Total Syntheses of (\pm) -Hymenolin and (±)-Parthenin

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The pseudoguaianolides are a widely distributed class of sesquiterpene lactones with over 150 known naturally occurring compounds.1 They can be divided into two groups (ambrosanolides and helenanolides), which differ in stereochemistry at C-10. The ambrosanolides have as a characteristic feature at C-10 a β -oriented methyl group, whereas the C-10 methyl group in the helenanolides possesses the α -orientation. The former class, of which hymenolin (1) and parthenin (2) are representative, is generally found to possess the β -oriented cis-fused α -methyl or α -methylene γ -lactone moiety at C-6;7 position (Figure 1). Although the total syntheses of these natural products have already been reported in the literature,² their efficient syntheses are still important because of their high biological activities³ and interest in how to construct the five contiguous asymmetric centers on the flexible seven-membered ring in a stereocontrolled manner.

In the previous paper⁴ we reported the regio- and stereoselective synthesis of the cycloheptenol derivative 5 in 27% overall yield from ethyl 8-hydroxy-6-methyl-2oxo-2H-cyclohepta[b]furan-3-carboxylate (4) which was conveniently prepared from 4-methyltropolone $(3)^5$ in 63%

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Figure 1.

yield (Scheme 1). In this paper we delineate the total syntheses of two ambrosanolides, hymenolin (1) and parthenin (2), to demonstrate the utility of 5 as a synthetic intermediate for ambrosanolides.

Oxidation of **5** with MnO₂ gave the desired α,β unsaturated ketone 6 in 99% yield (Scheme 2). 1,4-Addition of the Grignard reagent 7 to 6 was controlled efficiently to afford α -oriented acetal **8** as a single stereoisomer in 97% yield. The high stereoselectivity of this reaction was explained by the consideration that the reagent attacked **6** from the less hindered α -face. Methylation of 8 with LDA and MeI gave two diastereoisomers, 9 and 10, in 49% (53%) and 41% (44%) yields, respectively.⁶ The stereochemistries of the C_2 -Me of $\boldsymbol{9}$ and **10** were deduced to be β and α , respectively, from the analysis of coupling constants in the ¹H NMR spectra $(J_{2,3} = 8.0 \text{ Hz for } 9 \text{ and } J_{2,3} = 1.8 \text{ Hz for } 10).$

To elaborate the carbocyclic framework, the benzoates 11 and 14 derived from the corresponding TBDMS ethers 9 and 10 were subjected to acid-catalyzed intramolecular aldol condensation. Thus, when 11 was treated with 10% HCl in refluxing THF, the desired aldol product 13 was obtained in 42% (47%) yield, accompanied by an intermediary aldehyde **12** in 11% yield. The stereochemistry of the aldol product 13 was established on the basis of the ¹H NMR spectrum and NOE experiments (Figure 2). On the contrary, the acetal 14 and the corresponding aldehyde 15 resisted intramolecular aldol condensation under various reaction conditions.

To complete the stereoselective elaboration of the cisfused γ -butyrolactone moiety, it was necessary to reduce the carbonyl group at C-4 of 13 from the α -face, along with deprotection of the primary benzoyloxy group (Scheme 4). Among the reagents investigated, the best result was obtained when 13 was subjected to reduction useing LiAl(OMe)₃H⁷ to provide the desired triol **16** in 70% yield as a single isomer. The air oxidation of 16 in the presence of Pt catalyst⁸ enabled selective oxidation of the primary alcohol and gave γ -lactone alcohol **17** in 65% yield from 13. Oxidation of 17 with Jones reagent provided ketolactone 18 in 94% yield.

Then our attention was focused on the stereoselective elaboration of the γ -hydroxy- α , β -unsaturated ketone moiety of A ring (Scheme 5).9 Treatment of 18 with TMSOTf in the presence of Et₃N using dichloroethane as a solvent gave the silvl enol ether 20 in 59% yield, accompanied by the corresponding C-3 epimer 19 in 13%

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⁽⁶⁾ The various attempts to quench the adduct of 1,4-addition of the Grignard reagent 7 to 6 with MeI or TMSCl were unsuccessful and gave a rather complex mixture.

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The yields in parentheses are based on recovered starting material.





yield. Bromination of the minor product 19 with NBS gave a complex mixture. On the other hand, bromination of 20 with NBS gave a diastereomeric mixture of the $\alpha\text{-bromo}$ ketone $\boldsymbol{2}\boldsymbol{\breve{1}}^{10}$ in 99% yield. When the bromination was carried out without separation of unstable silyl enol ethers **19** and **20**, the yield of desired product **21** was improved to 75% in two steps. Subsequent dehydrobromination of 21 with DBU in benzene at room temperature gave the α,β -unsaturated ketone **22** in 76% yield. Ketalization of 22 with ethylene glycol in the presence of *p*-TsOH using refluxing benzene, with concomitant migration of the double bond to the β , γ -position by refluxing the solution for 47 h, afforded the desired ketal **24** in 54% yield, accompanied by the corresponding α , β unsaturated ketal 23. Epoxidation of 24 with m-CPBA followed by treatment of the resulting α -epoxide with a 1:3 mixture of concentrated HCl and methanol furnished the desired 1 α -hydroxy α , β -unsaturated ketone (1), mp 187.5 °C, in 82% yield in two steps. The melting point and ¹H NMR data of **1** were in good agreement with those of hymenolin reported in the literature.¹¹

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Scheme 4



The final stage of the present work was the transformation of the α -methyl γ -lactone, hymenolin (1), to the corresponding α -methylene γ -lactone, parthenin (2) (Scheme 6). Treatment of 1 with TMSOTf in the presence of Et₃N using CH₂Cl₂ as a solvent followed by bromination of the resulting C-1 OH protected¹² silyl enol ether **26** with phenyltrimethylammonium perbromide (PTAB) gave the α -bromolactone **27** in a one-pot operation and the α -methyl γ -lactone **28** in 66% and 16% yields, respectively.

