# Total Synthesis and Evaluation of Phostriecin and Key Structural Analogues

Christopher P. Burke,[†] Mark R. Swingle,[‡] Richard E. Honkanen,[‡] and Dale L. Boger*,[†]

[†]*Department of Chemistry and the Skaggs Institute for Chemical Biology, The Scripps Research Institute, 10550 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, California 92037, and [‡]Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of South Alabama College of Medicine, Mobile, Alabama 36688*

boger@scripps.edu

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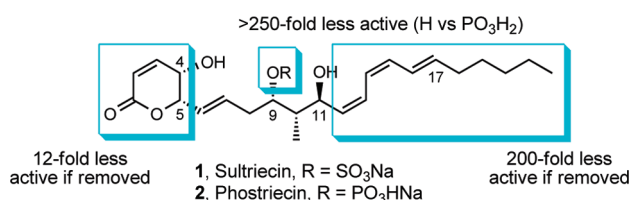
Full details of the total synthesis of phostriecin (**2**), the assignment of its relative and absolute stereochemistry, and the resultant structural reassignment of the natural product previously represented as sultriecin (**1**), a phosphate versus sulfate monoester, are detailed. Studies with authentic material confirmed that phostriecin, but not sultriecin, is an effective and selective inhibitor of protein phosphatase 2A (PP2A) defining a mechanism of action responsible for its antitumor activity. The extension of the studies to the synthesis and evaluation of a series of key synthetic analogues is disclosed that highlights the importance of the natural product phosphate monoester (vs sulfate or free alcohol, both inactive and > 250-fold), the α,β-unsaturated lactone (12-fold), and the hydrophobic *Z,Z,E*-triene tail (C12−C22, ca. 200-fold) including the unique importance of its unsaturation (50-fold, and no longer PP2A selective).

Introduction

Protein phosphatases are key enzymes in the regulation of many biological processes. Their function is to catalyze the dephosphorylation of hydroxyl-containing amino acid side chains of proteins. Protein phosphatase 2A (PP2A) is a major serine/threonine phosphatase and plays an important role in many cell functions including cell growth, replication, mobility, and signal transduction. Because of the importance of these processes in human diseases and to further understand the pathways by which protein phosphorylation affects cells, there is a need for the development of compounds that selectively inhibit protein phosphatases including PP2A.[1]

Sultriecin (**1**)[2] was identified as an antitumor antibiotic isolated from *Streptomyces roseiscleroticus* no. L827-7 and was an early member of a family of natural products[3] that now include fostriecin (**3**),[4−6] cytostatin (**4**),[7] phospholine (**5**, phoslactomycin B),[8] the leustroducsins (**6**),[9] and the phoslactomycins (**7**) (Figure 1).[10] Common structural features include an electrophilic α,β-unsaturated lactone and hydrophobic

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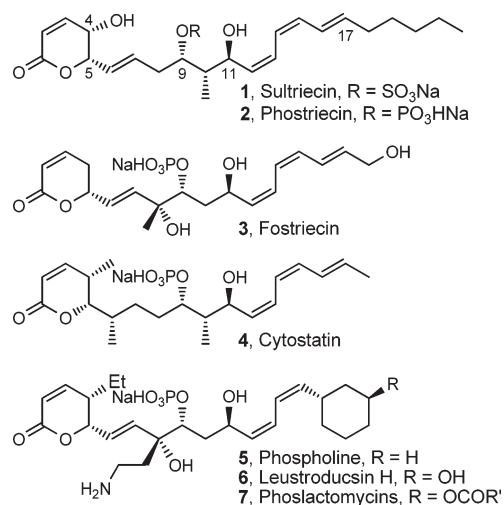
FIGURE 1. Natural product structures.

FIGURE 2. Assignment of relative and absolute stereochemistry.

Z,*Z*,*E*-triene capping the ends of an extended structure that contains a central functionalized 1,3-diol. Unique to **1** and in contrast to the more recent members of the family that contain phosphate monoesters, sultriecin was assigned as a C9 sulfate ester at the time of its early disclosure. Sultriecin displayed moderate broad spectrum antifungal activity in vitro, moderate in vitro cytotoxic activity against human and murine tumor cell lines, and potent in vivo antitumor activity against P388 leukemia and B16 melanoma.[2]

In efforts on the synthesis and evaluation of members of this class of antitumor agents that have since been shown to act as PP2A inhibitors, we reported total syntheses of **3**[4c] and **4**,[7c] the establishment of their relative and absolute configuration,[5,7] and the preparation of a series of analogues used to define structural features that are key to their potent and unusually selective inhibition of PP2A.[6,7] Based on its
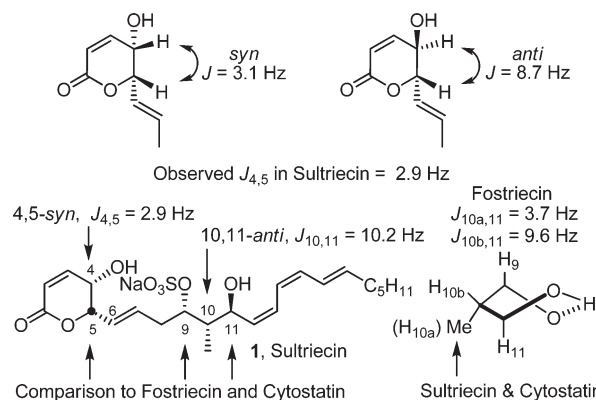
functional biological activity and structural similarity to fostriecin (**3**) and cytostatin (**4**), we anticipated that sultriecin (**1**) would also be a selective PP2A inhibitor, albeit with a sulfate versus phosphate interaction with the enzymatic bimetallic catalytic core. Pertinent to the work detailed herein and because of the sultriecin disclosure, we had previously examined and shown that the corresponding sulfate ester of cytostatin (sulfocytostatin) was unexpectedly inactive as a PP2A inhibitor.[7c] Herein, we report a full account of the first total synthesis and stereochemical determination of sultriecin (**1**), the unanticipated structural reassignment of the natural product as phosphate monoester **2** (renamed phostriecin), establishment of its biological activity as an inhibitor of PP2A, and the synthesis and biological evaluation of key analogues.[11]

