Literature Report

A Concise and Versatile Synthesis of Alkaloids from *Kopsia tenuis*: Total Synthesis of (±)-Lundurine A and B

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Nishida, A. et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2014, 53, 5569–5572.

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Contents



Kopsia



lundurine A





Retrosynthesis of (\pm)- Lundurine A







Preparation of 5





Saegusa-Ito reaction



[a] Yield of isolated product, except entry 2 in which yield was estimated by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.













Retrosynthesis of (\pm)- Lundurine B





Org. Lett. 2014, 16, 768-771.

Synthesis of Cyclopropane-Fused Indoline 7



Synthesis of Cyclopropane-Fused Indoline 7



















Kopsia alkaloids are interesting molecules because of their biological activities and their unique polycyclic skeletons. For their synthesis or scalable preparation, facile access to the spiroindoline core, shown in red, should lead to a unified total synthesis of all of the related alkaloids shown.

The kopsia alkaloids called lundurines have been particularly attractive compounds for synthetic chemists because they are the only natural products which have an indoline cyclopropane structure and most of the stereogenic centers, including two quaternary carbon atoms, which are part of the cyclopropane ring. However, while their biological effects, such as the high toxicities of lundurines B and D toward B16 melanoma cells and reverse multidrug resistance in vincristine-resistant KB cells, are also interesting, their limited availability and scalable preparation has constrained their application as a biological tool. Since their discovery by Kam and co-workers in 1995, the total synthesis of these natural products has been a challenging issue. However, only two synthetic approaches have been reported to date.

In summary, we have succeeded in the total synthesis of (\pm) lundurine A and B by using a new radical cyclization protocol to join the unsaturated ester and ketone. A key cyclopropanation mediated by Sml₂ is quite suitable for the synthesis of a highly functionalized cyclopropane core because of 1) perfect stereoselectivity and 2) efficacy of transformation of both oxygen functionalities to achieve elegant construction of the C, D, and F rings at a late stage in the synthesis. The spiroindoline intermediate 5 is expected to be a versatile intermediate for the unified total synthesis of the Kopsia alkaloid family and further studies are currently underway.

Meyer-Schuster rearrangement





Saegusa-Ito reaction