Desired *exo*-mode dehydrobromination and deprotection of the TMS group at C-1 of **27** were achieved simultaneously by treatment of **27** with Bu₄NF at room temperature to give parthenin (**2**), mp 154–157 °C, in 87% yield, accompanied by 11 α -bromo hymenolin **29**. The melting point and ¹H NMR data of **2** are in good

⁽¹²⁾ When hymenolin (1) was treated with LDA and CBr₄,¹⁴ the α -bromoenone **31** was produced in addition to the desired α -bromolactone **29** via the epoxyenolate intermediate **30**. Therefore, it is essential to protect the C-1 hydroxy group of **1** in this bromination step.



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The yield in parenthesis is based on successive two steps reaction without separation of **19** and **20**.



agreement with those of parthenin reported in the literature. $^{2\mathrm{i},13}$

In summary, the current synthesis requires 15 steps for hymenolin (1) and 17 steps for parthenin (2) from 5, with overall yields of 1 and 2 of 2.8% and 1.6%, respectively, demonstrating the synthetic utility of cycloheptenol 5 in the total syntheses of these ambrosanolides.

Experimental Section

General Experimental Procedure. All melting points are uncorrected. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 200 MHz and at 50 MHz, respectively, using CDCl₃ as solvent

unless otherwise stated. All reactions were run under an atmosphere of N₂ or Ar. CHCl₃ was dried over CaCl₂ and distilled. Benzene, CH₂Cl₂, pyridine, diisopropylamine, and triethylamine were distilled from CaH₂. THF was distilled from sodium benzophenone ketyl. Water in ethylene glycol was eliminated as the benzene azeotrope. Acetone was distilled after treatment with KMnO₄. To describe HPLC conditions, the column, solvent, flow rate are designated in this order. The column codes are as follows: A, 30×2 cm i.d. stainless column packed with $15-25 \ \mu m$ silica gel; B, $25 \times 0.8 \ m$ i.d. stainless column packed with $10 \ \mu m$ silica gel; C, $30 \times 1 \ m$ i.d. stainless column packed with $10 \ \mu m$ silica gel; E, $25 \times 0.4 \ m$ i.d. stainless column packed with $10 \ \mu m$ silica gel. Silica gel (230–

400 mesh) was employed for flash chromatography. 7 β -[2-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-1 α -methylethyl]-4 β methyl-2-cyclohepten-1-one (6). A mixture of allylic alcohol 5 (2.39 g, 8.01 mmol), MnO₂ (13.9 g, 160 mmol), and CHCl₃ (70 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 48 h, passed through Celite, and concentrated to give 6 (2.34 g, 99%) as a colorless oil: IR (neat) 3080, 1674 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.02 (3 H, s), 0.03 (3 H, s), 0.83 (3 H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.87 (9 H, s), 1.16 (3 H, d, J =7.2 Hz), 2.33 (1 H, m), 2.59 (1 H, m), 2.74 (1 H, m), 3.41 (1 H, dd, J = 9.9, 6.6 Hz), 3.49 (1 H, dd, J = 9.9, 5.8 Hz), 5.95 (1 H, dd, J = 12.0, 2.6 Hz), 6.29 (1 H, dd, J = 12.0, 3.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ -5.50 (q), -5.45 (q), 13.0 (q), 18.2 (s), 22.1 (q), 22.8 (t), 25.9 (q), 33.3 (t), 33.7 (d), 35.4 (d), 51.4 (d), 65.9 (t), 132.0 (d), 150.4 (d), 206.3 (s). Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₃₂O₂Si: C, 68.84; H, 10.87. Found: C, 69.18; H, 11.07.

7β-[2-(tert-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-1α-methylethyl]-3α-[2-(1,3-dioxan-2-yl)ethyl]-4β-methyl-1-cycloheptanone (8). To a mixture of CuI (543 mg, 2.71 mmol), SMe₂ (12.5 mL), and 1.04 M THF solution of 7 (14.2 mL) was added a THF (30 mL) solution of 6 (3.34 g, 11.3 mmol) at -20 °C. The mixture was stirred at -20 °C for 2 h, poured into a 4:1 mixture of saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl and 29% ammonia solution (300 mL), and extracted with ether $(3 \times 150 \text{ mL})$. The combined extracts were worked up as usual to give an oily crude product, which was purified by flash chromatography [column, 4.5 cm i.d. silica gel 170 g; EtOAc-hexane (1:9)] to give 8 (4.51 g, 97%) as a colorless oil: IR (neat) 1700 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.03 (6 H, s), 0.79 (3 H, d, J = 6.8 Hz), 0.88 (9 H, s), 1.00 (3 H, d, J = 6.8 Hz), 1.33 (1 H, m), 2.63 (1 H, dd, J = 11.9, 2.7 Hz), 3.38 (1 H, dd, J = 11.9, 2.7 Hz)10.0, 7.4 Hz), 3.45 (1 H, dd, J = 10.0, 6.3 Hz), 3.74 (2 H, ddd, J= 12.0, 12.0, 2.5 Hz), 4.09 (2 H, ddd, J = 12.0, 5.0, 1.2 Hz), 4.48 (1 H, t, J = 5.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ -5.5 (q), -5.4 (q), 13.0 (q), 18.3 (s), 20.0 (t), 20.3 (q), 25.8 (t), 25.9 (q), 28.2 (t), 31.8 (t), 32.6 (t), 36.1 (d), 37.0 (d), 41.5 (d), 44.9 (t), 53.4 (d), 66.0 (t), 66.9 (t), 102.4 (d), 215.5 (s). Anal. Calcd for $C_{23}H_{44}O_4Si$: C, 66.94; H, 10.75. Found: C, 67.17; H, 10.73.