Stereochemical Assignment. The structure of sultriecin was disclosed without definition of its relative or absolute stereochemistry.[2] Based on its biological and structural similarity to fostriecin and cytostatin as well as its reported spectral data, we assigned 4*S*,5*S*,9*S*,10*S*,11*S* stereochemistry to sultriecin. The syn C4−C5 stereochemistry assignment was supported by the observed H4−H5 coupling constant in the reported ^{1}H NMR of **1** ($J = 2.9$ Hz). This coupling constant is similar to that observed for cytostatin ($J = 2.7$ Hz), and a similar known lactone displays a syn H4−H5 coupling constant ($J = 3.1$ Hz) distinct from that of the corresponding anti-4,5-disubstituted lactone ($J = 8.7$ Hz).[12] The H10−H11 coupling constant ($J = 10.2$ Hz) reported for sultriecin is indicative of an anti relationship. It is in particularly good agreement with coupling constants observed for fostriecin ($J = 9.6$ vs 3.7 Hz) and cytostatin ($J = 9.4$ Hz) and supports the existence of an intramolecular H-bond between the C11-OH and putative C9 sulfate resulting in a rigid twist-boat cyclic structure as found in **3** and **4** (Figure 2).

Synthetic Approach. A convergent route to sultriecin was designed that incorporated the flexibility to provide access to analogues and to allow preparation of any diastereomer in the event that the initial stereochemical assignment proved incorrect. The approach relies on a late-stage one-step installation of the *Z*,*Z*,*E*-triene via chelation-controlled addition of the cuprate derived from **9** to aldehyde **8**. We envisioned the protected lactol **8** arising from an oxidative ring expansion of an α-hydroxyfuran that would be accessed from the coupling of alkyne **10** with 2-furoyl chloride

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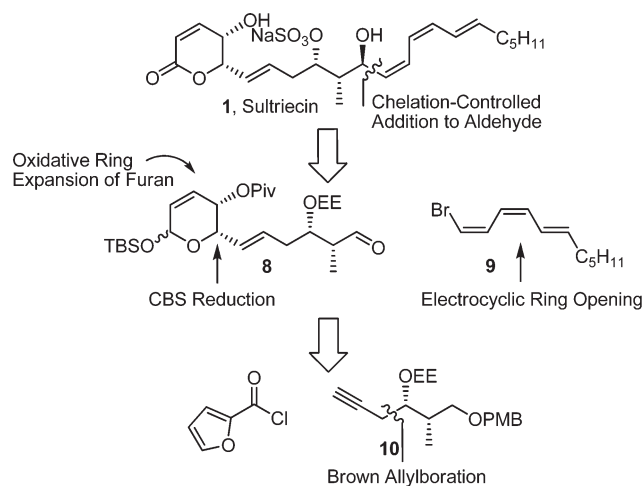
**FIGURE 3.** Retrosynthetic plan for sultriecin (**1**).

followed by asymmetric (*R*)-CBS ketone reduction to set the C5 stereochemistry and subsequent stereoselective alkyne reduction (Figure 3).

Results and Discussion

Synthesis of C1–C11. The synthesis began with protection of methyl (*S*)-3-hydroxy-2-methylpropionate (**11**) as a PMB ether followed by its reduction to alcohol **12** (PMBOC(=NH)-CCl₃, camphorsulfonic acid, CH₂Cl₂, 25 °C, 12 h; LiAlH₄, Et₂O, 0 to 25 °C, 12 h, 91%, two steps) (Scheme 1). After oxidation of **12** to the corresponding aldehyde (DMSO, oxalyl chloride, Et₃N, CH₂Cl₂, −78 to 0 °C, 2 h), asymmetric allylboration (allyldiisopinocampheylborane, −100 °C, 4 h; NaOH, H₂O₂, 25 °C, 16 h, 14:1 dr)[13] gave alcohol **13** that was protected as the ethoxyethyl acetal (**14**) (ethyl vinyl ether, PPTS, CH₂Cl₂, 25 °C, 2 h). The ethoxyethyl acetal (EE) protecting group was chosen due to its ability to direct a subsequent chelation-controlled cuprate addition as well as its unique ability to be removed under mildly acidic conditions in the presence of the labile triene and sensitive allylic alcohol despite the complicating diastereomeric mixture it introduces. Oxidative cleavage of the double bond in **14** (OsO₄, NaIO₄, NMO, THF, H₂O, 25 °C, 18 h, 73%, four steps) provided aldehyde **15**.

In the course of our efforts, several routes to the furyl alcohol **19** were investigated. Initially and although not pursued in depth, hydroboration of model alkynes **16** followed by transmetalation to zinc and asymmetric addition to furfural with (−)-MIB [(−)-MIB=(2*S*)-3-*exo*-(morpholino)isoborneol] as a chiral ligand[14] were examined but failed to provide the desired addition products. Similarly, preliminary efforts on diastereoselective alkyne addition of **16** to furfural following established procedures[15−17] were also unsuccessful (Scheme 2).

