

Total Synthesis of Auripyrones A and B and Determination of the Absolute Configuration of Auripyrrone B**

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Compounds containing the γ -pyrone functional group have been isolated from marine animals (Figure 1).^[1] These compounds show valuable biological activities: for example, peroniatriols I (**1**) and II (**2**) exhibited significant cytotoxicity against L1210 cells.^[2] Also, vallartanone B (**3**)^[3] and onchidione (**4**)^[4] are chemical defense compounds of mollusks. Therefore, the development of a method to synthesize γ -pyrone-containing compounds is an important topic in natural product synthesis.

In 1996, auripyrones A (**5**) and B (**6**) were isolated from the sea hare *Dolabella auricularia* (Aplysiidae) by Yamada and co-workers (Figure 2).^[5] Auripyrones A (**5**) and B (**6**) exhibited cytotoxicity against HeLa S₃ cells with IC₅₀ values of 0.26 and 0.48 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$, respectively. The relative stereochem-

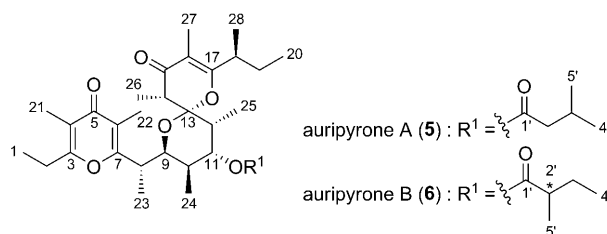


Figure 2. Structures of auripyrrone A and B.

istry of the two compounds, except for the configuration of C2' in auripyrrone B (**6**), were deduced using detailed spectroscopic analysis to be structures **5** and **6**. The main structural features of auripyrones are a γ -pyrone ring and a spiroacetal moiety.

In 2006, Perkins and Lister achieved the first total synthesis of auripyrrone A (**5**), the key reaction of which was spiroacetalization.^[6] This synthesis determined the absolute configuration of auripyrrone A (**5**). Very recently, Jung and Salehi-Rad reported the total synthesis of auripyrrone A (**5**) using a tandem non-aldol aldol/Paterson aldol process as a key step.^[7] However, the configuration of auripyrrone B (**6**) at the C2' position remained unknown. Therefore, we decided to complete the syntheses of auripyrones A (**5**) and B (**6**) and to determine the absolute configuration of auripyrrone B (**6**).

Our retrosynthetic analyses of auripyrones A (**5**) and B (**6**) are shown in Scheme 1. We expected that a spiroacetalization of triketone **7**, as was utilized in the total synthesis by Perkins and Lister,^[6] would provide auripyrones A and B. Triketone **7** might be obtained from an aldol reaction between C1–C13 segment **8** and C14–C20 segment **9**. The five contiguous chiral centers in C1–C13 segment **8** could be prepared by a crotylboration and diastereoselective aldol-type reaction^[8] between 2,6-diethyl-3,5-dimethyl-4-pyrone (**12**) and the optically active aldehyde **13** as the key steps.

Recently, we reported the diastereoselective aldol-type reaction between 2,6-diethyl-3,5-dimethyl-4-pyrone (**12**) and different aldehydes (Scheme 2).^[8] This reaction has the advantages of affording straightforward access even to complex molecules and the construction of two stereogenic centers at once.

The starting point for this work was the construction of C1–C13 segment **20** (Scheme 3). The diastereoselective aldol-type reaction between 2,6-diethyl-3,5-dimethyl-4-pyrone (**12**)^[9] and the known compound, optically active aldehyde **14**,^[10] afforded the desired compound **15** in 47 % yield along with other diastereomers (21 % yield).^[8] The stereochemistry of **15** was determined using ¹H–¹H coupling constants and

