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A Highly Convergent Approach toward (-)-Brevenal

Crimmins, M.* *et al* Org. Lett. **2010**, ASAP

Structure of (-)-Brevenal



Retrosynthetic analysis



Retrosynthetic Plan for β-Ketophosphonate 4



Retrosynthetic Plan for β-Ketophosphonate 4











Synthesis of Aldehyde 5











Envision Synthesis of 1



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Sasaki, M. et al J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2006, 128, 16989.



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Marine polycyclic ether natural products have received much attention over the years due to their unique and highly complex molecular architecture, in addition to their diverse and potent biological activities. A number of bioactive polyether natural products have been isolated from the marine dinoflagellate Karenia brevis, the organism responsible for toxic red tides along Florida's Gulf Coast. The most wellknown compounds isolated from *K. brevis* are a family of neurotoxins called the brevetoxins. The brevetoxins are responsible for massive kills of fish and marine animals and can also adversely affect humans; inhaled brevetoxins cause respiratory irritation and breathing difficulties in sensitive populations. At high concentrations, ingested brevetoxins lead to a collection of symptoms commonly referred to as neurotoxic shellfish poisoning (NSP).

In summary, a highly convergent approach toward the total synthesis of brevenal has been reported. Two key cyclic ether fragments have been constructed utilizing our asymmetric glycolate alkylation/ring-closing metathesis approach. Fragment coupling has been carried out in excellent yield, and efforts to complete the carbon framework and elaborate the side chains are ongoing.