SCHEME 1
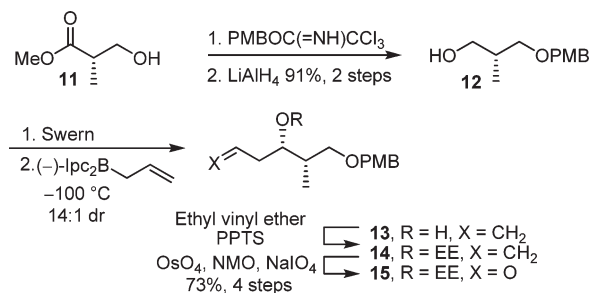
SCHEME 2
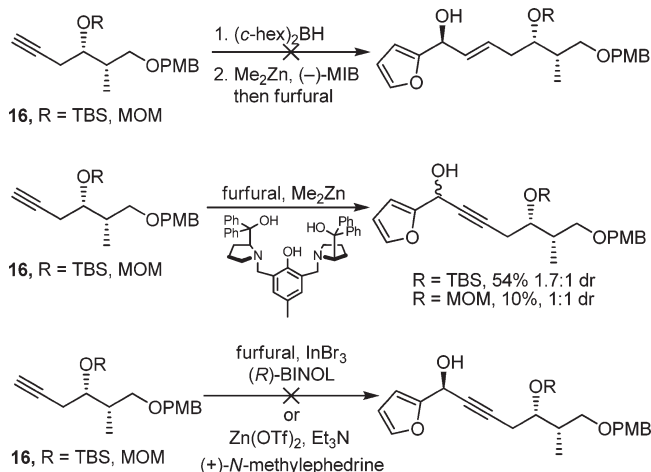
We also examined methods of diastereoselective reduction of ketone **18**, synthesized by Horner–Wadsworth–Emmons reaction of phosphonate **17** with aldehyde **15**. However, hydrogenation in the presence of ketone-selective chiral catalysts (e.g., (*S*)-BINAP–RuCl₂)[18] as well as attempted reduction with chiral aluminum hydride reagents (e.g., (*S*)-BINAL-H)[19] reduced the olefin in preference to or along with the ketone. Reduction of **18** with (*R*)-Me-CBS (1.5 equiv) and BH₃–Me₂S (4 equiv) gave exclusive ketone reduction in good yield (80%), but with only 2:1 diastereoselectivity (Scheme 3).

With a recognition that higher diastereoselectivity could be obtained by replacing the alkene in **18** with an alkyne providing a smaller substituent and affording a better stereo-differentiation with respect to the furan, aldehyde **15** was subjected to the Corey–Fuchs homologation (CBr₄, PPh₃, CH₂Cl₂, 0 °C, 10 min, 71%; *n*-BuLi, THF, −78 to 25 °C, 16 h, 93%)[20] giving alkyne **10** (Scheme 4). Coupling of **10** with 2-furoyl chloride (Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂, CuI, Et₃N, 25 °C, 24 h, 85%)[21] gave ketone **21** that was subjected to asymmetric reduction (methyl-(*R*)-CBS-oxazaborolidine, BH₃–Me₂S, THF, −40 °C, 3 h) giving the desired alcohol diastereomer **22**

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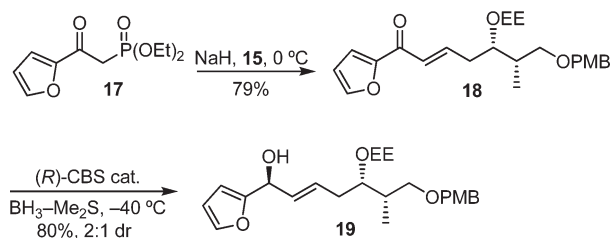
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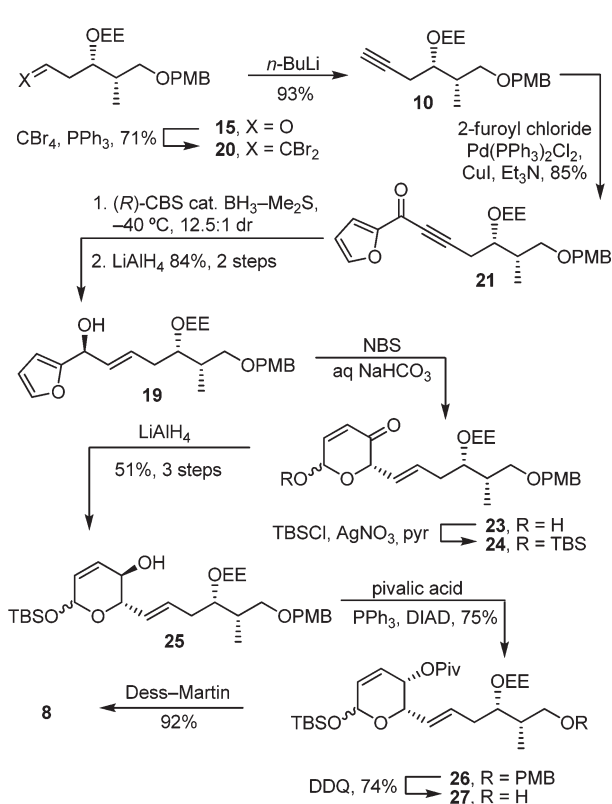
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SCHEME 3

SCHEME 4

mixture of inseparable anomers. Due to its instability to silica gel chromatography, diastereoselective 1,2-reduction of the enone was performed on crude **24** (LiAlH$_4$, Et$_2$O, −60 °C, 2.5 h, dr > 30:1, 51−64% for three steps) (Scheme 4). Alternative reducing agents including NaBH$_4$−CeCl$_3$ and DIBAL produced varying amounts of the syn isomer as a minor product, and we were not successful in identifying a reducing agent that would selectively or exclusively provide this syn isomer. Consequently, the stereochemistry of the C4 alcohol in **25** was necessarily inverted and directly protected as its pivalate ester using the Mitsunobu reaction (DIAD/PPh$_3$, pivalic acid, THF, 0−25 °C, 75%).[26] Aldehyde **8** was obtained following PMB removal (DDQ, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/H$_2$O, 25 °C, 1 h, 74%) and oxidation of alcohol **27** (DMP, CH$_2$Cl$_2$, 25 °C, 1 h, 92%).[27]