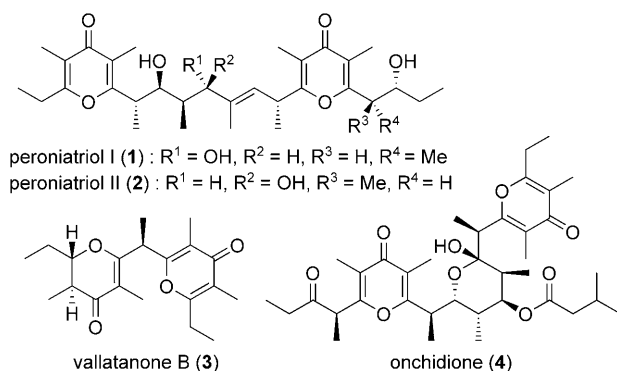


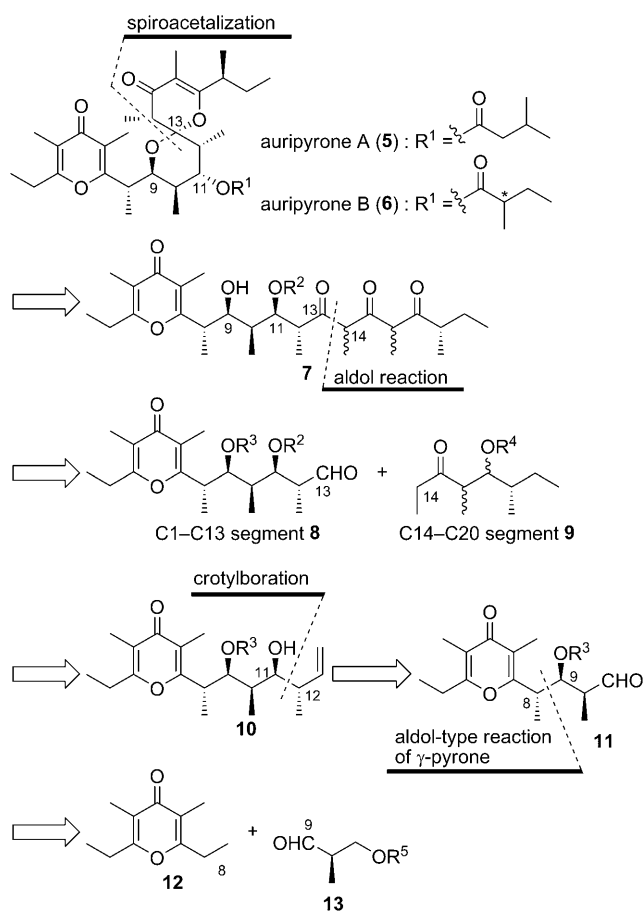
Figure 1. Marine natural products that contain the γ -pyrone framework.

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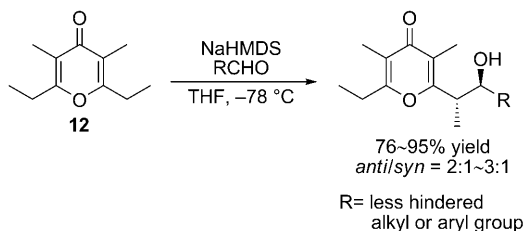
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[**] This work was supported by Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B), and Scientific Research on Priority Area "Creation of Biologically Functional Molecules" from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) (Japan). We thank the Kaneka Corporation for their gift of methyl D-(R)- β -hydroxyisobutanoate.

Supporting information for this article is available on the WWW under <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/anie.200906662>.

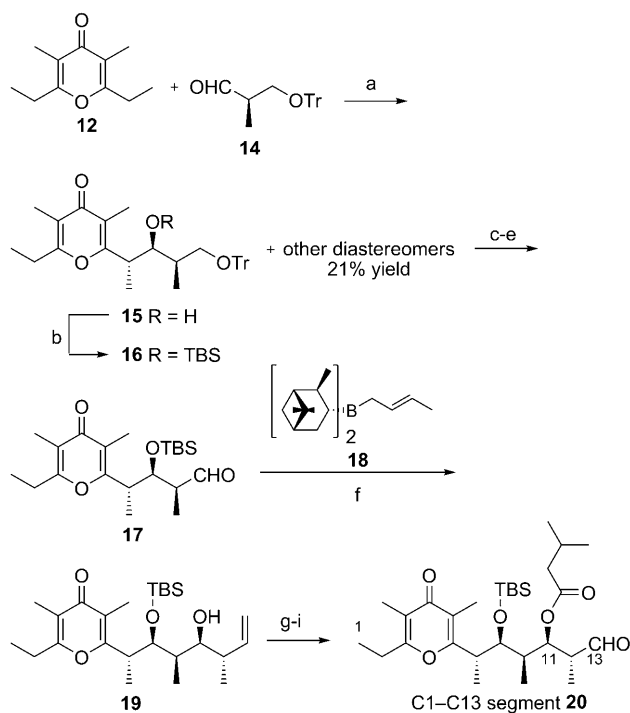


Scheme 1. Retrosynthetic analyses of auripyrones A (5) and B (6).



