

Review

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Reviews

Comprehensive Survey of Combinatorial Library Synthesis: 2000

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Publications from both academic and industry on the synthesis and application of chemical libraries continued at a rapid pace in 2000. The total number of libraries cited was 284, comparable to the 297 figure for 1999, bringing the cumulative total to over 1250 libraries published since 1992.¹ Of the 284 new libraries, 25% were accompanied by biological screening results, 82% were prepared on solid phase, and 65% came from academic laboratories.^{2–258} This is the first year that published library output from academia outpaced that from industry. There were a number of significant advances for the year with respect to design strategy, solid- and solution-phase methodology, and the discovery of biologically active agents. Three independent research groups disclosed "ligand dimerization" libraries yielding novel c-Src kinase inhibitors,¹⁴¹ adrenergic receptor agonists,²⁵⁷ and agents active against vancomycin-resistant bacterial strains.¹⁶⁸ The development of tetrafluorophenol (TFP)-activated resins was reported.76,208 This new class of amine derivatizing reagent, which represents a stable and convenient source of reactive acid and sulfonyl chlorides, has rapidly gained popularity and is commercially available from several vendors. In a joint program between Pharmacopeia and Berlex Biosciences, potent in vivo active inhibitors of inducible nitric oxide synthetase (iNOS), an important but previously intractable molecular target, were discovered

from an 8649-member library of imidazolylpyrimidines.¹⁴⁹ Finally, Ontogen Corporation reported that OC144-093, a P-glycoprotein modulator, was tested in man.²⁵⁴ The diarylimidazole lead structure emerged from a solid-phase discovery library and was optimized by solution-phase chemistry. This is the second publicly known example (Agouron's rhinoviral 3C-protease inhibitor being the first example)²⁵⁹ of a library compound, or derivative thereof, that has entered clinical trials.

In keeping with previous years' format,¹ libraries are divided into two major categories: those that have been evaluated against a molecular target and whose biological results are reported and those that have no accompanying biological data. The screened libraries are further subdivided according to molecular target class: proteases (Table 1), nonproteolytic enzymes (Table 2), G-protein-coupled receptor (GPCR) agonists and antagonists (Table 3), non-GPCR ligands (Table 4), and cytotoxic and antiinfective agents (Table 5). Libraries without associated biological activity are subdivided according to construct type and mode of synthesis (solid-phase vs solution-phase): scaffold derivatization (Table 6), acyclic synthesis (Table 7), monocyclic synthesis (Table 8), bicyclic and spirocyclic synthesis (Table 9), and polycyclic and macrocyclic synthesis (Table 10). For each of the libraries listed in Tables 1-5, the name, size, affiliation (company or senior academic author), and generic library

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Figure 1. Statine amides as cathepsin D and plasmepsin II inhibitors.⁵⁷

structure are given along with the most active library member identified from screening. The affiliation, number of examples, yield, and a brief synthesis description are provided for those libraries listed in Tables 6-10.

Biologically Active Libaries

The quality control (QC) of libraries prepared by splitpool synthesis has been a concern for many years. Unlike parallel synthesis in which discrete compounds are synthesized in milligram amounts and characterized by traditional methods, split-pool libraries contain mixtures of $> 10\ 000$ compounds prepared in multifold redundancy utilizing millions of resin beads. The amount of compound per bead is typically $< 1\ nM$; hence, traditional characterization of library compounds is impossible. Historically, the QC of split-pool libraries is carried out indirectly by careful reaction optimization, extensive synthon profiling, and rigorous analysis of a handful of QC compounds. It is generally taken on faith that the "library rehearsal" is reproduced during the construction of a full library. It is highly desirable to know whether chemistry actually took place as planned and the assurance that putative compounds eluted from the beads are physically present in the wells of assay plates. As a unique solution to this problem, Pharmacopeia developed a statistical sampling protocol (library QA) to assess the overall fidelity of large encoded libraries and the performance of individual synthons.⁵⁷ Library QA is an analytical method in which beads, totaling $10\times$, the largest synthon set (typically 500 beads per library), are randomly retrieved, compound detached, and the bead decoded. The presence or absence of a discrete compound is established by comparing its molecular weight as predicted by its tag decode to the molecular weight of the cleaved compound as determined by LC/MS. In a proof of principle library of 25 200 statine amides (library 1.8, Figure 1), the 1900 beads subjected to QA analysis revealed an overall 85% positive confirmation rate, indicating that only ~ 21400 compounds were actually synthesized. Library 1.8 was screened against two aspartyl proteases, cathepsin D and plasmepsin II. Some 200 active beads were decoded, and a synthon frequency analysis indicated a preference for Synthesis of TFP-activated resins:



Figure 2. Synthesis and application TFP-activated resins for amine derivatization.²⁰⁸

hydrophobic synthons at the R^1 and R^2 positions. The library appeared to be more active against cathepsin D than plasmepsin II. Compounds 2 and 3 nicely represent the nascent structure-activity relationship (SAR) that emerged from screening. Library QA, however, revealed hydrophobic synthons as strongly performing synthons, while hydrophilic synthons (particularly at R¹) displayed mediocre or poor performance. Compounds containing hydrophilic R¹ and R² synthons make up the majority of the 15% unconfirmed QA results. Because these compounds were underrepresented in the library, their full biological activity would not be detected in the screen. For this reason compounds 4 and 5 were synthesized. These compounds are analogues of 2 (library members) but were not found in decoded structures. Introducing basic polar residues at R¹ led to a remarkable increase in the inhibitory potency and selectivity for plasmepsin II verses cathepsin D. In the absence of corroborating QA data, this salient SAR information would have been lost.