Synthesis of C12−C22. With aldehyde **8** in hand, focus turned toward synthesis of the sensitive triene portion of the molecule. Following an approach adopted in our total synthesis of cytostatin[7c] and originally introduced by Taylor,[28] treatment of pyrilium tetrafluoroborate with *n*-pentyllithium (THF, −78 °C, 4 h) gave, after room temperature electrocyclic ring-opening of the adduct, aldehyde **28** as a single isomer (eq 1). Because of its instability to storage and its volatility, aldehyde **28** was immediately converted by dibromoolefination (CBr$_4$, PPh$_3$, Et$_3$N, CH$_2$Cl$_2$, 0 °C, 15 min, 85% for two steps)[20] to **29** which could be stored as a solution in Et$_2$O at 4 °C for several weeks. Unstable *Z,Z,E*-bromotriene **9** was produced immediately before use by selective *E*-bromide reduction (Bu$_3$SnH, Pd(PPh$_3$)$_4$, Et$_2$O, 0 °C, 45 min, 78%).[29]

(1)
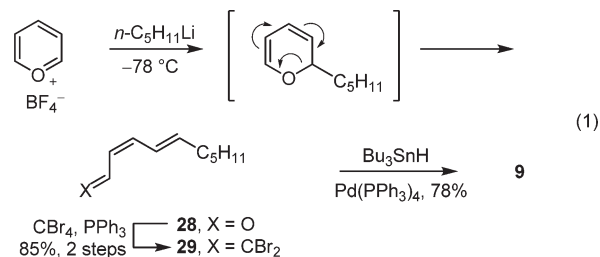
Total Synthesis of Sultriecin and Phostriecin. Incorporation of the sensitive *Z,Z,E*-triene required conversion of **9** to the corresponding cuprate (*t*-BuLi, Et$_2$O, −78 °C, 1 h; CuI−PBu$_3$, Et$_2$O, −78 °C, 15 min) followed by slow addition of aldehyde **8** (Et$_2$O, −78 °C, 1 h, 85%, >5:1 dr),[7c,30] providing **30** derived from a chelation-controlled addition to the aldehyde (Scheme 5). Removal of the pivalate ester (DIBAL, CH$_2$Cl$_2$, −78 °C, 2 h) followed by silylation of the secondary alcohols of **31** (TBDPSCl, AgNO$_3$, pyr/CH$_2$Cl$_2$, 25 °C, 16 h, 80%, two steps) afforded **32** that was treated with dilute HCl (THF/H$_2$O, 25 °C, 12 h, 71%) to simultaneously and selectively remove the EE and TBS protecting groups. The resulting lactol was selectively oxidized to give lactone **33** (Ag$_2$CO$_3$−Celite, benzene, 80 °C, 1.5 h, 91%). Sulfate ester introduction (SO$_3$−pyr, THF, 25 °C, 10 min, 80%) followed by desilylation (HF−pyr, pyr/THF, 25 °C, 60%) gave **1**, which did not match the spectroscopic (^{1}H NMR, ^{13}C

with 12.5:1 selectivity and setting the C5 stereochemistry.[22] Olefin **19** was subsequently obtained by stereoselective reduction of the alkyne (LiAlH$_4$, THF, 0−25 °C, 24 h, 84%, two steps) (Scheme 4).[23]

Lactol **23** was obtained as a mixture of anomers following oxidative ring expansion of **19** (NBS, NaHCO$_3$, NaOAc, THF/H$_2$O, 0 °C, 1 h).[24] Installation of a range of lactol protecting groups was examined including Boc, Piv, Bz, and Me groups. However, **23** and its corresponding protected products proved to be especially sensitive to both acidic and basic conditions, and attempts at installation of these protecting groups largely failed. TBS protection of the lactol under mild conditions (TBSCl, AgNO$_3$, pyr, CH$_2$Cl$_2$, 25 °C, 15 min) was most effective,[25] providing an inconsequential

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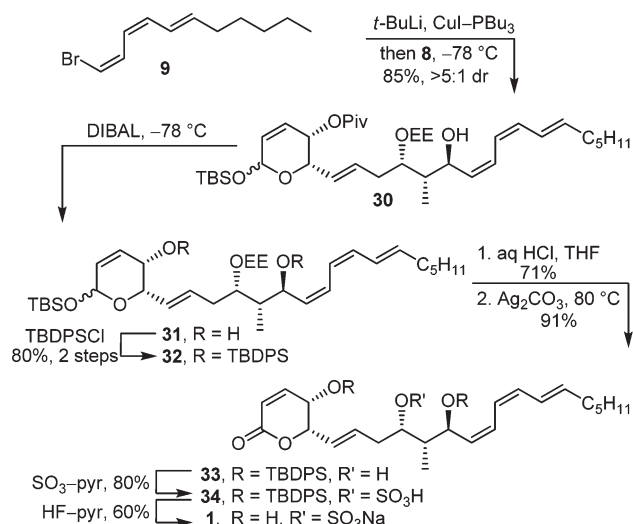(26) Mitsunobu, O. *Synthesis* **1981**, 1.

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SCHEME 5. **Synthesis of Sultriecin (1)**

FIGURE 4. Diagnostic region of ^{1}H NMR of **1** and **2**.