7β-[2-(tert-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-1α-methylethyl]-3α-[2-(1,3-dioxan-2-yl)ethyl]-2β,4β-dimethyl-1-cycloheptanone (9) and 7β -[2-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-1 α -methylethyl]-3α-[2-(1,3-dioxan-2-yl)ethyl]-2α,4β-dimethyl-1-cycloheptanone (10). A solution of 8 (279 mg, 0.677 mmol) in THF (3.4 mL) was slowly added to a cooled (-78 °C) solution of LDA [prepared from diisopropylamine (114 μ L, 0.813 mmol) and 1.57 M BuLi in hexane (517 µL, 0.812 mmol)] in THF (3.4 mL). The solution was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h and then warmed to -20 °C and stirred at this temperature for an additional 1 h. Then MeI (211 µL, 3.39 mmol) was added. The solution was stirred for additional 4.3 h at -20 °C and poured into a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (30 mL). The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 30 mL). The combined extracts were worked up as usual to give an oily crude product (299 mg), which was purified by HPLC [column, A; EtOAc-hexane (8:92); 28 mL/ min].

The first peak (t_R 8.0 min) gave **9** (142 mg, 49%) as a colorless oil: IR (CHCl₃) 1708 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.01 (3 H, s), 0.02 (3 H, s), 0.86 (3 H, d, J = 7.4 Hz), 0.88 (9 H, s), 0.90 (3 H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.03 (3 H, d, J = 6.6 Hz), 2.49 (1 H, dq, J = 8.0, 6.6 Hz), 2.64 (1 H, ddd, J = 8.8, 7.6, 6.0 Hz), 3.35 (1 H, dd, J = 9.8, 4.8 Hz), 3.44 (1 H, dd, J = 9.8, 5.1 Hz), 3.75 (2 H, ddd, J = 12.0, 12.0, 2.6 Hz), 4.12 (2 H, ddd, J = 12.0, 5.0, 1.3 Hz), 4.51 (1 H, t, J = 4.5 Hz); 13.C NMR δ -5.5 (q), 14.1 (q), 16.2 (q), 18.3 (s), 20.7 (q), 23.8 (t), 25.8 (t), 25.9 (q), 27.0 (t), 31.3 (t), 31.9 (t), 35.5 (d), 36.0 (d), 47.3 (d), 49.7 (d), 52.8 (d), 66.5 (t), 66.9 (t), 102.5 (d),

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217.2 (s). Anal. Calcd for $C_{24}H_{46}O_4Si:$ C, 67.55; H, 10.87. Found: C, 67.67; H, 11.01.

The second peak ($t_{\rm R}$ 12.6 min) gave **10** (119 mg, 41%) as a colorless oil: IR (CHCl₃) 1696 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.03 (3 H, s), 0.04 (3 H, s), 0.75 (3 H, d, J = 6.9 Hz), 0.88 (9 H, s), 1.02 (3 H, d, J = 6.7 Hz), 1.12 (3 H, d, J = 7.4 Hz), 2.26 (1 H, ddd, J = 11.0, 4.5, 4.5 Hz), 3.06 (1 H, qd, J = 6.7, 1.8 Hz), 3.35 (1 H, dd, J = 12.0, 12.0, 2.4 Hz), 4.11 (2 H, ddd, J = 12.0, 5.0, 1.3 Hz), 4.50 (1 H, t, J = 5.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ -5.5 (q), -5.4 (q), 12.6 (q), 17.1 (t), 18.2 (s), 19.3 (q), 22.8 (t), 25.8 (t), 25.9 (q), 29.1 (t), 31.3 (d), 34.3 (t), 39.4 (d), 43.0 (d), 48.2 (d), 54.7 (d), 65.8 (t), 426.3166, found 426.3177.

The third peak ($t_{\rm R}$ 21.0 min) was recovered starting material **8** (21 mg, 8%).

7β-(2-Benzoyloxy-1α-methylethyl)-3α-[2-(1,3-dioxan-2yl)ethyl]-2*β*,4*β*-dimethyl-1-cycloheptanone (11). A THF (3.5 mL) solution of **9** (41.2 mg, 0.097 mmol) was stirred with 1 M THF solution of Bu₄NF (0.29 mL) at room temperature for 1.5 h, poured into a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (20 mL), and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined extracts were worked up as usual to give a crude oily alcohol (43 mg).

A solution of the crude alcohol (43 mg) and BzCl (22.4 μ L, 0.193 mmol) in pyridine (0.6 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 13 h, and the reaction was worked up as usual to give crude benzoate (52 mg), which was purified by HPLC [column, B; EtOAc-hexane (1:9); 7.5 mL/min].

The first peak ($t_{\rm R}$ 10.0 min) gave **11** (30.8 mg, 77%) as colorless prisms: mp 47–48 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 1714, 1606 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.87 (3 H, d, J = 7.1 Hz), 1.02 (3 H, d, J = 6.6 Hz), 1.05 (3 H, d, J = 6.9 Hz), 1.35 (1 H, m), 2.08 (1 H, ddddd, J = 13.0, 12.0, 12.0, 5.0, 5.0 Hz), 2.46 (2 H, m), 2.63 (1 H, ddd, J = 8.0, 8.0, 6.0 Hz), 3.75 (2 H, ddd, J = 12.0, 12.0, 2.4 Hz), 4.10 (2 H, ddd J = 12.0, 5.0, 1.3 Hz), 4.17 (2 H, m), 4.48 (1 H, t, J = 4.5 Hz), 7.50 (3 H, m), 8.05 (2 H, m); ¹³C NMR δ 14.4 (q), 16.3 (q), 20.7 (q), 24.0 (t), 25.7 (d), 66.8 (t), 68.4 (t), 102.3 (d), 128.3 (d), 129.5 (d), 130.3 (s), 132.8 (d), 166.5 (s), 216.1 (s); HREIMS *m*/*e* calcd for C₂₅H₃₆O₅ 416.2563, found 416.2567.