Salvino and co-workers at Rhone-Poulenc Rorer (now Aventis) developed a novel set of tetrafluorophenol (TFP)activated resins for amine derivatization (Figure 2). TFP resin **8** is readily prepared by coupling 4-hydroxy-2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzoic acid **7** to amine polystyrene resin **6**. Resin **8** is activated by either acylating ($\mathbf{8} \rightarrow \mathbf{9}$) or sulfonylating ($\mathbf{8} \rightarrow \mathbf{10}$) the phenolic OH with carboxylic or sulfonic acids, their anhydrides or acid chlorides. Resins **9** and **10** are suspended in DMF and reacted with an amine nucleophile to cleanly provide the corresponding amide or sulfonamide derivative $(11 \rightarrow 12, 13)$. The major advantage of using the TFP-activated resins over other known activated resins is that ¹⁹F NMR conveniently determines loading. This is important because it allows the amine to be accurately used as a limiting reagent, thus negating the need to scavenge excess amine (consumed) or acylating/sulfonylating reagent (remains resin-bound). A wide variety of carboxylic and sulfonic acids may be loaded onto the resin, creating a "reagent kit" which can be used on demand for a derivatization campaign. Activated TFP resins may be kept for years without decomposition. By simple distribution of TFP resins 8 and 9 into 96-well plates, suspension of the resin in DMF, and addition of a limiting amount of amine, hundreds to thousands of amides and sulfonamides can be rapidly generated. The derivatives are sufficiently pure (>85%) for direct evaluation in biological screens. By way of application, TFP-activated sulfonate resins were used to further delineate the SAR in a series of factor Xa inhibitors (Figure 3).⁷⁶ Library 1.10, composed of 52 discrete compounds derived from the reaction of the amine set 16-19 with resin 10, furnished several submicromolar inhibitors including 21: $IC_{50} = 15 \text{ nM}.$

MAP kinase p38 is a putative mediator of cytokine signaling. SmithKline Beecham's (now GlaxoSmithKline) pioneering efforts in this area identified pyridylimidazoles **22** as agents that disrupt cytokine signaling in cells (Figure 4). Subsequently, Vertex reported ureas **23** and **24** as potent p38 kinase inhibitors. During a screening program, research-

Lead series:





Figure 3. Factor Xa inhibitors via TFP-activated sulfonate esters.⁷⁶

ers at Bayer discovered pyrazole urea 25 as a reversible p38 kinase inhibitor.^{60,61} A parallel library (library 2.1) of over 1000 analogues of 25 was generated to develop SAR around the lead structure. The solution-phase synthesis was achieved by reacting heterocyclic amines 26 with aryl isocyanates 27 in DMF at 80-95 °C for 18 h. Instrumentation used in the synthesis included a Gilson 215 robotic liquid handler and a J-KEM reaction block. Heterocyclic amines (aminopyrazoles, -isoxazoles, -thiadiazoles, and others) were derived from α -cyanoketones and synthesized in bulk as separate templates. The biological evaluation of the library compounds revealed a rather steep SAR for the class. Increase in affinity was only observed upon replacing the N-methyl group in 25 with a phenyl ring as in 32-35. Although computational analysis of library 2.1 indicated the compounds were druglike in terms of molecular weight, clogP, and satisfying Lipinski rules, the vast majority of the compounds were waterinsoluble. The exception was aniline 34 (solubility in water is 594 μ g/mL), some 4-fold more potent than lead 25. No compounds were reported in which the urea nitrogen atoms were alkylated or the urea linkage was replaced by classical bioisosteres.

Ellman conceived of "combinatorial target-guided ligand assembly" as a novel method for identifying ligands of biological targets in the absence of any mechanistic or structural information about the target, or a preexisting pharmacophore (Figure 5).141 This is accomplished by screening a set of molecules containing a common chemical linkage group and then tethering together the subset of molecules that bind to the target of interest. Tethering or dimer formation occurs through the common chemical linkage group. As a proof of concept, a collection of ca. 300 O-methyloximes 38, derived from O-methylhydroxylamines 37 and aryl aldehydes 36 in DMSO, were screened against c-Src tyrosine kinase. Some 66 oximes were identified displaying >70% inhibition at a screening concentration of 0.5 M. Notable examples of the active oximes found include **39** and **40**. The corresponding aldehydes (e.g., **42** and **43**) of the weakly binding oxime ethers were combined in library 2.2 by reacting the aldehydes with mixtures of bis-hydroxylamines 41 to give all possible bis-oxime dimer permutations 44. When library 2.2 was screened against c-Src tyrosine kinase, an intriguing SAR was found with activity highly dependent on the length and structure (acyclic or cyclic) of the tether and on the specific aldehyde. Remarkably, bisoxime 45 was identified as a 64 nM inhibitor of the enzyme and possessed excellent selectivity over other tyrosine kinases (Fyn, Lyn, Lck). This methodology holds out the possibility of finding ligands against other hitherto recalcitrant targets such as phosphatases and protein-protein interactions.

Nicolaou reported another library dimerization strategy dubbed "target-accelerated combinatorial synthesis". In this approach, library building blocks are covalently ligated (dimerized) in the presence of their molecular target. Capturing the "preorganized assembly" will invariably lead to enhanced potency of the newly created dimers vs their monomeric starting materials. In a fascinating demonstration of this concept, the modified vancomycin building blocks 47 and the Ac₂-L-Lys-D-Ala-D-Ala substrate were combined in physiological buffer (Figure 6). Since the formation constant of vancomycin dimers ($K_d = 7 \times 10^2 \text{ M}^{-1}$) is much greater in the presence of the peptide target ($K_{\rm d} \approx 10^4 \, {\rm M}^{-1}$), it was anticipated (and verified by experiment) that the targetbound dimer assembly would ligate more quickly than the unbound dimer. Disulfide formation and olefin metathesis were the ligating reactions used in this dimerization process. Antibacterial activity of some 30 vancomycin dimers (library 5.13) strongly correlated reaction rate enhancement with biological activity.

As a final example of bivalent ligand libraries, a series of yohimbine dimers **52** were prepared and evaluated at the human α_{2a} and α_{2b} adrenergic receptors (library 3.3, Figure 6).²⁵⁷ Yohimbine **50** is a potent antagonist of the α_{2a} ($K_i =$





Figure 5. Ellman's "target-guided ligand assembly" and the identification of c-Src kinase inhibitors.¹⁴¹



Adrenergic receptor (AR) agonists:257



Figure 6. Further examples of ligand dimer libraries.

0.42 nM) and α_{2b} ($K_i = 2.1$ nM) adrenergic receptors ($\alpha_{2a}/\alpha_{2b} = 4.8$). Despite the large number of yohimbine analogues that have been made over the years, potent selective antagonists have not been described. The rationale for creating yohimbine dimers is based on the success of the bivalent ligand strategy for developing selective high-affinity ligands of other receptor systems (opioid, serotonergic, growth factor). The enhanced activity of the ligand dimers may be a consequence of the bridging between either vicinal receptors or the pharmacophore binding site and another accessory site in the same receptor molecule. As in the case of the other two dimer libraries described above, the SAR

was dependent on the length of the tether. In this specific instance, potent and highly selective α_{2a} -AR antagonists were identified from library 3.3, e.g., **52**, $K_i = 1.7$ nM α_{2a} with 123-fold selectivity vs α_{2b} .