NMR, IR) or physical characteristics (TLC, $[\alpha]_D$, solubility, stability to silica gel) of the natural product.

Several possibilities for this noncorrelation with the natural product were envisioned including the accuracy of our stereochemical assignment as well as spectroscopic perturbations derived from the protonation state or salt form of the sulfate. To confirm the C9/C11 anti relationship of synthetic **1**, **33** was deprotected (HF−pyr, pyr/THF, 25 °C, 12 h, 90%),[31] and the resultant 1,3-diol **35** was converted to acetonide **36** (2,2-dimethoxypropane, TsOH, THF, 25 °C, 45 min, 52%) (eq 2). The ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts observed for the acetonide carbons of **36** (CD$_3$CN, δ 24.6, 25.0, 101.3) were found to be indicative of the *anti*-1,3-diol acetonide as desired and anticipated.[32]

(2)
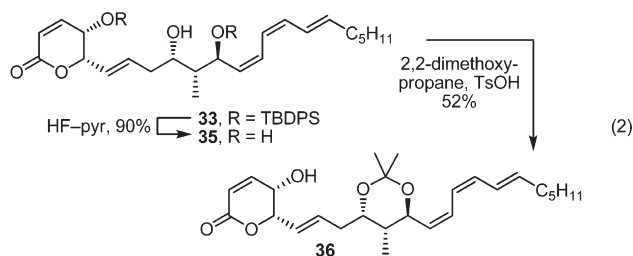
To address potential issues of the protonation state and sulfate counterion identity, naturally derived sultriecin[33] was subjected to the conditions of the last step of the synthesis of **1** (HF−pyr, pyr/THF, aq NaHCO$_3$ quench, silica gel chromatography). This action, however, resulted only in decomposition of the natural material indicating that there was a more fundamental distinction in the synthetic (stable) and natural (unstable) materials.

The most apparent difference observed in the ^{1}H NMR of synthetic **1** and the natural product was the chemical shift (CD$_3$OD, δ 4.82 vs 4.64) and multiplicity (ddd, J = 8.4, 6.0,

1.8 Hz vs dddd, J = 9.6, 7.8, 7.2, 1.8 Hz) of C9-H adjacent to the putative sulfate ester (Figure 4). Careful examination of the ^{1}H NMR spectra of synthetic **1** and natural sultriecin revealed that the natural product H9 signal exhibited an additional long-range coupling (J_{P-H9} = 7.8 Hz) that would be characteristic of a phosphate (monoisotopic mass = 492.1889) versus sulfate ester (monoisotopic mass = 492.1794). Because of the potential ambiguity introduced by the closely related molecular weights, the original natural product assignment was additionally based on a negative Hanes test used to characterize a phosphate (vs sulfate) monoester, and exposure of the natural product to a sulfatase resulted in putative sulfate monoester hydrolysis.[2] Since these are also not unambiguous, phosphate monoester **2** was targeted for synthesis (Scheme 6). Alcohol **33** was phosphorylated (*i*-Pr$_2$NP(OFm)$_2$, tetrazole, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/CH$_3$CN, 25 °C, 1 h; H$_2$O$_2$, 15 min, 96%)[7] to give **37** that was desilylated (HF−pyr, pyr/THF, 25 °C, 4 d). Removal of the fluorenylmethyl groups (Fm) in **38** (Et$_3$N, CH$_3$CN, 25 °C, 16 h; Dowex Na$^+$, 63% for two steps) unmasked the phosphate giving **2** (renamed phostriecin), which proved identical to the reported properties of **1** as well as a sample of the natural product (^{1}H NMR, ^{31}P NMR, $[\alpha]_D$, TLC, HPLC, HRMS), the latter of which also displayed a ^{31}P NMR signal like that found with synthetic **2** (δ 3.4, CD$_3$OD). Thus, the total synthesis of **2** and its correlation with authentic natural material requires a structural reassignment of the natural product formerly known as sultriecin.

Synthesis of Key Analogues. With a synthesis and structural reassignment of the natural product in hand, we extended the efforts to the preparation of a series of analogues

SCHEME 6. **Synthesis of Phostriecin (2)**

(31) ^{1}H NMR data for "desulfated" **1** were reported; however, these data alone were not sufficient to confirm that it and triol **35** share the same structure. See ref 2.

(32) (a) Rychnovsky, S. D.; Skalitzky, D. J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1990**, *31*, 945. (b) Evans, D. A.; Rieger, D. L.; Gage, J. R. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1990**, *31*, 7099.