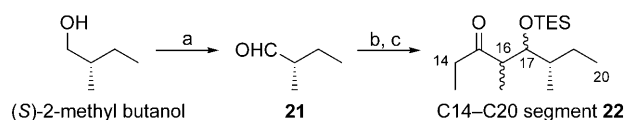
Scheme 2. Aldol-type reaction of 2,6-diethyl-3,5-dimethyl-4-pyrone (12). NaHMDS = sodium hexamethyldisilazide, THF = tetrahydrofuran.

NOESY correlations of the corresponding acetone derivative.^[8] The secondary hydroxy group in compound **15** was protected as a TBS ether to afford compound **16**. The trityl group was removed, and the primary hydroxy group was oxidized by Swern oxidation to give aldehyde **17**. The Brown crotylboration reaction^[11] between aldehyde **17** and boronate **18** afforded homoallylic alcohol **19** as a single diastereomer.^[12] Acylation of the secondary hydroxy group in **19** and subsequent dihydroxylation of the terminal olefin gave a diol in 90% yield. Oxidative cleavage of the resulting dihydroxy group with NaIO_4 afforded aldehyde **20** as a C1-C13 segment. This two-step procedure was superior to the direct Lemieux-Johnson conditions^[13] in both yield and reproducibility because of the instability of aldehyde **20**.



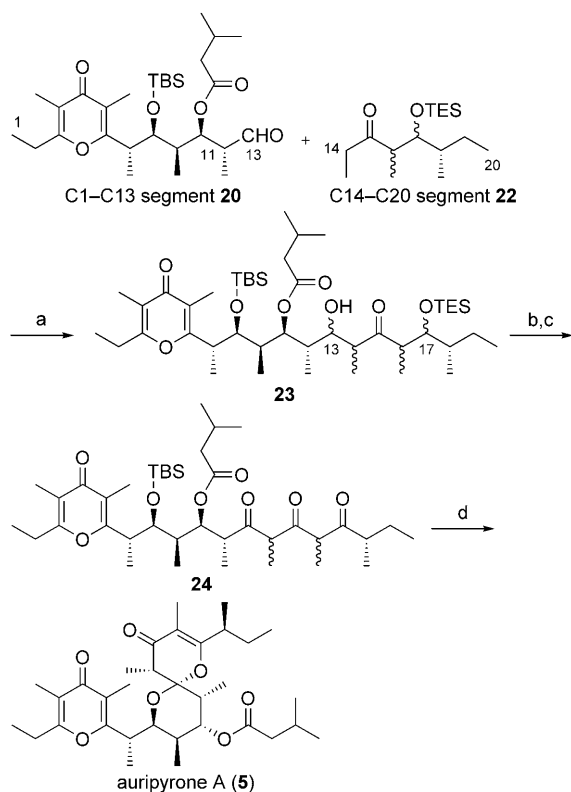
Scheme 3. Synthesis of the C1-C13 segment (**20**). Reagents and conditions: a) NaHMDS, THF, -78°C , 47% yield; b) TBSCl, imidazole, DMF, 99% yield; c) HCO_2H , Et_2O , RT; d) 25% NH_3 aq., MeOH, RT, 92% yield over 2 steps; e) $(\text{COCl})_2$, DMSO, $i\text{Pr}_2\text{NEt}$, CH_2Cl_2 , -78°C then 0°C , 99% yield; f) **18**, $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$, THF, -40°C then NaOH, H_2O_2 , 71% yield; g) isovaleryl chloride, DMAP, pyr, RT, quantitative yield; h) OsO_4 , NMO, acetone/ H_2O (1:1), RT, 90% yield; i) NaIO_4 , acetone/ H_2O (1:1), RT, 72%. Tr = triphenylmethyl, NaHMDS = sodium hexamethyldisilazide, THF = tetrahydrofuran, TBS = *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl, DMF = *N,N*-dimethylformamide, DMSO = dimethyl sulfoxide, DMAP = 4-dimethylaminopyridine, pyr = pyridine, NMO = *N*-methylmorpholine oxide.