A family of naturally occurring 2,2-dimethylbenzopyrans is the active constituent in Cubé resin, a century old botanical insecticide (Figure 7). The mechanism of action is the disruption of oxidative phosphorylation (ATP synthesis), which occurs through inhibition of mitochondrial NADH/ ubiquinone oxidoreductase, one of a cascade of enzymes operating in the electron-transport system. As seen by Nicolaou, the common structural feature or pharmacophore Natural products as inhibitors of NADH:ubiquinon oxidoreductase (complex I):



Figure 7. Nicolaou's natural product-like benzopyran libraries.¹⁷¹

found throughout this class is a benzopyran nucleus with a pendant electron-rich aromatic ring.¹⁷¹ By use of these natural products as a guide, a 52-member (library 2.7) of 2,2dimethylbenzopyrans with a tethered (or bridged) aromatic ring was screened for oxidoreductase activity. Library 2.7 is a subset of a several-thousand-member combinatorial library of 2,2-dimethylbenzopyrans prepared previously by the Scripps group. The salient methodology for constructing these compounds is the so-called "cycloloading" strategy, a clever solid-phase variant of the intramolecular selenoetherification reaction.^{169–172,174,175} In this chemistry, selenyl bromide resin 58^{170} is reacted with *o*-phenylphenols 57, which undergo cycloloading, i.e., simultaneous cyclic ether formation and resin attachment. Because resin 59 is stable to Lewis and Bronsted acids, organometallics, reducing reagents, bases, electrophiles, HF pyridine, Pd and Ru catalysts, and many other reagents, broad structural diversification of the benzopyran nucleus is possible. Cleavage occurs upon selenoxide formation (treatment with m-CPBA or H₂O₂) and syn elimination to yield 3,4-dihydrobenzopyrans. The resin is not compatible with sulfide-containing synthons unless sulfone products are desired. Several actives, for example, **62** (IC₅₀ = 55 nM), were identified from library 2.7, and biological activity was highly dependent on the bridging element. Five followup libraries were then synthesized to define the SAR and to optimize potency, ultimately yielding a family of potent 2,2-dimethylbenzopyran inhibitors (**63**: IC₅₀ = 19 nM) with IC₅₀ values against NADH/ ubiquinone oxidoreductase in the range 18–55 nM.

Inducible nitric oxide synthetase (iNOS) is one of three enzyme isoforms that catalyzes the NAPDH-dependent oxidation of L-arginine to NO[•] and citrulline. Functional iNOS is a heterodimer comprising oxidoreductase and oxygenase monomeric units. Under normal physiological conditions, NO[•] production is highly regulated, functioning as a reversible, local signal transduction molecule. In disease states where release of reactive NO[•] is unrestrained, nonspecific tissue damage results. Since the discovery of the enzyme over a decade ago, there has been much interest in finding specific iNOS inhibitors because such agents are



Figure 8. iNOS inhibitors from Pharmacopeia's encoded library.¹⁴⁹

thought to have broad therapeutic potential in treating a variety of inflammatory and autoimmune pathologies. Mechanism-based approaches to the design of iNOS inhibitors by modifying its substrate (arginine) or product (citrulline) have met with limited success. Phenylimidazoles **64** (Figure 8), a known class of iNOS inhibitors possessing low micromolar activity and modest selectivity, were the inspiration for creating an encoded library (library 2.9) of substituted pyrimidineimidazoles **65**.¹⁴⁹ Core **65** permitted facile introduction of substituents into the pyrimidine ring, which was believed to be important in enhancing the potency and selectivity of the literature series **64**. The library was constructed on a photolabile linker by first generating a set of 961 fully encoded amino acid amides and then capping the amino group with nine reactive chloro-substituted pyrimidineimidazoles. The resulting 8649-member library was initially screened against the iNOS enzyme, but no appreciable activity was observed. However, NO[•] production in cytokine-stimulated intact cells (human A-172 cells) was blocked in three of nine sublibraries. A total of 53 compounds having >60% inhibition at an inhibitor screening concentration of 200 nM were decoded (hit rate of 0.6%). Strong preferences were observed for the R¹, R², and R³ synthons (see summary in Figure 8). One of the more potent cellbased inhibitors was compound **67**, IC₅₀ = 0.6 nM. Biochemical studies revealed that **67** caused accumulation of iNOS monomers in intact cells. The exact mechanism of action was understood in terms of an iNOS-inhibitor **67** crystal structure. The imidazole nitrogen of **67** binds to the heme and allosterically perturbs the molecular interactions Library design:





Library synthesis:

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at the oxidoreductase—oxidase dimer interface, preventing functional iNOS heterodimer formation. Compound **67** was active in vivo with an ED₅₀ less than 2 mg/kg in a rat model of endotoxin-mediated systemic iNOS induction. The research project was a collaborative effort between Berlex Biosciences and Pharmacopeia.¹⁴⁹

Bacterial enzyme MurB is one of a cascade of enzymes required for the biosynthesis of peptidoglycan, an essential cell wall component of both Gram-positive and Gramnegative bacteria. Bacterial MurB carries out the reduction of enol pyruvyl uridine diphosphate *N*-acetylglucosamine (EP-UNAG, **68**) to uridine diphosphate *N*-acetylglucosamine acid (UNAM), an intermediate in cell wall assembly. MurB is unique to prokaryotic cells, and inhibitors of this enzyme represent potential antibacterial agents, active against a broad range of pathogens. An X-ray crystal structure of MurB with its bound substrate **68** was used as a starting point for smallmolecule inhibitor design (Figure 9). Researchers at Bristol Myers Squibb noted that the thiazolidinone core **69** over-



Figure 10. Indole derivatives via carbamate linker on solid support yielding h5-HT_{2A} antagonists.²²⁰