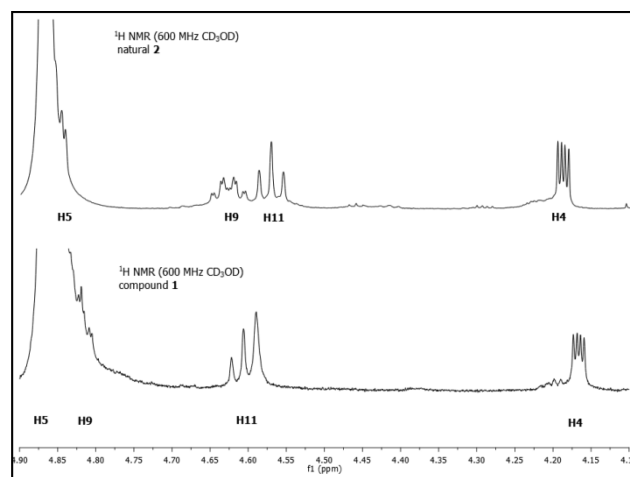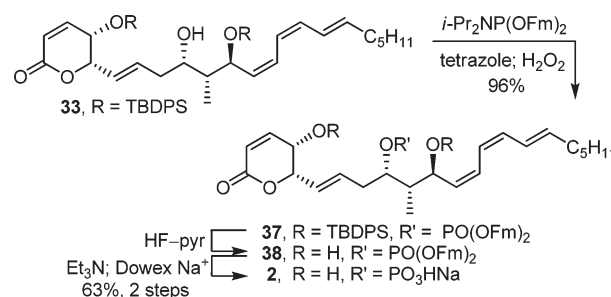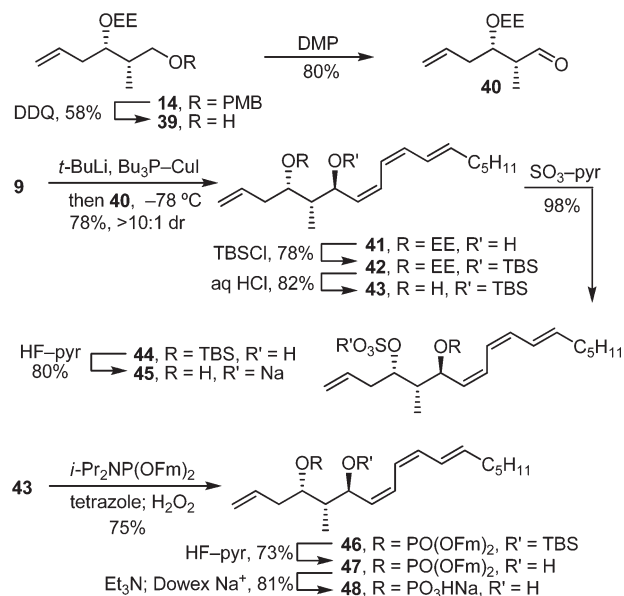(33) Commercially available from Bioaustralis.

SCHEME 7. Synthesis of Analogues 45 and 48


SCHEME 8. Synthesis of Analogues 55 and 58

designed to probe and identify key features necessary for potent and selective PP2A inhibition. To address the importance of the α,β-unsaturated lactone and the presence of a phosphate rather than sulfate ester for PP2A inhibition, truncated analogues **45** and **48** were targeted (Scheme 7).

Deprotection of PMB ether **14** (DDQ, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/H$_2$O, 25 °C, 1 h, 58%) gave alcohol **39** that was oxidized to aldehyde **40** (DMP, CH$_2$Cl$_2$, 1 h, 80%) (Scheme 7). Addition of the cuprate derived from **9** (Et$_2$O, −78 °C, 1 h, 78%, > 10:1 dr) to **40** provided alcohol **41** that was subsequently protected (TBSCl, AgNO$_3$, pyr/CH$_2$Cl$_2$, 25 °C, 30 min, 78%). The EE acetal of **42** was selectively removed with dilute HCl (THF/H$_2$O, 25 °C, 2.5 h, 82%) to yield alcohol **43**. Sulfate installation (SO$_3$−pyr, THF, 25 °C, 10 min, 98%) and desilylation (HF−pyr, pyr/THF, 25 °C, 3 h, 80%) provided sulfate **45**, whereas phosphorylation of **43** (i-Pr$_2$NP(OFm)$_2$, tetrazole, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/CH$_3$CN, 25 °C, 1 h; H$_2$O$_2$, 15 min, 75%) followed by desilylation (HF−pyr, pyr/THF, 25 °C, 18 h, 73%) and fluorenylmethyl removal (Et$_3$N, CH$_3$CN, 25 °C, 16 h; Dowex Na$^+$, 81%) provided the corresponding phosphate monoester **48** lacking the unsaturated lactone unit.

The importance of the Z,Z,E-triene tail as well as the C11 hydroxyl group was investigated with the synthesis of **55** and **58** (Scheme 8). Replacement of the pivalate ester of **26** with a TBDPS protecting group (LiAlH$_4$, THF, 0 °C, 2 h; TBDPSCl, AgNO$_3$, pyr/CH$_2$Cl$_2$, 16 h) followed by EE and TBS deprotection (aq HCl, THF, 12 h, 52% for three steps) gave lactol **51** that was oxidized to lactone **52** (Ag$_2$CO$_3$−Celite, benzene, 80 °C, 1.5 h, 59%). Compound **52** was phosphorylated (i-Pr$_2$NP(OFm)$_2$, tetrazole, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/CH$_3$CN, 25 °C, 1 h; H$_2$O$_2$, 15 min, 95%) to give protected phosphate **53**. In the course of these studies, we found that reversing the final deprotection steps, conducting first the fluorenylmethyl removal followed by desilylation of the crude phosphate with TAS−F,[34] often gave higher yields and cleaner reactions than the order and final HF−pyridine conditions typically employed.
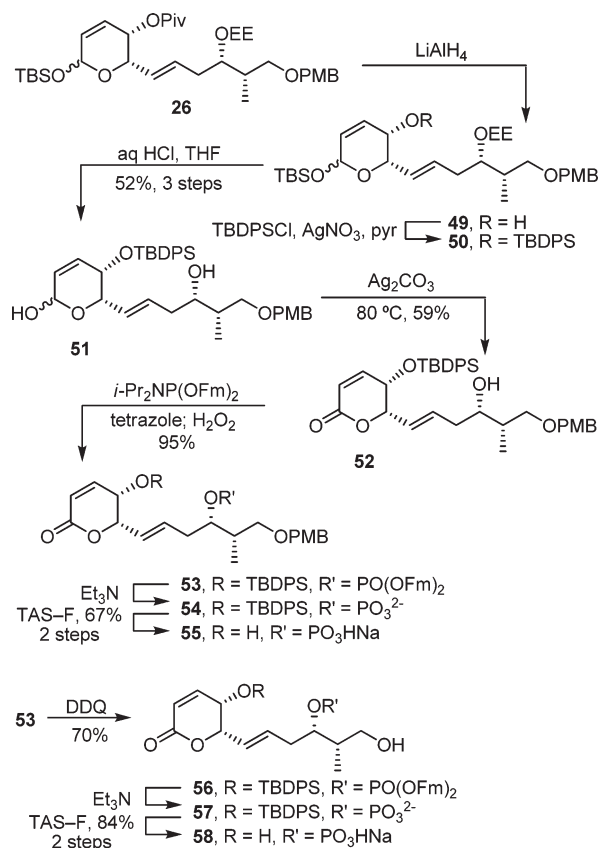
By using this method, **55** was synthesized (Et$_3$N, CH$_3$CN, 25 °C, 16 h; TAS−F, CH$_3$CN, 25 °C, 16 h, 67% for two steps). The PMB group of **53** was removed (DDQ, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/H$_2$O, 25 °C, 1.5 h, 70%), and **56** was fully deprotected under the same conditions (Et$_3$N, CH$_3$CN, 25 °C, 16 h; TAS−F, CH$_3$CN, 25 °C, 16 h, 84% for two steps) to give **58**.