The second peak (t_R 16.8 min) gave 7β -(2-benzoyloxy-1 α methylethyl)- 3α -[2-(1,3-dioxan-2-yl)ethyl]- 2α , 4β -dimethyl-1-cycloheptanone (14) (7.5 mg, 19%) as a colorless oil: IR (CHCl₃) 1718, 1700, 1606 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.91 (3 H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.04 (3 H, d, J = 6.7 Hz), 1.13 (3 H, d, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.30 (1 H, ddd, J = 11.8, 4.0, 4.0 Hz), 2.47 (1 H, qddd, J = 7.4, 7.1, 6.9, 4.0 Hz), 3.09 (1 H, qd, J = 6.7, 1.7 Hz), 3.71 (2 H, ddd, J = 12.0, 12.0, 2.6 Hz), 4.09 (2 H, ddd, J = 12.0, 6.0, 1.2 Hz), 4.12 (1 H, dd, J = 11.2, 6.9 Hz), 4.22 (1 H, dd, J = 11.2, 7.4 Hz), 4.44 (1 H, t, J = 5.0 Hz), 7.51 (3 H, m), 8.04 (2 H, m); ¹³C NMR δ 13.0 (q), 15.7 (q), 17.3 (t), 19.1 (q), 22.8 (t), 25.7 (t), 29.0 (t), 31.2 (d), 34.2 (t), 36.4 (d), 43.1 (d), 48.2 (d), 55.0 (d), 66.8 (t), 67.3 (t), 102.3 (d), 128.3 (d), 129.5 (d), 130.1 (s), 132.9 (d), 166.3 (s), 217.1 (s); HREIMS *m*/*e* calcd for C₂₅H₃₆O₅ 416.2563, found 416.2571. Anal. Calcd for C₂₅H₃₆O₅: C, 72.08; H, 8.71. Found: C, 71.43; H, 8.70.

5β-(**2**-Benzoyloxy-1α-methylethyl)-**8**aβ*H*-**3**β-hydroxy-**3**aβ,**8**β-dimethyloctahydroazulen-4(5*H*)-one (13). A solution of **11** (69.5 mg, 0.194 mmol) and 10% HCl (1.5 mL) in THF (3 mL) was heated under reflux for 24 h, cooled, and poured into a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (20 mL). The mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 20 mL), and the combined extracts were worked up as usual to give an oily crude product (115 mg), which was purified by HPLC [column, B; EtOAc– hexane (15:85); 7.5 mL/min].

The first peak (t_R 6.0 min) gave a mixture of **11** and **12** [14.9 mg, 22% (**11:12** = 1:1)]: ¹H NMR of **12** δ 0.71 (3 H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 0.88 (3 H, d, J = 6.3 Hz), 0.91 (3 H, d, J = 6.3 Hz), 2.28 (2 H, m), 2.47 (1 H, ddd, J = 9.0, 9.0, 6.0 Hz), 3.98 (1 H, dd, J = 11.0, 5.0 Hz), 4.07 (1 H, dd, J = 11.0, 5.0 Hz), 7.35 (3 H, m), 7.85 (2 H, m), 9.62 (1 H, t, J = 1.5 Hz).

The second peak ($t_{\rm R}$ 7.7 min) gave **13** (25.0 mg, 42%) as a colorless oil: IR (CHCl₃) 3488, 1716 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.91 (3 H, d, J = 6.2 Hz), 1.06 (3 H, d, J = 6.9 Hz), 1.13 (3 H, s), 1.65 (1 H, m), 1.90 (1 H, m), 2.54 (1 H, m), 2.71 (1 H, m), 4.16 (1 H, dd, J = 12.5, 5.3 Hz), 4.22 (1 H, dd, J = 12.5, 5.3 Hz), 4.29 (1 H, dd, J = 10.8, 6.2 Hz), 7.52 (3 H, m), 8.06 (2 H, m); ¹³C NMR δ 14.3

(q), 19.6 (q), 21.4 (q), 25.9 (t), 27.7 (t), 31.5 (t), 32.6 (t), 34.5 (d), 36.7 (d), 49.3 (d), 54.3 (d), 60.5 (s), 68.3 (t), 76.8 (d), 128.4 (d), 129.5 (d), 130.3 (s), 133.0 (d), 166.7 (s), 217.6 (s); HREIMS *m/e* calcd for $C_{22}H_{30}O_4$ 358.2144, found 358.2152.