Figure 11. Orphan nuclear receptor FXR agonists.¹³⁹

lapped nicely with enzyme-bound **68**.⁴ The R¹ and R² side chains in **69** extend to occupy the region of glucosamine binding with the negatively charged carboxylic acid mimicking the ionic diphosphate. In their overlay, the side chain R³ extended over the uridine base, and because of the lack of strong, definable contacts of this base with the enzyme, the R³ side chains in **69** were not postulated to be particularly important for binding. As a result, library 2.11 of 4-thiazolidinones was prepared. The classical protocol of condensing thioglycolic acid **70**, an amino acid **71**, and an aromatic aldehyde **72** in one pot was used in library synthesis. Multiple sublibraries defined by **72** were likely prepared, but the screening results of only 21 compounds were given as derived from a 3 (**70**) \times 7 (**71**) \times 1 (**72**) matrix. The SAR obtained from screening indicated that a bulky R^2 aryl group, e.g., *tert*-butyl-*m*-phenoxyphenyl, was essential for activity (when R^2 = phenyl, no activity was observed). D-Amino acids possessing hydrophobic aliphatic side chains were the preferred groups at R^1 . Consistent with the original hypothesis, R^3 appeared to be the least important for activity because R^3 = H and hydrazone possessed identical affinity. Thiazolidinones **73** and **74** are the first examples of small-molecule in vitro inhibitors of bacterial MurB.

Indoles arguably represent one of the most pharmaceutically important structural classes of compounds. Numerous solution- and solid-phase syntheses of the indole ring and its derivatives have appeared in the literature over the past 10 years. Merck has been particularly active in this area and



Figure 12. Modulators of P-glycoprotein-mediated MDR evaluated in man.²⁵⁴

recently described a solid-phase synthesis of a 2,3-disubstituted indole library (library 3.4, Figure 10).²²⁰ The key feature of their work was the development of a new carbamate linker strategy for immobilizing indoles. By premixing of indole **75** with *p*-nitrophenyl carbonate modified Wang resin **76**, the azeotroping with toluene, resuspension in toluene, and treatment of the heterogeneous mixture with potassium hexamethyldisilazane (KHMDS, 1.05 equiv, -78 °C), clean conversion of resin-bound indole **77** was achieved. Release of indoles from resin was carried out by heating either in 5% pyrrolidine in DMF at 90 °C or in glacial acetic acid at 110 °C. Standard TFA-mediated cleavage was reportedly not possible because of unwanted reaction between the in situ generated resin-bound carbonium ion and the indole nucleus.

The carbamate-linked indole was stable to HF pyridine, PPTS/EtOH, triflate formation (Tf₂O, 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4methylpyridine), primary and secondary amines in DCM at room temperature, and the Stille (aryl stannane, Pd⁰) coupling reaction. The resin was somewhat sensitive to Suzuki coupling conditions (ArB(OH)₂, Pd(Ph₃)₄/Na₂CO₃/aqueous THF, elevated temperature), since premature cleavage was observed. Biological evaluation of library 3.4 of 2,3disubstituted indoles furnished **83**, a potent antagonist of the human 5HT_{2A} receptor, $K_i = 2.7$ nM.

Maloney and co-workers at Glaxo Wellcome (now Glaxo-SmithKline) have identified the first nonsteroid agonist for the orphan nuclear receptor FXR (Figure 11).¹³⁹ FXR is believed to be involved in the regulation of bile acid and



Figure 13. (a) 4-Substituted imidazoles active as antifungal agents.^{205,206} (b) Optimization of antifungal agents.²⁰⁶

cholesterol homeostasis. The only known ligands for the receptor are chendeoxycholic acid (CDCA, 84) and the retenoic acid receptor agonist, TTNPB 85. Both 84 or 85 are inadequate as pharmacological tools to study the orphan receptor because of the interaction of 84 with bile acid binding and transport proteins and its metabolic instability and because of the weak potency and poor selectivity of 85 $(EC_{50} > 1 \ \mu M)$. Glaxo's lead, isoxazole **86**, for FXR was identified from a combinatorial library of 10 000 stilbinecontaining carboxylic acids (unpublished results). Compound 86 was a weak FXR agonist (EC₅₀ = 4.1 μ M) in a cellbased assay, and enhancement of the lead's potency and selectivity was desired. Retrosynthetic library analysis of 86 led to its dissection into three sets of building blocks: vinylsubstituted acids 87, bromo/iodo-substituted phenols 88, and hydroxymethyl isoxazoles 89. Four olefins were combined with five phenols via the Heck reaction to give, after a twostep phenol protection sequence, 20 stilbene carboxylic acids 90. The 20 templates were then loaded onto Sasarin resin, the phenol deprotected, and coupled with 40 hydroxymethyl isoxazoles (Mitsunobu coupling reaction). Cleavage of the final products from resin with TFA gave 600 discrete acids 94 on a 2-3 mg scale with >80% purity (library 4.1). The acids as obtained directly from cleavage were evaluated against FXR, and 31 of them were discovered with a cellbased activity equal to that of CDCA at 50 μ M. Several of the actives were resynthesized and purified on a 50 mg scale. Isoxazole **95** is a full agonist with $EC_{50} = 90$ nM in CV-1 cells transfected with the human FXR. In further studies, **95** possessed an oral bioavailability of 10% in the rat ($t_{1/2} = 3.5$ h), and upon a 7-day dosing in Fisher rats, a dose-dependent lowering of serum triglycerides was observed ($ED_{50} = 20$ mg/kg).

Ontogen Corporation published a two-part report on the identification of 2,4,5-trisubstituted imidazoles as novel nontoxic modulators of P-glycoprotein (Pgp)-mediated multidrug resistance (MDR).²⁵⁴ Pgp modulators are of interest as an adjunct to enhancing the oral bioavailability of certain chemotherapeutic agents, which are substrates for Pgp in the intestine. A discovery library of 500 substituted imidazoles was prepared using classical solid-phase protocols starting from resin-bound aldehyde 96 or amino-functionalized Wang resin 97 (Figure 12). Hydrophobic aldehydes, amines, and diaryldiones with dialkylamine and methoxy substituents were selected as part of the synthon set. This was in keeping with the desire to create a collection of hydrophobic imidazoles with multiple amine groups because such structural features are characteristic of known Pgp substrates and modulators. Library 100 was screened in a whole-cell MDR potentiation assay. Several 2,4,5-trisubstituted imidazoles represented by compounds 101 and 102, were identified as potent Pgp modulators. As might be expected, pharmacokinetic studies indicated rapid metabolism of 101 and 102 through P450-mediated N-demethylation and N-oxide forma-