The storage instability of fostriecin led to a premature discontinuation of its clinical trials,[35] and a possible source of this instability is the sensitive Z,Z,E-triene. Thus, analogues that replace the triene with more stable hydrophobic groups are of special interest. The synthesis of one such key analogue **65**, bearing a fully saturated variant of the Z,Z,E-triene, began with chelation-controlled addition of the cuprate derived from 1-bromoundecane to aldehyde **8** (Et$_2$O, −78 °C, 1 h, 71%, > 19:1 dr) (Scheme 9). Notably, the diastereoselectivity of the addition and the remarkable overall clean conversion with this substrate are the best we have observed among the substrates that we have examined. Pivalate removal (LiAlH$_4$, THF, 0 °C, 3 h) was followed by silylation of the secondary alcohols of **60** (TBDPSCl, AgNO$_3$, pyr/CH$_2$Cl$_2$, 25 °C, 16 h) to give **61**. Selective TBS and EE removal (aq HCl, THF, 25 °C, 12 h, 48% for three steps) resulted in lactol **62** that was oxidized to lactone **63** (Ag$_2$CO$_3$−Celite, benzene, 80 °C, 1.5 h, 84%). The alcohol of **63** was phosphorylated as before (i-Pr$_2$NP(OFm)$_2$, tetrazole, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/CH$_3$CN, 25 °C, 1 h; H$_2$O$_2$, 15 min, 90%). At this time, we also found that TAS−F is sufficiently basic to

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(35) De Jong, R. S.; Mulder, N. H.; Uges, D. R. A.; Sleijfer, D. Th.; Hoppener, F. J. P.; Groen, H. J. M.; Willemse, P. H. B.; Van der Graf, W. T. A.; De Vries, E. G. E. *Br. J. Cancer* **1999**, *79*, 882.

SCHEME 9. Synthesis of Analogue 65
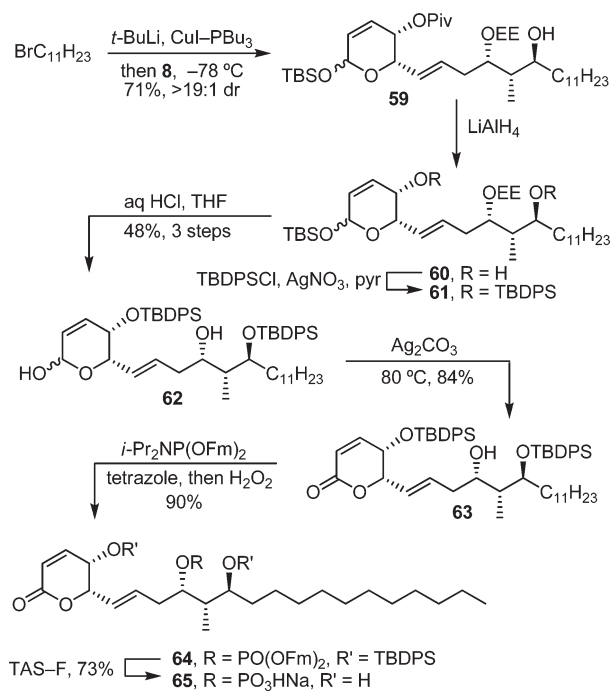
remove the fluorenylmethyl groups on the phosphate and that **64** could be fully deprotected in one step using this reagent (TAS−F, CH$_3$CN, 25 °C, 3 d, 73%).

Biological Evaluation. The natural products and their key analogues were examined for phosphatase inhibition against native PP2Ac (*Crassostrea virginica*), rhPP1cα, and rhPP5c using phosphohistone[1] as substrate (Table 1). Sultriecin (**1**) was devoid of PP2A inhibitory activity indicating that a sulfate is a poor phosphate substitute for coordination to the bimetallic core of the enzyme. This is in good agreement with our prior observation that the sulfate derivative of cytostatin (sulfocytostatin) showed no activity against all three phosphatases as well.[7c] Although this latter observation was viewed as unexpected and unusual at the time it was made, the result now is in full agreement with the sultriecin observations. The actual natural product, phostriecin (**2**), exhibited PP2A inhibitory activity as anticipated, albeit at a level that is less potent and selective than either fostriecin (**3**, 170-fold) or cytostatin (**4**, 15-fold). Dephosphophostriecin (**35**) was inactive against all three phosphatases, confirming the importance of the phosphate for inhibitory activity. Compound **48**, lacking the α,β-unsaturated lactone, was significantly less potent than the natural product but still showed moderate inhibition of PP2A (4.5 μM) and good selectivity. Notably, this compound lacking the electrophile responsible for reversible conjugate addition of the PP2A active site Cys269[6] proved to be only 12-fold less active than phostriecin itself and still selective for PP2A. Although its potency is 1000-fold lower than fostriecin and 100-fold lower than cytostatin, it maintains PP2A selectivity indicating that this portion of the natural products productively contributes to their properties. This is consistent with a prior observation made with fostriecin and a related set of key analogues[6] reinforcing a generality to this observation. Compound **45**, identical to **48** lacking the unsaturated lactone, but bearing a sulfate versus phosphate monoester was inactive, providing a