8aβH-5β-(2-Hydroxy-1α-methylethyl)-3β,4β-dihydroxy-**3a**β,**8**β-dimethyldecahydroazulene (16). To a 0.43 M solution of $LiAlH_4$ in THF (3.5 mL) was added slowly a solution of MeOH (180 μ L, 4.44 mmol) in THF (1 mL) at 0 °C. Then a solution of 13 (17.7 mg, 0.0494 mmol) in THF (1 mL) was added slowly. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 2.7 h, and the reaction was quenched by addition of a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (5 mL). After usual work up, a crude oily material (17 mg) was purified by HPLC [column, B; EtOAc-hexane (1:1); 7.5 mL/min, t_R 8.8 min] to give 16 (8.9 mg, 70%) as colorless prisms (MeOH): mp 175-177 °C; IR (KBr) 3400, 3300 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, pyridine- d_5) δ 1.08 (3 H, d, J = 6.8 Hz), 1.28 (3 H, dd, J = 7.0, 1.5 Hz), 1.36 (1 H, m), 1.49 (3 H, d, J = 1.5 Hz), 1.67 (1 H, ddd, J = 8.6, 8.6, 6.8 Hz), 1.83 (1 H, m), 1.86 (1 H, m), 2.06 (3 H, m), 2.22 (1 H, m), 2.26 (1 H, m), 3.96 (1 H, ddd, J = 11.0, 5.1, 1.5 Hz), 3.99 (1 H, dd, J = 11.0, 5.6 Hz), 4.33 (1 H, dd, J = 8.8, 7.7 Hz), 4.46 (1 H, d, J = 3.4 Hz), 5.82 (1 H, d, J = 3.4 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, pyridine d_5) δ 16.4 (q), 22.1 (q), 22.9 (q), 26.8 (t), 27.1 (t), 31.0 (t), 33.7 (t), 36.8 (d), 38.7 (d), 41.0 (d), 51.8 (s), 55.1 (d), 65.6 (t), 74.8 (d), 76.1 (d); HREIMS m/e calcd for $C_{15}H_{26}O_2$ (M - H₂O) 238.1933, found 238.1931. Anal. Calcd for C15H28O3: C, 70.27; H, 11.01. Found: C, 69.62; H, 10.94.

 $(3a\alpha, 6a\beta, 9b\alpha)$ -9 β -Hydroxy-3 $\alpha, 6\beta, 9a\beta$ -trimethyldecahydroazuleno[4,5-b]furan-2(3H)-one (17). A mixture of PtO2 (580 mg, 2.55 mmol) and H_2O (68 mL) was stirred under H_2 for 11 h. The acetone (68 mL) solution of the crude 16 (620 mg) which was prepared from 13 (715 mg, 2.00 mmol) by the abovementioned manner was added. After O2 was bubbled into the mixture at 57 °C for 11 h, the mixture was cooled and filtered through Celite. The filtrate was extracted with EtOAc (4 \times 100 mL). The combined extracts were worked up as usual to give a crude oily material (563 mg), which was passed through the short column of silica gel. The eluent was further purified by HPLC [column, A; EtOAc-hexane (3:7); 28 mL/min, t_R 12.0 min] to give 17 (327.4 mg, 65% from 13) as colorless plates (EtOAc-hexane): mp 110 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 3608, 1768 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.85 (3 H, d, J = 5.7 Hz), 1.05 (3 H, s), 1.23 (3 H, d, J =6.2 Hz), 2.31 (2 H, m), 4.03 (1 H, dd, J = 11.0, 5.7 Hz), 4.73 (1 H, d, J = 8.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ 14.7 (q), 17.7 (q), 20.9 (q), 26.2 (t), 27.3 (t), 29.8 (t), 33.8 (d), 35.1 (t), 40.6 (d), 45.6 (d), 47.1 (s), 51.5 (d), 83.0 (d), 88.5 (d), 179.0 (s). Anal. Calcd for $C_{15}H_{24}O_3$: C, 71.39; H, 9.59. Found: C, 71.26; H, 9.77.

(3a α , 6a β , 9b α)-9-0xo-3 α , 6 β , 9a β -trimethyldecahydroazuleno[4,5-*b*]furan-2(3*H*)-one (18). Into a solution of 17 (174 mg, 0.69 mmol) in acetone (4 mL) was added Jones reagent (775 μ L, 207 mmol) dropwise at 0 °C under stirring. The mixture was stirred at this temperature for 3 h and worked up as usual to give a crude oily material (178 mg), which was purified by flash chromatography [column, 1.6 cm i.d. silica gel 8 g; EtOAc-hexane (3:7)] to give 18 (163 mg, 94%) as colorless prisms (EtOAc): mp 104–105 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 1770, 1746 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 1.07 (3 H, d, J = 6.6 Hz), 1.24 (3 H, s), 1.26 (3 H, d, J = 6.7 Hz), 4.70 (1 H, d, J = 8.3 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ 15.1 (q), 19.4 (q), 21.5 (q), 23.9 (t), 25.8 (t), 31.2 (t), 34.2 (d), 34.4 (t), 41.5 (d), 46.2 (d), C₁₁₅H₂₂O₃: C, 71.97; H, 8.86. Found: C, 71.62; H, 8.90.

3α,**6**β,**9**aβ-**Trimethyl-9-(trimethylsilyloxy)-3**aα,**4**,**5**,**6**,**6**aβ,**7**,**-9**a,**9**bα-octahydroazuleno[**4**,**5**-*b*]**furan-2(3***H*)-one (**20**) and **3**β,**6**β,**9**aβ-**Trimethyl-9-(trimethylsilyloxy)-3**aα,**4**,**5**,**6**,**6**aβ,**7**,**-9**a,**9**bα-octahydroazuleno[**4**,**5**-*b*]**furan-2(3***H*)-one (**19**). TM-SOTf (**8**1.2 μL, 0.42 mmol) was added into a mixture of **18** (80.8 mg, 0.323 mmol), dichloroethane (2 mL), and Et₃N (**89**.5 μL, 0.646 mmol) at 0 °C under stirring. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 10 min and at room temperature for 2 h and concentrated to give crude product. After recovered **18** (2.6 mg, 3%) was separated from crude product by flash chromatography [column, 1.2 cm i.d. silica gel 2.5 g; EtOAc-hexane (1:9) and then EtOAc-hexane (4:6)], the mixture of C-3 stereoisomer, **19** and **20** were separated by HPLC [column, C; EtOAc-hexane (5:95); 5.0 mL/min].