Figure 14. Ley's solution-phase synthesis of bicyclo[2.2.2]octane derivatives.^{124,125}

tion. It was thought that metabolism could be attenuated by bulking up the substituents around the anilino nitrogen atom-(s) in 102. With this strategy in mind, solution-phase optimization was undertaken. A variety of amine groups was conveniently introduced via stepwise nucleophilic displacement of the fluorine atoms in difluorobenzil 103, yielding symmetrical and unsymmetrical imidazoles. The reaction of 103 with dimethylamine gave the symmetrical product 106 in 80% yield accompanied by 10-15% of the monodemethylated compound 107, the latter being an unexpected byproduct of cyclodehydration. The activity and pharmacokinetic profile of byproduct 107 was superior to those of the previously synthesized tertiary anilines. This fortuitous result led to the synthesis of other imidazoles containing secondary anilines and the identification of 108 (OC144-093) as a clinical candidate. OC144-093 possesses an IC_{50} = 50 nM in the MDR potentiation assay and is relatively nontoxic, with an estimated oral bioavailability of 60% in man. OC144-093 was well tolerated in healthy male volunteers at 200, 300, and 400 mg doses. Plasma levels reached

 $3-5 \,\mu\text{M}$ at the highest dose. Clinical studies are in progress examining **108** as an enhancer of the oral bioavailability of selected chemotherapeutic agents.

At Janssen Research, Saha and co-workers developed a new class of antifungal agents based on 4-substituted imidazoles 110.205,206 The design of these compounds was loosely based on the azolyl phenethylamine pharmacophore 109 uniquely found in several of the clinically useful antifungals including itraconazole and voriconazole. The initial discovery library 5.10 was prepared in a straightforward manner by immobilizing 4-formylimidazole 112 onto 2-chlorotrityl resin 111 (Figure 13a). The aldehyde functional group in 112 was either reductively aminated directly to yield resin 113 or subjected to Grignard addition, IBX oxidation, and then reductive amination to yield the α -substituted amine resin 116. Derivatization of the amine in 113/116, principally acylation, sulfonylation, or a second reductive amination, furnished the penultimate resin-bound intermediate 117. A final diversity element was introduced into library 5.10 upon the choice of cleavage cocktail, TFA or MeOTf and then



Figure 15. Herpin's solid-phase synthesis of 1,5-benzothiazepin-4-one derivatives.¹⁵⁷

TFA, to provide imidazoles or *N*-methylimidazoles, respectively ($R^4 = H$, Me). A biological survey of the library indicated that the imidazole sulfonamides, e.g., **119** and **120**, possessed significant activity. A followup library 5.11 (Figure 13b), focusing on further optimization of the sulfonamide leads in library 5.10, gave compound **125**, IC₅₀ = 3.4 nM, active against a range of fungi.

Library Constructs without Accompanying Biological Data

Approximately 30% of the libraries reported in the literature this past decade have been synthesized by solution-phase techniques. Polymer-supported reagents and sequestering agents are indispensable for this purpose. One of the more elegant demonstrations of the power of this approach is Ley's solution-phase synthesis of bicyclo[2.2.2]octane derivatives (Figure 14).^{124,125} In this example, 11 solid-phase reagents and/or sequesterants were used 20 times throughout the multistep sequence to generate some 40 library compounds on a milligram scale in yields of 40–60% and purities in excess of 90% without resorting to chromatographic puri-

fication. The synthesis proceeds through Michael addition of *tert*-butyl acrylate to 3-substituted cyclohexenones **126**/ **127**. Bicyclic ketone **128** is subjected to a host of reactions including reduction, bromination, intramolecular lactonization, reductive amination, amine alkylation, sulfonamidation, ester hydrolysis, acid bromide formation, and amidation. This same library was first prepared on solid phase, requiring over 2 years of optimization, while the solution-phase approach was completed in a fraction of that time. In addition, there were few restrictions in terms of decorating the bicyclic scaffold in the solution-phase route, since the "handle" required for solid-phase synthesis is rendered superfluous.

Herpin and co-workers described the synthesis of 1,5benzothazepine-4-ones Figure 15).¹⁵⁷ This heterocyclic ring system has turned up as a pharmacophore in a number of enzyme inhibitors and GPCR antagonists. The synthesis used the 3-amino group in the heterocycle as the point of resin attachment, permitting the use of a variety of *o*-halonitrobenzenes to introduce diversity into the benzene ring. The synthesis began with immobilizing L-cysteine **148** to *p*-



Figure 16. Solid-phase version of the boronic acid Mannich reaction.²¹³

nitrocarbonate-derivatized Wang resin 150. Because of the poor solubility of the free amino acid in DMF, 148 was converted in a separate step into its tris-TMS derivative 149 by exhaustive treatment with bis(trimethylsilyl)acetamide (BSA). Silylated amino acid 149 now readily dissolved and reacted with resin 150 in DMF under argon. Exposure of the resin intermediate 151 to 10% AcOH in DMF regenerated the free thiol and carboxylate residues $(151 \rightarrow 152)$. The thiol in 152 was then reacted with a host of halonitrobenzenes 153 using DBU as the base in DMF at room temperature to give predominantly 154. Formation of up to 25% cystine dimer 155 was observed and was optionally cycled back to 154 by reductive treatment with PBu₃ and reaction with a second portion of 153. Reduction of the nitro group in (154 \rightarrow 156) was achieved with SnCl₂, and cyclization was effected with EDC to yield the benzothiazepine derivative 157. Cleavage of 157 with TFA gave 3-amino derivatives 158 in good yield and purity. Alternatively, resin 157 was oxidized to the sulfone with m-CPBA in DCM and optionally

N-alkylated with a variety of alkyl bromides/iodides or benzyl chlorides to furnish **161** ($R^2 = H$, alkyl, arylalkyl) after exposure of **159/160** to TFA.

A solid-phase version of the Petasis three-component boronic acid Mannich reaction (BMR) was reported by Hansen et al. at Novo Nordisk.²¹³ In their scheme, an aryl boronic acid was combined with an aldehyde and a secondary amine (Figure 16). Several examples were given in which each of the three components was alternately linked onto Wang resin. Expected products were obtained in high yields in most instances. In the case of resin-bound secondary amine substrates 162, reactions were best carried out at 50 °C over 24-48 h in 1 M solution of both aldehyde and boronic acid. The BMR reaction was sensitive to the aldehyde substrate used. Preferred solvent mixtures for the reaction with salicylaldehyde were either DMF/DCE (2:3) or 2,2,2trifluoroethanol/dioxane/DMF (5:1:4), while protonated as well as nonprotonated solvents could be used with glyoxylic acid. Interestingly, BMR products were not obtained with



Figure 17. Application of resin-bound α -sulfonated ketones.¹⁶⁶

the resin-bound primary amine substrates examined. Both immobilized glyoxylic acid **174** and boronic acid **171** substrates linked through an ester or amide bond to the resin performed as expected in the three-component condensation.

