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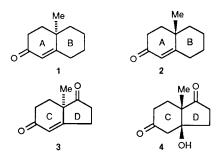


# Versatile Chiral Building Blocks

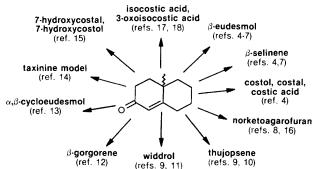
# A+B and C+D

Sometimes we have to rub our eyes to assure ourselves that we are not dreaming. It seems like only yesterday that we felt an enormous sense of elation when Bachmann, Cole and Wilds reported the first total synthesis of a steroid, Woodward synthesized cortisone<sup>2</sup> and Johnson published his "hydrochrysene approach" to the general synthesis of nonaromatic steroids.<sup>3</sup>

What accomplishments! And here we are offering building blocks for all the steroid rings, in high optical purity.



The racemic form of 1 and 2 is an important tool for natural product synthesis:



#### References:

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The racemic form of this very interesting keto ester has been employed to synthesize a variety of intermediates, 1-3 including a compound which possesses antidepressant activity.4

The possibilities for the chiral keto esters are limited only by the imagination. Some suggestions are presented below.

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