The first peak ($t_{\rm R}$ 9.6 min) gave 3 α -Me derivative **20** (61.7 mg, 59%) as colorless microcrystals: mp 66–67 °C; IR (CHCl₃)

1764, 1660 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.22 (9 H, s), 0.91 (3 H, d, J= 5.9 Hz), 1.21 (3 H, s), 1.22 (3 H, d, J= 6.8 Hz), 2.08 (1 H, ddd, J= 15.4, 5.6, 2.5 Hz), 2.29 (2 H, m), 2.39 (1 H, ddd, J= 15.4, 8.2, 2.5 Hz), 4.53 (1 H, t, J= 2.5 Hz), 4.67 (1 H, d, J= 8.8 Hz); ^{13}C NMR δ 0.0 (q), 15.4 (q), 20.4 (q), 21.8 (q), 26.5 (t), 32.1 (t), 33.3 (d), 33.6 (t), 41.5 (d), 45.5 (d), 51.1 (s), 52.0 (d), 83.7 (d), 98.7 (d), 159.4 (s); 179.4 (s); HREIMS m/e calcd for $C_{18}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_3\text{Si}$ 322.1964, found 322.1966.

The second peak ($t_{\rm R}$ 12.8 min) gave 3 β -Me derivative (**19**) (13.2 mg, 13%) as a colorless oil: IR (CHCl₃) 1764, 1682 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.21 (9 H, s), 0.94 (3 H, d, J = 6.1 Hz), 1.13 (3 H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 1.26 (3 H, s), 2.46 (1 H, m), 2.80 (2 H, m), 4.52 (1 H, t, J = 2.3 Hz), 4.55 (1 H, d, J = 5.9 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ 0.1 (q), 10.2 (q), 20.9 (t), 22.3 (q), 23.0 (q), 29.8 (t), 34.3 (t), 36.3 (d), 38.9 (d), 40.2 (d), 50.4 (s), 54.1 (d), 86.2 (d), 98.1 (d), 160.0 (s), 197.7 (s); HREIMS calcd for C₁₈H₃₀O₃Si 322.1964, found 322.1977.

(3aα,6aβ,9bα)-8ξ-Bromo-9-oxo-3α,6β,9aβ-trimethyldecahydroazuleno[4,5-b]furan-2(3H)-one (21). A THF (0.5 mL) solution of NBS (46.8 mg, 0.263 mmol) was added into a THF (1.5 mL) solution of 20 (56.6 mg, 0.175 mmol) under stirring at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at this temperature for 1 h, poured into a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (20 mL), and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (5 \times 30 mL). The combined extracts were worked up as usual to give an oily crude product (82 mg), which was purified by flash chromatography [column, 1.2 cm i.d. silica gel 2.5 g; EtOAc-hexane (2:8)] to give 21 (57.1 mg, 99%) as colorless needles (EtOAc-hexane): mp 152-154 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 1770 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 1.06 (1.5 H, d, J = 6.3 Hz), 1.07 (1.5 H, d, J = 6.3 Hz), 1.25 (3 H, d, J = 6.8 Hz), 1.25 (1.5 H, s), 1.36 (1.5 H, s), 4.31 (0.5 H, dd, J = 7.3, 4.7 Hz), 4.48 (0.5 H, dd, J = 8.9, 8.2 Hz), 4.64 (0.5 H, d, J = 8.2 Hz), 4.93 (0.5 H, d, J =8.6 Hz); HREIMS *m*/*e* calcd for C₁₅H₂₁O₃Br 328.0674, found 328.0668.

In another experiment, **18** gave **21** in 75% overall yield in two steps without separation of C-3 stereoisomers of silyl enol ethers, **19** and **20**.

9-Oxo-3α,6β,9aβ-trimethyl-3aα,4,5,6,6aβ,9,9a,9bα-octahydroazuleno[4,5-b]furan-2(3H)-one (22). A solution of 21 (54 mg, 0.164 mmol) and DBU (49.1 μL , 0.328 mmol) in benzene (1.5 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 14 h, poured into 1 M HCl (15 mL), and worked up usual to give an oily product (45 mg), which was purified by flash column chromatography [column, 1.2 cm i.d. silica gel 2.5 g; EtOAc-hexane (4:6)] to give 22 (31 mg, 76%) as colorless prisms (CHCl₃-Et₂O): mp 143 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 1770, 1714 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 1.08 (3 H, d, J = 6.1Hz), 1.23 (3 H, s), 1.27 (3 H, d, J = 6.7 Hz), 2.34 (2 H, m), 2.56 (1 H, ddd, J = 9.9, 3.0, 1.7 Hz), 4.69 (1 H, d, J = 9.0 Hz), 6.15 (1 H, dd, J = 5.9, 1.7 Hz), 7.67 (1 H, dd, J = 5.9, 3.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ 15.0 (q), 20.2 (q), 21.2 (q), 26.6 (t), 34.2 (d), 35.2 (t), 40.7 (d), 46.0 (d), 51.3 (s), 56.2 (d), 79.0 (d), 130.6 (d), 164.3 (d), 178.7 (s), 209.9 (s). Anal. Calcd For C₁₅H₂₀O₃: C, 72.55; H, 8.12. Found: C, 72.62; H, 8.34.

9-(Ethylenedioxy)- 3α , 6β , $9a\beta$ -trimethyl- $3a\alpha$,4,5,6, $6a\beta$,9, 9a, $9b\alpha$ -octahydroazuleno[4,5-*b*]furan-2(3*H*)-one (23) and 9-(Ethylenedioxy)- 3α , 6β , $9a\beta$ -trimethyl- $3a\alpha$,4,5,6,8,9,9a, $9b\alpha$ octahydroazuleno[4,5-*b*]furan-2(3*H*)-one (24). A mixture of 22 (14.3 mg, 0.058 mmol), *p*-TsOH·H₂O (11.0 mg, 0.058 mmol), and ethylene glycol (1 mL) in benzene (15 mL) was refluxed with a Dean–Stark trap packed with 4A sieves for 47 h, cooled, diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL), and poured into a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (10 mL). The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (2 × 20 mL). The combined organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated to give an oily crude product, which was separated by HPLC [column, D; EtOAc–hexane (2:8); 3.0 mL/min].