Nicolaou described the preparation and utility of resinbound α -sulfonated ketones (Figure 17).¹⁶⁶ Loading of α-sulfonated ketones onto resin was readily accomplished upon treatment of polystyrene sulfonic acid resin 177 (a solid-phase version of toluenesulfonic acid) with epoxides (e.g., 178) in DCM at room temperature for 24 h and subsequent oxidation with Dess-Martin periodinane. A onepot entry into 181 could be achieved directly from olefins via in situ olefin oxidation with dimethyldioxirane (DMDO) followed by the two-step addition/oxidation sequence. Resin 181 was remarkably stable and underwent a variety of nucleophilic cleavage reactions generating α -hydroxy-, α -acyloxy-, α -phenoxy-, α -alkoxy-, α -amino-, α -anilino, and α -thioaryl ketones. Reaction of 181 with bis nucleophiles including thioamides, catechols, dithiols, and diamines gave rise to a series of diverse fused heterobicyclic rings. Over 20 functionalizing cleavage options were reported.

In recent years, commercially available *o*-halonitrobenzenes have found wide application in the solid-phase

synthesis of heterocyclic systems.²⁶⁰ Their enormous popularity stems from the fact that the reactive halogen atom is easily displaced by O, N, and S nucleophiles and that the facile reduction of the nitro group unmasks a latent nucleophilic anilino nitrogen, which in turn may participate in intramolecular acylation-, sulfonylation-, or alkylation-style ring closures. Surprisingly absent from the literature are examples of heterocycles derived from o-halonitropyridines and -nitropyrimidines. One would anticipate an enhanced reactivity of these halogenated aromatics toward nucleophiles due to the electron-deficient nature of the pyridine/pyrimidine ring relative to benzene. It is interesting to note that in this past year three research groups independently disclosed a solid-phase synthesis of pyridine- and pyrimidine-based heterocycles (purines,⁵³ dihydropteridinones,¹³ and 7-azabenzimidazoles⁶⁶) from **190** and **191**, respectively.



Gilbert's synthesis of purines began by attaching **190** to Rink amide resin **192**, which proceeded smoothly to give



Figure 18. Solid-phase synthesis of purines from pyrimidines.⁵³

193 (Figure 18).⁵³ Displacement of the second chlorine in 193 with a primary amine was quite rapid and also proceeded in good yield, as determined by cleaving the diaminonitropyrimidine from the resin with TFA. Problems started with the reduction of the nitro group to the corresponding amine. Conventional reagents and reaction conditions, e.g., SnCl₂, NaBH₄/CoCl₂, Na₂S₂O₄, hydrazine/carbon, failed to reduce the nitro group. In all, 16 different reagent/condition combinations were investigated and the only reagent pair found to be effective was LiAlH₄/AlCl₃ in THF at 25 °C for 12 h. Although these rather harsh reaction conditions did not appear to decrease the loading of 196, the major drawback of the reagent pair was the contamination of the cleaved products with inorganic salts, leading to low overall yields. The remarkable resistance of the nitro group to reduction is hypothesized to be caused by extensive conjugation of the adjacent amino groups to the nitro group and the large number of intramolecular hydrogen bonds that must be broken for reduction to proceed $(195 \rightarrow 196)$. Reduction notwithstanding, resin-bound triamine 196 was subjected to several cyclization protocols to furnish purine ring systems 200-202 with variation at the 8- and 9-positions. These transformations were also a struggle in that the reaction of **196** with methyl isothiocyanate or ethyl isothiocyanate (ca. 7.5 equiv) in the presence of dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC; ca. 7.5 equiv, benzene, reflux, 12 h) gave 197 (45% yield) contaminated with dicyclohexylurea after cleavage. This particular problem was circumvented by using diisopropylcarbodiimide (DIC) in place of DCC. Cyclization of **196** with formamidine (neat, 160 °C, 12 h) and oxidative cyclization of **196** with an aliphatic aldehyde (3 equiv) and DDQ (1.5 equiv, DMF, 25 °C, 5 h) furnished **201** and **202**, respectively, each in only 7% isolated yield following TFA-mediated release.

4,6-Dichloro-5-nitropyrimidine 190 was employed in a novel, flexible solid-phase synthesis of dihydropteridinones 207 as reported by Cox from Oxford Asymmetry International.¹³ The reaction sequence is outlined in Figure 19. Fmoc amino acids were coupled to Wang resin, and the Fmoc protecting group was removed using standard conditions. Resin 203 so obtained was treated with 190 (3 equiv) in the presence of Hunigs base using DCM as solvent (16 h), furnishing **204** in high yield and purity (as determined by cleavage of a small sample with 50% TFA-DCM, 1 h). The fully functionalized pyrimidine resin 206 was obtained via a second S_NAr reaction, displacing the chlorine atom with a variety of amino acid esters 205. Resin-bound methyl ester substrates 206 underwent efficient reductive cyclization upon exposing it to a solution of SnCl₂·H₂O (5 equiv) in oxygenfree ethanol-DMF (1:1) and heating the mixture at 70 °C





Figure 19. Solid-phase synthesis of dihydropteridinones from pyrimidines.¹³

for 16 h. The smooth reduction of the nitro group in 206 is in stark contrast to the problematic reduction of 194 to 196 experienced by Gilbert⁵³ in the purine synthesis described above. Gilbert's hypothesis that conjugation and H-bonding in 195 is responsible for making the nitro group resistant to reduction is inconsistent with the result of Fox. The analogous intermediate of 195 can be drawn for substrate 206. Subtle differences in the substrate, reaction conditions (reduction conditions of Gilbert that are closest to those of Cox was SnCl₂·H₂O in water or EtOAc at 70 °C), or linker attachment must account for the difference in the nitro group's behavior in 194 and 206. Cleavage of the reductively cyclized intermediate with 50% TFA-DCM completed the dihydropteridinone synthesis. Further diversity could be achieved by using other diamine-functionalized Wang resins (e.g., 208 and 209). In total, eight dihydrodpteridinones were synthesized. Yields ranged from 45% to 95% with an average purity of 70-75%.

