Literature Report 2009-10-27

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Total Synthesis of (-)-Penifulvin A, an Insecticide with a Dioxafenestrane Skeleton

Johann Mulzer* *et al J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 452-453.



Retrosynthetic analysis of Penifulvin A



3





Completion of the Synthesis of (-)-Penifulvin A



6

The Synthesis of (±)-Penifulvin A





Denmark's work: Synthesis of Azafenestrane 13



Denmark, S. E. et al Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2005, 44, 3732-3736

Tandem [4+2]/[3+2] cycloaddition



Hydrogenolysis of nitroso acetal 15



Dyotropic rearrangement



In 1972, M. T. Reetz defined dyotropic rearrangements as a new class of pericyclic valence isomerizations in which two σ -bonds simultaneouslymigrate intramolecularly.

Completion of the Synthesis of Azafenestrane



Summary



a) No protecting groups.

- b) Marvelous photoinduced cyclization.
- c) (-)-Penifulvin A overall yield 8%, 8 steps.
- d) (\pm)Penifulvin A overall yield 14%, 5 steps.

The overall structure of **1**, which has been secured by X-ray crystallographic analysis, reveals a complex oxa-fenestrane structure in which four rings share a central quaternary carbon. Additionally there are two more quaternary carbons, a y- and a δ -lactone sharing the acylal center, and a total of five stereogenic centers congested on a 15 carbon skeleton. This ring system, whose absolute configuration is unknown, has not been described previously in literature. Herein we report the first total synthesis of racemic and optically active 1 from inexpensive *o*-tolylacetic acid (2).

In conclusion we have disclosed a concise synthesis of penifulvin A in racemic and optically active form from *o*tolylacetic acid in altogether 5 steps (14% overall yield) and 8 steps (8% overall yield), respectively. Apart from the photocyclization which leads to readily separable regioisomers, the synthesis is stereo- and regiocontrolled, does not require protecting groups or purification of intermediates, and is scalable.