The first peak ($_{\rm R}$ 4.4 min) gave the α , β -unsaturated ketal **23** (1.6 mg, 10%) as colorless prisms (EtOAc-hexane): mp 143 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 1755 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 0.91 (3 H, d, J = 6.4 Hz), 1.13 (3 H, s), 1.23 (3 H, d, J = 6.6 Hz), 2.28 (1 H, ddd, J = 10.3, 3.2, 1.7 Hz), 2.36 (2 H, m), 4.04 (4 H, m), 5.26 (1 H, dd, J = 9.0 Hz), 5.62 (1 H, dd, J = 6.0, 1.7 Hz), 5.98 (1 H, dd, J = 6.0, 3.2 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz) δ 14.9 (q), 19.3 (q), 21.3 (q), 26.1 (t), 32.2 (d), 35.2 (t), 40.9 (d), 46.1 (d), 50.7 (s), 57.0 (d), 65.55 (t), 65.58 (t), 79.7 (d), 120.7 (s), 130.2 (d), 136.7 (d), 179.8 (s); HREIMS *m*/e calcd for C₁₇H₂₄O₄ 292.1765, found 292.1764. The second peak ($t_{\rm R}$ 4.8 min) gave **24** (9.0 mg, 54%) as a

colorless oil: IR (CHCl₃) 1764, 1462 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 1.18 (3 H,

d, J = 7.4 Hz), 1.21 (3 H, d, J = 6.5 Hz), 1.23 (3 H, s), 2.42 (1 H, dd, J = 16.8, 2.3 Hz), 2.58 (1 H, dd, J = 16.8, 2.3 Hz), 2.74 (1 H, m), 4.01 (4 H, m), 4.74 (1 H, d, J = 8.1 Hz), 5.59 (1 H, t, J = 2.3 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ 14.7 (q), 15.9 (q), 23.5 (q), 23.6 (t), 27.9 (t), 37.9 (d), 38.9 (d), 40.7 (t), 47.2 (d), 57.5 (s), 64.9 (t), 65.3 (t), 80.5 (d), 120.0 (s), 125.9 (d), 148.8 (s), 180.1 (s); HREIMS *m/e* calcd for C₁₇H₂₄O₄ 292.1765, found 292.1764.

 $(3a\alpha,9b\alpha)$ - $6a\alpha,7\alpha$ -Epoxy-9-(ethylenedioxy)- $3\alpha,6\beta,9a\beta$ -trimethyldecahydroazuleno[4,5-b]furan-2(3H)-one (25). A solution of 24 (11.9 mg, 0.041 mmol) and m-CPBA (15.8 mg, 0.092 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 1 h, poured into 10% aqueous solution of Na₂S₂O₃ (15 mL), and worked up as usual to give crude crystalline material (14.6 mg), which was purified by flash column chromatography [column, 1.2 cm i.d. silica gel 2 g; EtOAc-hexane (4:6)] to give 25 (11.9 mg, 95%) as colorless prisms (EtOAc): mp 184-185 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 1764 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 1.20 (3 H, s), 1.21 (3 H, d, J = 6.1 Hz), 1.24 (3 H, d, J = 6.6 Hz), 2.15 (2 H, d, J = 1.0 Hz), 2.44 (1 H, m), 2.56 (1 H, m), 3.23 (1 H, t, J = 1.0 Hz), 3.94 (4 H, m), 5.05 (1 H, d, J = 9.1 Hz); ¹³C NMR δ 14.5 (q), 14.7 (q), 18.4 (q), 23.3 (t), 28.0 (t), 39.0 (t), 39.0 (d), 40.8 (d), 46.4 (d), 54.6 (s), 58.4 (d), 64.5 (t), 65.6 (t), 69.5 (s), 79.6 (d), 116.2 (s), 179.6 (s); HREIMS m/e calcd for C17H24O5 308.1624, found 308.1600. Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₂₄O₅: C, 66.21; H, 7.95. Found: C, 65.60; H. 7.85.

Hymenolin (1). A solution of **25** (3.4 mg, 0.011 mmol) and concentrated HCl (0.15 mL) in MeOH (0.45 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 17 h and poured into a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (10 mL). The mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (5 × 10 mL). The combined extracts were worked up as usual to give an oily crude product, which was purified by HPLC [column, D; EtOAc-hexane (4:6); 3.0 mL/min].

The peak ($t_{\rm R}$ 8.0 min) gave hymenolin (1) (2.5 mg, 86%) as colorless prisms (EtOAc): mp 187-188 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 3604, 3448, 1768, 1730 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz; The numbering of hymenolin is based on that of pseudoguaianolide) δ 1.13 (3 H, d, J = 7.6 Hz, Me-10), 1.31 (3 H, s, Me-5), 1.31 (3 H, d, J = 7.6 Hz, Me-11), 1.67 (1 H, m, H-9), 1.89 (1 H, m, H-8a), 2.00 (1 H, m, H-8b), 2.09 (1 H, dddd, J = 14.4, 11.2, 6.4, 2.0 Hz, H-9), 2.31 (1 H, m, H-10), 2.39 (1 H, dq, J = 7.6, 7.6 Hz, H-11), 2.64 (1 H, m, H-7), 5.01 (1 H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, H-6), 6.17 (1 H, d, J = 5.9 Hz, H-3), 7.51 (1 H, d, $J\!=$ 5.9 Hz, H-2); $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (125 MHz) δ 16.2 (q, Me-11), 17.7 (q, Me-10), 18.4 (q, Me-5), 25.9 (t, C-8), 29.6 (t, C-9), 40.7 (d, C-10), 41.6 (d, C-11), 47.6 (d, C-7), 58.9 (s, C-5), 78.9 (d, C-6), 84.6 (s, C-1), 131.7 (d, C-3), 162.3 (d, C-2), 180.0 (s, C-12), 210.4 (s, C-4); The assignment of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra is based on H-H COSY, DEPT, HMQC, and HMBC experiments.