As a final example of using an o-halonitro heterocycle in solid-phase synthesis, Rahman at SmithKline Beecham developed a route to 1,2,5-substituted 7-azabenzimidazole derivatives (217, Figure 20).⁶⁶ Primary amines were attached to 4-formyl-3-methoxyphenyloxymethyl polystyrene resin 210 by reductive amination. It was originally thought that resin-bound amines 211 could be acylated with 6-chloro-5nitropyrimidine-3-carboxylic acid 212 using standard amide coupling reagents and conditions. Empirically, this was not the case because the competing S_NAr reaction between amine 211 and the 6-chloro group in 212 occurred in preference to acylation. Ultimately reaction conditions for this transformation were found by using the nicotinoyl chloride 191 and carrying out the reaction at -78 °C (Et₃N, DCM). Under these conditions no evidence of competing S_NAr was observed between 191 and the amine nucleophile. The immobilized intermediate 214 was converted to the 7-aza-



Figure 20. Solid-phase synthesis of 7-azabenzimidazoles.⁶⁶

benzimidazole by the following four-step sequence: (1) alkylation with a second set of amine synthons (10 equiv of R^2NH_2 , CH_3CN , 25 °C, 12 h), (2) nitro group reduction (SnCl₂·H₂O, DMF, 25 °C, 25 h), (3) cyclization with aldehydes (10 equiv of R^3CHO , 5% AcOH–DMA, 160 °C, 5 h), and (4) product cleavage (TFA–DCM–water (6:3:1), 25 °C, 1 h). Eight examples showcasing the chemistry were given, with yields of products ranging from 50% to 94% and purities averaging >90%.

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Table 1. Chemical Libraries Targeted for Proteases (* Indicates Point of Attachment to the Resin)

Metallo-proteases

Library: 1.1 Name: Mercaptoacylpeptide Size: 36 members Affiliation: Lynas, J. F.; *et al.* [134] Note: 2 x 18 member libraries prepared on automated synthesizer.

HS

HS CONH₂

Enzyme: MMP-1 Activity: IC₅₀ = 50 nM

Library: 1.2 Name: Arylsulfone hydroxamate Size: ca. 48 members Affiliation: Rhone-Poulenc Rorer [209]





Enzyme: MMP-2 Activity: $K_i = 0.8 \text{ nM}$, MMP-2; $K_i = 1010 \text{ nM}$, MMP-1; $K_i = 60 \text{ nM}$, MMP-3

Library: 1.3 Name: Peptide hydroxamate Size: ca. 1000 members Affiliation: Roche Biosci. [50]

<u>∽</u>∦<u>⊤</u>∕ `N^{-X}`R³ H но、№

Aa₃—Aa₂-

ÒН

-Aa₁-N· H

HC

Enzyme: Procollagen C-protease Activity: IC₅₀ = 26 nM

Library: 1.4 Name: Phosphinic peptide Size: 165,000 members Affiliation: Meldol, M.; *et al.* [37] Note: On-bead screening with fluorogenic substrate also on the bead (one-bead-twocompound library).

H-Aa₇—Aa₆-



Enzyme: MMP-12 Activity: K_i = 6.0 nM

Aspartic acid proteases

Library: 1.5 Name: Indinavir analog Size: ca. 50 members Affiliation: Merck [200]



CI OH OH Ci C NH

Enzyme: HIV-1 protease Activity: $IC_{50} = 1.0 \text{ nM}$





Name: Azarene pyrrolidinone Size: 56 members Affiliation: Rhone-Poulenc Rorer [76] Note: Use of sulfonyl-activated TFP resins for N-derivatization.





Enzyme: Factor Xa Activity: K_i = 15 nM

Table 1. (Continued)



Library: 1.12 Name: Peptidyl argininal Size: 11 members Affiliation: Corvas Int. [228]

Cap NH₂ ŇН ÓH

 R^{1-N} M M N N^{-R^3}



Enzyme: Thrombin Activity: K_i = 2.0 nM

NH₂

Enzyme: Urokinase Activity: IC₅₀ = 3.1 nM

Library: 1.13 Name: Peptidyl boronic acid Size: 42 members Affiliation: Roche, U. K. [62]





Enzyme: HCV NS3 protease Activity: $K_i = 80 \text{ nM}$

Cysteine proteases

Library: 1.14 Name: Cinnamate Size: 784 members Affiliation: Agouron Pharm. [201]





Enzyme: Human rhinovirus 3C protease Activity: $K_{obs}/[I] = 96 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$

Library: 1.15 Name: Pentapeptide Size: ca. 17 million members Affiliation: Brinker, A.; *et al.* [32]

 $H-Aa_5-Aa_4-Aa_3-Aa_2-Aa_1-NH_2$



Target: Cathepsin L (human) Activity: $K_i = 130 \text{ nM}$

Table 2. Chemical Libraries Targeted for Non-proteolytic Enzymes (* Indicates Point of Attachment to the Resin)

Kinases and phosphatases

Library: 2.1

Name: Heterocyclic urea Size: ca. 1000 members Affiliation: Bayer [60, 61] Note: Focused library based on a pyrazole urea. Solution-phase synthesis.

Library: 2.2 Name: Oxime dimer Size: ca. 600 members Affiliation: Ellman, J. A.; et al. [141] Note: Target-guided ligand assembly.

Library: 2.3 Name: Lysine derivative Size: ca. 30 members Affiliation: Wipf, P.; et al. [243] Note: Library design based on natural product inhibitors of PSTPases.

Library: 2.4 Name: Tetrahydroisoquinoline Size: 24 members Affiliation: Pharmacia; Upjohn [67] Note: Focused library based on 70 μM lead.

Library: 2.5 Name: Polyamide Size: ca. 160 members Affiliation: Chitkul, B.; et al. [44] Note: Based on Kukoamine, known natural product inhibitor of TR. $X = CH_2; CH_2CH_2; CH_2CH_2N(CH_2)_3$

Library: 2.6 Name: 1,4-Naphthoquinone Size: 1360 members Affiliation: Davioud-Charvet, E.; et al. [207]

Library: 2.7 Name: Benzopyran Size: ca. 130 members Affiliation: Nicolaou, K.C.; et al. [171] Note: Inital screening library of 52 members then a series of three follow-up libraries.