C14-C20 segment **22** was prepared as follows. Aldehyde **21** was synthesized from commercially available (*S*)-2-methyl-1-butanol using a previously reported method.^[14] The aldol reaction between aldehyde **21** and 3-pentanone, and protection of the resulting secondary hydroxy group afforded C14-C20 segment **22** as a diastereomeric mixture (Scheme 4). This segment **22** was used for the next reaction without separation because the configurations of these newly generated stereocenters were either lost by oxidation or epimerization in the subsequent steps.



Scheme 4. Synthesis of the C14-C20 segment (**22**). Reagents and conditions: a) $(\text{COCl})_2$, DMSO, $i\text{Pr}_2\text{NEt}$, CH_2Cl_2 , -78°C then 0°C , 30% yield; b) LDA, 3-pentanone, THF, -78°C , 89% yield; c) TESCl, imidazole, DMF, RT, 95% yield. DMSO = dimethyl sulfoxide, LDA = lithium diisopropylamide, THF = tetrahydrofuran, TES = triethylsilyl, DMF = *N,N*-dimethylformamide.

With both C1–C13 segment **20** and C14–C20 segment **22** in hand, we attempted the coupling reaction between **20** and **22**. Although γ -pyrone compounds are readily deprotonated at the α -alkyl group by LDA, LHMDs, NaHMDs, and KHMDS, which often results in the formation of by-products, the Paterson aldol reaction^[15] by $\text{Sn}(\text{OTf})_2$ and Et_3N gave coupling compound **23** as a diastereomeric mixture in good yield (Scheme 5). Selective removal of the TES group in **23**



Scheme 5. Completion of the synthesis of auriopyrone A (**5**). Reagents and conditions: a) $\text{Sn}(\text{OTf})_2$, Et_3N , CH_2Cl_2 , -78°C , 99% yield; b) $\text{AcOH}/\text{THF}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (4:1:4), RT, 73% yield; c) Dess–Martin periodinane, CH_2Cl_2 , RT, 83% yield; d) $\text{HF}\cdot\text{pyr}/\text{THF}/\text{pyr}$ (5:7:3), 60°C , 22% yield. OTf = trifluoromethanesulfonate, Ac = acetyl, THF = tetrahydrofuran, pyr = pyridine.

gave a diol that was converted into triketone **24** using Dess–Martin periodinane; triketone **24** was an equilibrium mixture of the keto and enol forms. Cleavage of the TBS ether group in triketone **24** by $\text{HF}\cdot\text{pyr}$ and a spontaneous spiroacetalization reaction afforded auriopyrone A (**5**). Synthetic auriopyrone A (**5**) gave spectral data (^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy, HRMS, and optical rotation) that were in full agreement with those of the natural compound,^[5] thus completing the total synthesis.

Stereocontrol of the C14 methyl group in the spiroacetalization to afford auriopyrone A (**5**) can be explained as follows (Figure 3). Triketone **24** was transformed into hemiacetals **24a** and **24b**. The stereochemistry of C13 in hemiacetals **24a** and **24b** was controlled by the double anomeric effect. The C14 methyl group in hemiacetal **24a** was epimerized into the