11α-**Bromo-4-oxo-1**α-(**trimethylsilyloxy**)-**2**-**pseudoguaien-12,6**β-**lactone (27).** To a solution of hymenolin (1) (7.3 mg, 0.028 mmol) and Et₃N (230 μ L, 0.17 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (0.3 mL) at 0 °C was added TMSOTf (16 μ L, 0.083 mmol), and the solution was stirred at this temperature for **85** min. Then a solution of PTAB (31.1 mg, 0.083 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (0.2 mL) was added, and stirring was continued for 20 min at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was poured into a solution of 10% aqueous solution of Na₂S₂O₃ (3 mL) and a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (3 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (5 × 10 mL). The combined extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated to give a crude product (20 mg), which was purified by HPLC [column, E; EtOAc-hexane (15: 85); 3.0 mL/min].

The first peak (t_R 5.6 min) gave **27** (7.6 mg, 66%) as colorless prisms: mp 194–196 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 1774, 1732 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 0.09 (9 H, s, OTMS), 1.09 (3 H, d, J = 7.5 Hz, Me-10), 1.30 (3 H, s, Me-5), 1.90 (3 H, s, Me-11), 2.12 (1 H, m, H-9), 2.34 (1 H, qdd, J = 7.5, 7.5, 1.2 Hz, H-10), 3.24 (1 H, ddd, J = 11.8, 5.5, 2.7 Hz, H-7), 5.13 (1 H, d, J = 5.5 Hz, H-6), 6.29 (1 H, d, J = 6.0 Hz, H-3), 7.46 (1 H, d, J = 6.0 Hz, H-2); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz) δ 2.2 (q, OTMS), 17.6 (q, Me-10), 19.7 (q, Me-5), 21.7 (t, C-8), 23.5 (q, Me-11), 32.0 (t, C-9), 40.4 (d, C-10), 55.9 (d, C-7), 57.9 (s, C-11), 59.8 (s, C-5), 78.7 (d, C-6), 87.5 (s, C-1), 133.2 (d, C-3), 161.7 (d, C-2), 174.2 (s, C-12), 210.1 (s, C-4); HREIMS *m/e* calcd for C₁₈H₂₇O₄SiBr 414.0862, found 414.0869.

The second peak (t_R 7.4 min) gave 1α-(trimethylsilyloxy)hymenolin (**28**) (1.5 mg, 16%) as colorless microcrystals: mp 154– 158 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 1786, 1732 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 0.07 (9 H, s), 1,10 (3 H, d, J = 7.7 Hz), 1.29 (3 H, s), 1.33 (3 H, d, J = 7.3 Hz), 2.31 (1 H, m), 2.34 (1 H, m), 2.54 (1 H, m), 4.94 (1 H, d, J = 7.7 Hz), 6.24 (1 H, d, J = 6.0 Hz), 7.46 (1 H, d, J = 6.0 Hz).

Parthenin (2). A solution of **27** (6.2 mg, 0.015 mmol) and Bu₄NF (45 μ L) (1 M solution in THF) in THF (0.4 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 6.5 h. The resulting solution was poured into a saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (5 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (5 × 10 mL). The combined extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated to give crude product, which was purified by HPLC [column, E; EtOAc-hexane (4:6); 3.0 mL/min].

The first peak ($t_{\rm R}$ 4.2 min) gave 11 α -bromohymenolin (**29**) (0.5 mg, 10%) as colorless microcrystals: mp 171–175 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 3676, 3604, 1776, 1730 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR δ 1.14 (3 H, d, J = 8.0 Hz), 1.35 (3 H, s), 1.92 (3 H, s), 2.34 (1 H, m), 3.32 (1 H, m), 5.21 (1 H, d, J = 5.5 Hz), 6.29 (1 H, d, J = 5.9 Hz), 7.51 (1 H, d, J = 5.9 Hz).

The second peak ($t_{\rm R}$ 7.4 min) gave parthenin (**2**) (3.5 mg, 87%) as colorless crystals: mp 154–157 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 3604, 3456, 1758, 1730 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz) δ 1.13 (3 H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, Me-10), 1.30 (3 H, s, Me-5), 1.71 (1 H, dddd, J = 13.1, 7.4, 3.4,

1.0 Hz, H-9), 1.85 (1 H, m, H-8), 2.15–2.28 (2 H, H-8, H-9), 2.34 (1 H, m, H-10), 3.50 (1 H, m, H-7), 5.00 (1 H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-6), 5.60 (1 H, d, J = 2.5 Hz, H-13), 6.21 (1 H, d, J = 5.8 Hz, H-3), 6.30 (1 H, d, J = 2.5 Hz, H-13), 7.50 (1 H, d, J = 5.8 Hz, H-2); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz) δ 17.5 (q, Me-10), 18.4 (q, Me-5), 28.3 (t, C-8), 29.8 (t, C-9), 40.8 (d, C-10), 44.2 (d, C-7), 59.2 (s, C-5), 78.5 (d, C-6), 84.6 (s, C-1), 121.7 (t, C-13), 132.2 (d, C-3), 140.3 (s, C-11), 162.5 (d, C-2), 170.5 (s, C-12), 210.1 (s, C-4); HREIMS *m*/*e* calcd for C₁₅H₁₈O₄ 262.1205, found 262.1220.

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