OH

NR²R³

N

Enzyme: Trypanothione reductase



Me Мe ОМе H OMe ÓMe

Enzyme: NADH:ubiquinone oxidoreductase Activity: IC₅₀ = 18 nM

Enzyme: MAP kinase p38 α2 (human) Activity: IC₅₀ = 36 nM



Target: c-Src tyrosine kinase Activity: IC50 = 64 nM: > 75x selective versus Fyn, Lyn, Lck

0 .OH

Enzyme: VHR phosphatase (dual-specificity) Activity: IC₅₀ = 156 µM

Enzyme: Protein phosphatase CDC25B Activity: $IC_{50} = 15 \ \mu M$

Br

Taget: Trypanothione reductase (TR) Activity: K_i = 76 nM

нο ő

Activity: IC₅₀ = 0.3 µM

Table 2. (Continued)

esters, then hydrolysis.

AcHN



Enzyme: Ras and α -factor converting enzyme (RCE) (Ras CaaX endopeptidase; yeast) Activity: IC₅₀ = 103 nM

C

 \cap



Activity: $K_i = 24$ nM; $pA_2 = 6.1$, human umbilical vein (antagoinst)

Table 3. (Continued)







Receptor: Estrogen (lamb cytosol) Activity: 23% RBA (relative binding affinity derived from competative [³H] estradiol binding assay).







Activity: 1.0 μ M in mito xantrone accumulation assay in T6400 cell line.

Table 5. (Continued)







(DME) protected indoles

N-Boc pyroglutamate with heteronucleophiles a traceless-linker

strategy

and RCOR



Table 6. (Continued)







(b) Solution-Phase Scaffold Derivatization

Table 7. (Continued)





Table 8. Monocyclic Synthesis (* Represents Point of Attachment to the Resin)





en reaction with thio diimidazole

N-derivatization

diketone in HOAc

Table 8. (Continued)



Reviews Table 9. Bicyclic and Spirocyclic Synthesis (* Represents Point of Attachment to the Resin) (a) Solid-Phase Bicyclic and Spirocyclic Synthesis OEt HR² R² 'n ŇН₂ HC нċ R • Wyeth-Ayerst [77] • Ketcha, D. M. [110] • Scheeren, H. W. [117] • Houghten, R. A. [229] • Sato, S. [210] • 5 ex; 29-56% • 14 ex; 21-95% • 11 ex; 80-95% 13 ex; >60% purity • 14 ex; 17-59% • aqueous ammonia treatment condensation of resin-bound Nenitzescu indole • high pressure [3+2] · from resin-bound amino S-methylthiopseudourea with synthesis cycloaddition of vinyl of resin-bound flavylium salts acids, acylation with ether and styrene to isatoic anhydrides anthranilic acid derivatives resin-bound nitroalkene and cyclization HN-R³ SR H₃C • Nicolaou, K. C. [174] • OAI [13] • Pollini, G. P. [8] • Sun, C.-M. [247] • RPR [100] >100 members • 8 ex; 45-95% • 2 ex; 40-46% • 12 ex; 64-92% 9750 members use of selenenyl derived from 4,6- intramolecular tandem · derived from soluble · resin-bound amino acids subjected to Ugi/deBOC/cyclize bromide resin dichloro-5-nitropyrimidine Michael reaction polymer-bound 4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzoic acid strategy ŇН H₃C COÔMe • Nicolaou, K. C. [175] • Gilbert, I. H. [53] • Kondo, Y. [114] • Sun, C.-M. [43] Mellenium [19] • 13 ex; 71-94% • from 4-fluoro-3-nitro • 2 ex; 62+66% >50 members • 10 ex; ca. 10% • 24 ex; 0-95% 3-component · use of selenenyl from 4,6-dichloro-· Heck coupling of o-iodo aniline and benzoic acid using condensation; bromide resin 5-nitropyrimidine phenol to REM resin soluble support X, Y = CH or N coupled to Rink then photoinduced amide resin cyclorelease HO R³ SKB [66] Novo Nordisk [111] • R. W. Johnson [255] NanoSyn [146] • Blechert, S. [216] • 8 ex; 50-94% • 6 ex; 36-86% • 17 ex; 85-100% • 13 ex; 77-98% • 9 ex; 14-22% • yne-ene cross metathesis Pd-mediated coupling/ from 2-fluoro-3- from resin-bound from resin-bound and Diels-Alder cycloaddition 2-chloro-3-nitro-4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzoic intramolecular indole nitrobenzene cyclization of alkynes with reaction pyridine-5-carboxylic acid resin-bound o-iodo anilino acid sufonamides



• Barany, G. [248] • 8 ex; 64-72% from resin-bound 3-amino-4-carboxythiophenol and oxidative cvclocondensation with RCHO

• RPR [157] • 18 ex; 49-78% · alkylation of resinbound cysteine with fluoronitrobenzenes, nitro reduction then lactam formation and cleavage

ÑΗ2

нô

• Barany, G. [248] • 16 ex; 44-71% · from resin-bound 3-amino-4-carboxythiophenol



• Barany, G. [248] · 2 ex; good yield · from resin-bound 3-amino-4-carboxythiophenol



• Houghten, R. A. [162] • 11 ex; purity >80% · derived from 4-fluoro-3-nitrobenzoic acid

Table 9. (Continued)





Nicolaou, K. C. [173]
ca. 6 ex; 4-13%
novel cyclofragmentation of epoxy sulfones



and derivatization; X = O, NH

 $\hat{\mathbf{p}}_{1}$ XR



 Hoffmann-La Roche [165] 205 members N-alkylation of Nacylbenzonitriles then cvclization
 Substances
 Substances
 Substances
 Yudin, A. K. [219] 6 ex; 80-95% intramolecular cyclization via electrolysis



 Semenov, V. V. [218]
 14 ex; 68-95%
 S-alkylation then heterocyclization of CF₃-3-cyano-2(1H)-pyridinethiones

Table 10. Polycyclic and Macrocyclic Synthesis (* Represents Point of Attachment to the Resin)

(a) Solid-Phase Polycyclic and Macrocyclic Synthesis



• Curran, D. P. [52] • 64 members

- cascade radical annulation
- reaction; X = OH, O

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