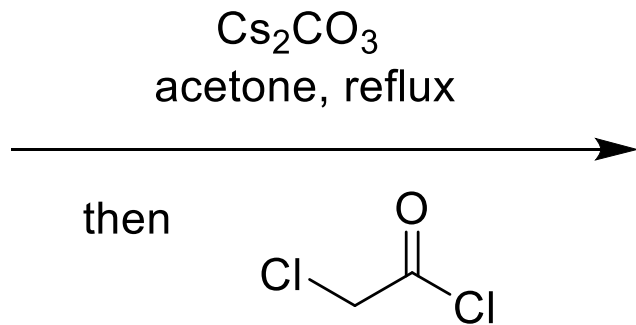


**Table S2.** List of conditions tested.

Entry	Solvent	Cs <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (eq.)	Temperature (° C)	Time (h)	Electrophile (eq) <sup>[a]</sup>	Conversion of <b>16</b>	Yield of <b>25a</b> <sup>[b]</sup>
8	chloroform	2	60	18	No	No	0%
9	DMSO	2	100	18	No	Full	Mixture <sup>[c]</sup>
10	DMSO	2	60	18	yes	Full	0%
11	acetonitrile	2	60	18	yes	Full	17%
12	DMF	2	60	18	yes	Full	17%
<b>13</b>	<b>acetone</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>Full</b>	<b>50% (48%<sup>[d]</sup>)</b>
14	acetone	2	100 <sup>[d]</sup>	3	yes	Full	29%

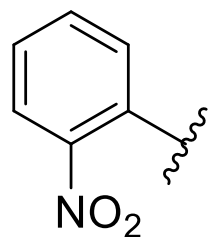


**26a-h**



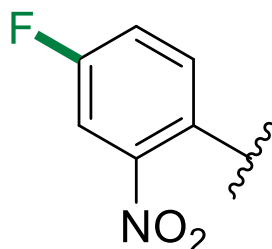
**25a-h**

Ar =



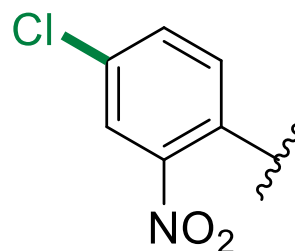
**25a**

48% (18 h)



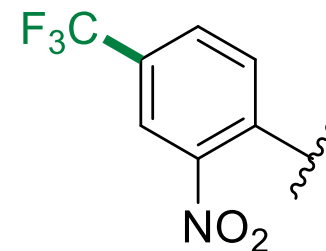
**25b**

50% (3 h)



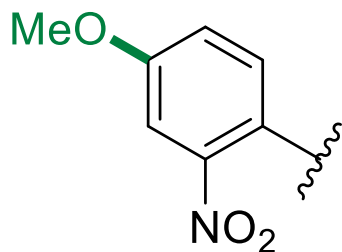
**25c**

60% (3 h)



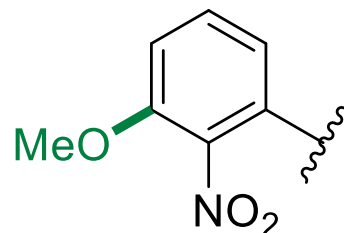
**25d**

21% (2 h)



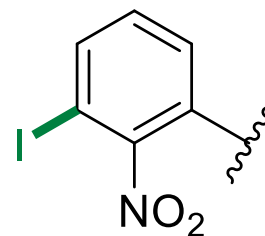
**25e**

44% (72 h)



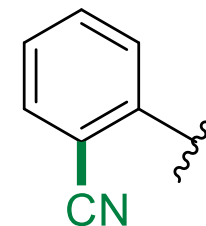
**25f**

no conv.