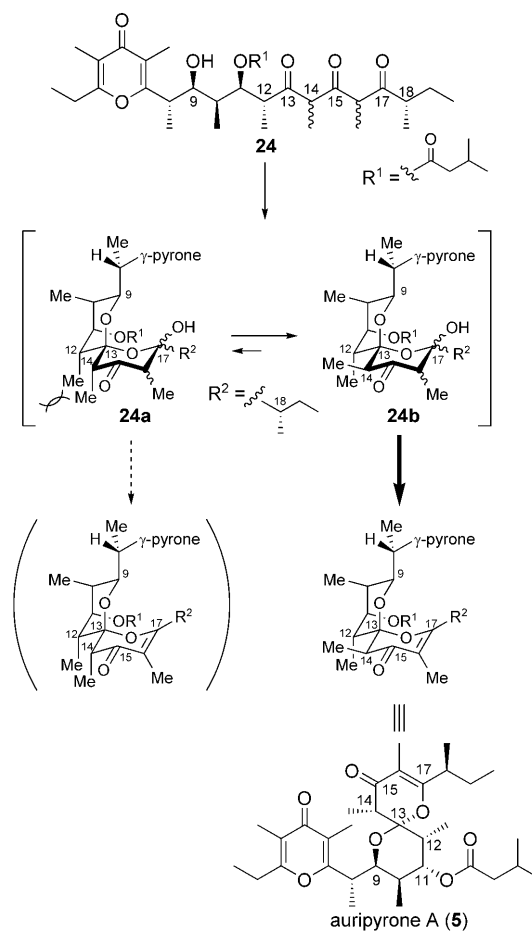
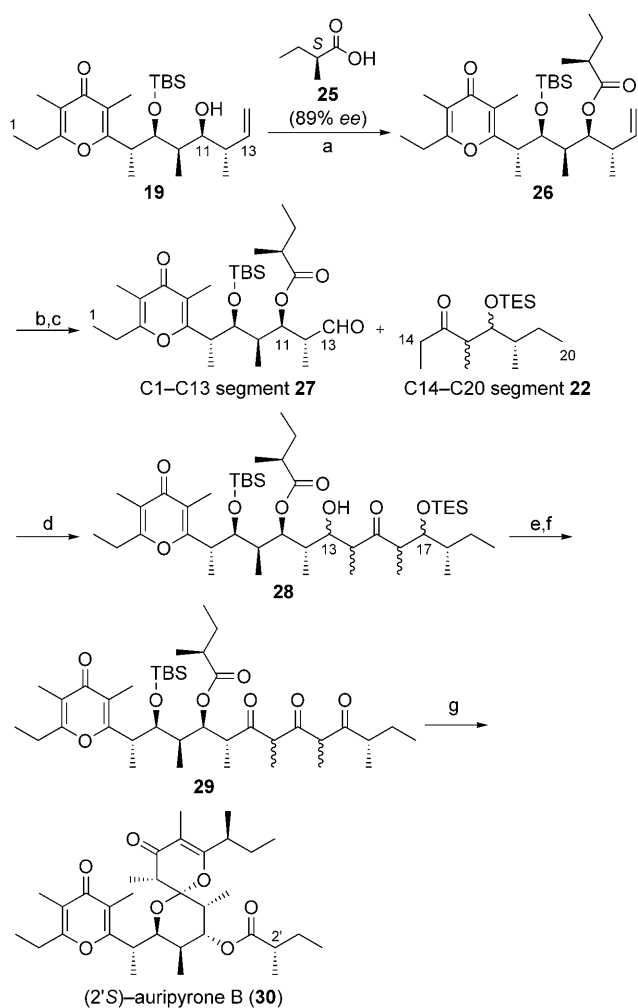


Figure 3. Spiroacetalization of triketone **24**.

equatorial position (hemiacetal **24b**) so as to avoid a 1,3-diaxial interaction between the C12 and C14 methyl groups of **24a**.

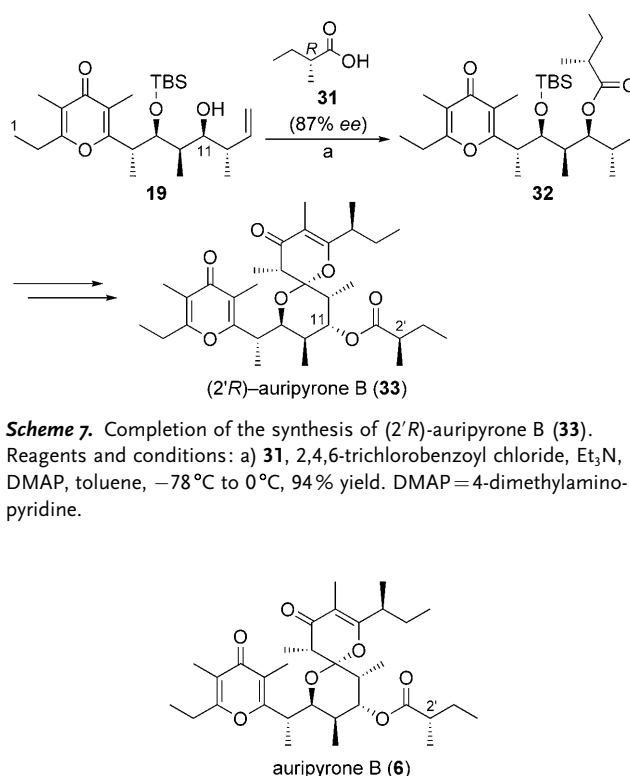
Next, we attempted the synthesis of (2'S)- and (2'R)-auriopyrone B. First, we tried to remove the acyl group in auriopyrone A (**5**). However, whilst we could not obtain a deacylated derivative, we did obtain a bis(pyrone) compound. Then, we attempted to convert homoallylic alcohol **19** into auriopyrone B using our synthetic strategy for auriopyrone A (**5**; Scheme 6). An esterification reaction between compound **19** and (S)-2-methylbutyric acid (**25**)^[16] under the conditions described by Yamaguchi et al.^[17] afforded compound **26**. Dihydroxylation of the terminal olefin in **26** gave a diol, and the resulting dihydroxy group was oxidatively cleaved to afford aldehyde **27**. The Paterson aldol reaction^[15] of aldehyde **27** and C14–C20 segment **22** afforded the coupling product **28** as a diastereomeric mixture. The TES group in **28** was removed, and oxidation of the dihydroxy group afforded triketone **29** as a mixture of the keto and enol forms, a precursor for the spiroacetalization reaction. Removal of the TBS group in triketone **29** by $\text{HF}\cdot\text{pyr}$ and a spontaneous spiroacetalization afforded (2'S)-auriopyrone B (**30**).

