Literature Report 2009-10-20

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Progress toward the Total Synthesis of Psymberin/Irciniastatin A

Konopelski, J. P. et al J. Org. Chem. 2009, 74, 5405–5410.



S: Psymberin (**1**) *R*: 4-*epi*-Psymberin (**2**) Retrosynthetic Analysis for 1 and 2

































QМе OMe QМе 0 0 8 •OH OR 4 NH 9 0 N ŌΗ ŌR PhI(OAc)₂ HO 13 HO RO 15 Oxidative cyclization 0 OR ŌН ö ÔН 0 ÓR Psymberin 1 2 OTBS BnO QМе 0 **TIPSO** BnO MH_2 \mathbf{O} **O**TPS <u> ÓTIPS Ö</u> 17 5 4

Retrosynthetic Analysis for Psymberin 1

Huang, X. Org. Lett. 2007, 9, 2597-2600.











In late 2003, our colleagues in the research group of Professor Philip Crews isolated a highly potent cytotoxic marine natural product from "an undescribed and inconspicuous sponge, Psammocinia sp" The molecule, was later determined to be identical to iriciniastatin A, a compound isolated and reported by Pettit and coworkers from extracts of Ircinia ramose. The dual isolation of this compound from different sponges combined with the reported difficulty in isolating the compound from many sponge extracts adds evidence to the speculation that this molecule, along with structurally similar compounds, may in fact take origin from symbiotic bacteria.

Over the past 6 years, a number of publications relating to the synthesis and semisynthesis of psymberin and analogues have been developed, including De Brabander's elegant first total synthesis of 1 and 2 in 2006, which conclusively determined that psymberin is in fact the 4*S* isomer 1. To embark on the total synthesis of this remarkably active molecule, we endeavored to develop a rapid and convergent approach to both 1 and 2 as well as libraries of stereoisomer and structural analogues. Our successful efforts to produce several key building blocks are disclosed herein.