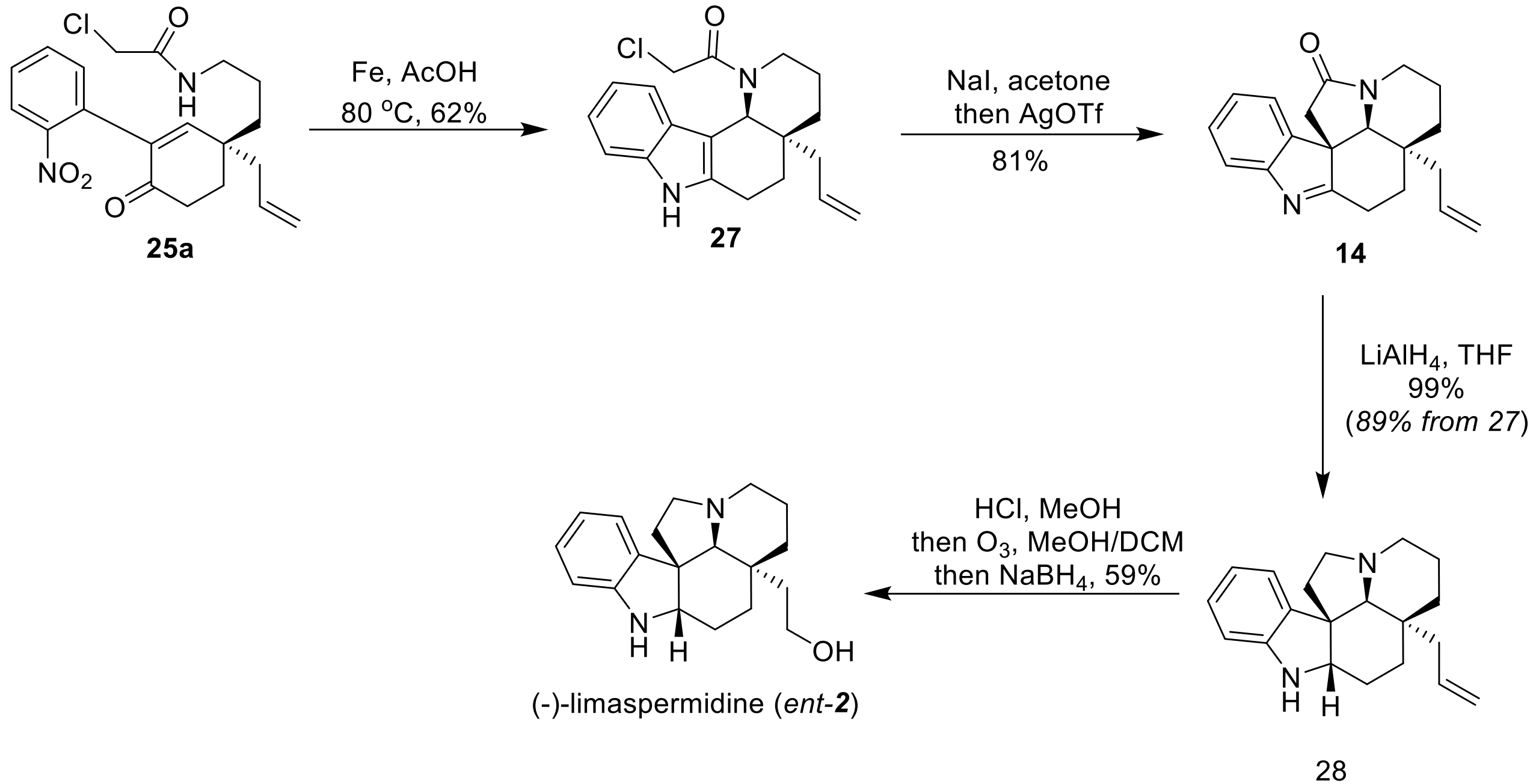
**25g**

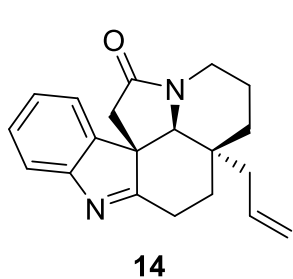
0%



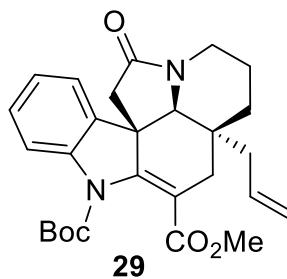
**25h**

no conv.

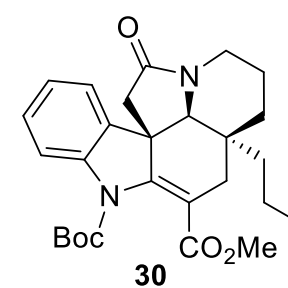




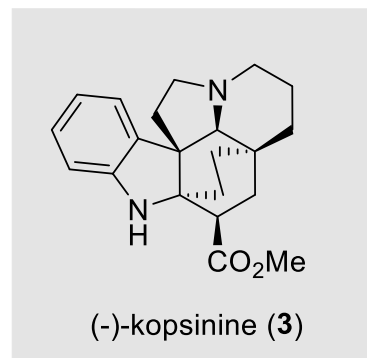
1. LDA, then NCCO<sub>2</sub>Me  
THF, -78 °C, 37% (52% *brsm*)  
2. Boc<sub>2</sub>O, DMAP, DMF, quant.



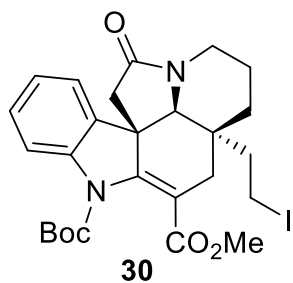
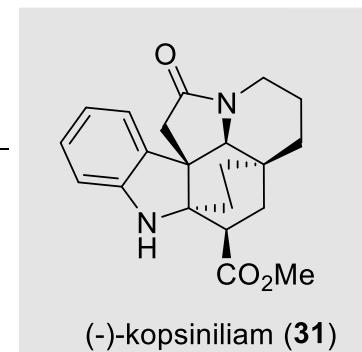
1. O<sub>3</sub>, MeOH/DCM, -78 °C  
then NaBH<sub>4</sub>, -78 °C to RT, 97%  
2. I<sub>2</sub>, PPh<sub>3</sub>, Im., DCM, 85%



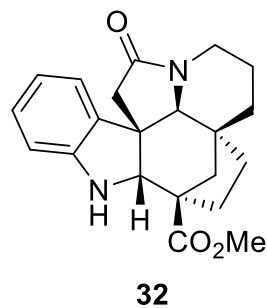
1. SmI<sub>2</sub>, THF/HMPA  
2. TFA/DCM  
91% (2 steps)



1. Lawesson's reagent  
toluene, 90 °C, 85%  
2. Raney Ni, EtOH, reflux, 50%



1. TFA/DCM, then  
*i*-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt, DCM, 59%  
2. NaBH<sub>4</sub>, MeOH, 27%



1. Lawesson's reagent  
toluene, 90 °C, 48%  
2. Raney Ni, EtOH, Δ, 76%