The (2'R)-auriopyrone B (**33**) was also prepared from **19** in the same manner with (R)-2-methylbutyric acid (**31**)^[16] (Scheme 7).



Scheme 6. Completion of the synthesis of (2'*S*)-auripyrrone B (**30**). Reagents and conditions: a) **21**, 2,4,6-trichlorobenzoyl chloride, Et₃N, DMAP, toluene, –78 °C to 0 °C, 93 % yield; b) OsO₄, NMO, acetone/H₂O (1:1), RT, 94 % yield; c) NaIO₄, acetone/H₂O (1:1), RT, 82 % yield; d) Sn(OTf)₂, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, –78 °C, 99 % yield; e) AcOH/THF/H₂O (4:1:4), RT, 90 % yield; f) Dess–Martin periodinane, CH₂Cl₂, RT, 95 % yield; g) HF-pyr/THF/pyr (5:7:3), 60 °C, 17 % yield. DMAP = 4-dimethylaminopyridine, NMO = *N*-methylmorpholine oxide, OTf = trifluoromethanesulfonate, Ac = acetyl, THF = tetrahydrofuran, pyr = pyridine.

With both diastereomers (2'*S*)-auripyrrone B (**30**) and (2'*R*)-auripyrrone B (**33**) in hand, we compared the ¹H NMR spectra of their synthetic samples with those reported for the natural sample of auripyrrone B (**6**).^[18] Although the chemical shifts of the acyl group protons (H4', H5') in (2'*R*)-auripyrrone B (**33**) were clearly different from those of the natural auripyrrone B (**6**), the data for (2'*S*)-auripyrrone B (**30**) were in good agreement with those of the natural product. Comparison of the optical rotation of synthetic (2'*S*)-auripyrrone B (**30**) with that of natural samples identified the absolute configuration: the optical rotation of synthetic (2'*S*)-auripyrrone B (**30**) {[α]_D²⁵ = +43 (*c* = 0.29, CHCl₃)} corresponded to the reported values {[α]_D²⁶ = +39 (*c* = 0.14, CHCl₃)}. Therefore, this synthesis established the stereochemistry and absolute configuration at C2' of auripyrrone B (**6**; Figure 4).



Scheme 7. Completion of the synthesis of (2'*R*)-auripyrrone B (**33**). Reagents and conditions: a) **31**, 2,4,6-trichlorobenzoyl chloride, Et₃N, DMAP, toluene, –78 °C to 0 °C, 94 % yield. DMAP = 4-dimethylaminopyridine.

Figure 4. Absolute stereochemistry of auripyrrone B (**6**).

In conclusion, we have achieved the total synthesis of auripyrrones A (**5**; 2.6 % overall yield in 13 steps) and B (**6**; 2.8 % overall yield in 13 steps) by using a diastereoselective aldol-type reaction with 2,6-diethyl-3,5-dimethyl-4-pyrone (**12**) as a key step. From this synthetic work, we determined the stereostructure and absolute configuration of auripyrrone B (**6**). Further application of the diastereoselective aldol-type reaction with 2,6-diethyl-3,5-dimethyl-4-pyrone (**12**) is currently underway in our group.

Received: November 26, 2009

Revised: January 19, 2010

Published online: February 23, 2010

Keywords: aldol reactions · auripyrrones · diastereoselectivity · natural products · total synthesis

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