TABLE 1. Protein Phosphatase Activity (IC$_{50}$, μM)

compound	PP2A[a,b]	PP1	PP5
1, sultriecin	>100	>100	>100
2, phostriecin	0.40	25	25
35	>100	>100	>100
45	>100	>100	>100
48	4.6	>100	>100
55	31	34	>100
58	73	77	>100
65	22	13	34
3, fostriecin	0.0024	>100	>100
4, cytostatin	0.027	>100	>100

[a]Assays were conducted with native PP2A, rhPP1α, and rhPP5 catalytic subunits as detailed.[1] [b]Phosphohistone used as substrate.

result also in line with present expectations. Also consistent with the importance of this portion of the molecule, removing the Z,Z,E-triene tail (C12−C22) providing **58** led to a 200-fold loss in activity, and its replacement with a PMB ether (**55**), albeit with removal of the important C11 secondary alcohol,[7c] resulted in a 100-fold loss in activity. Important in these comparisons is the observation that **48** is 15-fold more potent than **58** emphasizing the key role the C12−C22 tail plays in contributing to the properties of **2**. Most surprising and most interesting, simply replacing the Z,Z, E-triene tail (C12−C22) with its saturated counterpart providing **65** lacking only the π-unsaturation not only lost potency (50-fold), but also lost selectivity for PP2A. Although the activity is modest, potentially masking more subtle distinctions, **65** was essentially equally active against PP2A, PP1, and PP5 indicating that the unsaturation in the C12−C22 tail contributes in a significant manner to the PP2A selectivity of this class of natural products.

Conclusion

Total syntheses of **1** and **2** unequivocally established the structural composition and stereochemical configuration of the natural product previously known as sultriecin (renamed phostriecin). Key steps include a CBS reduction to establish the lactone stereochemistry, oxidative ring expansion of an α-hydroxyfuran to access a pyran lactol precursor, and

one-step installation of the sensitive *Z*,*Z*,*E*-triene unit using a chelation-controlled cuprate addition to an intermediate aldehyde. Studies with authentic material established that phostriecin, but not sultriecin, is an effective and selective inhibitor of protein phosphatase 2A (PP2A) defining a mechanism of action responsible for its antitumor activity. Examination of a series of synthetic analogues prepared by extending the route developed for **1** and **2** defined key structural features of the natural product contributing to the potency and selectivity of the PP2A inhibition.

Experimental Section

(2*S*,3*S*)-6-((*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-2-((4*S*,5*S*,6*S*,*E*)-4-(1-ethoxyethoxy)-6-hydroxy-5-methylheptadec-1-en-1-yl)-3,6-dihydro-2*H*-pyran-3-yl Pivalate (59). *t*-BuLi (1.7 M in pentane, 0.97 mL, 1.7 mmol) was slowly added to a degassed solution of 1-bromoun-decane (0.22 g, 0.92 mmol) in Et$_2$O (6.3 mL) under Ar with stirring at −78 °C. After 1.5 h, a solution of CuI−PBu$_3$ (0.14 g, 0.37 mmol) in 2.2 mL of Et$_2$O was added at −78 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 15 min. A solution of **8** (0.095 g, 0.19 mmol) in 5.3 mL of anhydrous Et$_2$O was added slowly to the mixture down the side of the flask over 15 min at −78 °C. After 1 h, the reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NH$_4$Cl/NH$_4$OH (pH 8, 2 mL) and warmed to room temperature. The mixture was extracted with Et$_2$O, and the combined organic phases were washed with H$_2$O and saturated aqueous NaCl, dried (Na$_2$SO$_4$), and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO$_2$ pretreated with 2% Et$_3$N/hexanes, 10−20% EtOAc/hexanes gradient) to give 0.088 g (71%) of **59** as a yellow oil: [α]^{25}$_D$ +65 (*c* 0.47, CHCl$_3$); ^{1}H NMR (C$_6$D$_6$, 400 MHz) δ 5.87 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 5.85−5.65 (m, 3H), 5.35 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (q, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (dd, *J* = 5.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.97 (td, *J* = 7.6, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.66−3.57 (m, 1H), 3.57−3.48 (m, 1H), 3.42−3.32 (m, 1H), 2.85 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.60−2.50 (m, 1H), 2.42−2.32 (m, 1H), 1.80−1.66 (m, 2H), 1.67−1.57 (m, 1H), 1.50−1.24 (m, 18H), 1.27 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 3H), 1.21 (s, 9H), 1.13 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.96 (s, 9H), 0.90 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.17 (s, 3H), 0.11 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (C$_6$D$_6$, 150 MHz) δ 177.7, 133.0, 130.4, 128.9, 124.1, 100.0, 89.4, 77.6, 73.0, 70.4, 65.2, 62.7, 60.1, 41.2, 39.1, 35.8, 35.5, 33.3, 32.3, 30.5, 30.3, 30.21, 30.19, 30.1, 29.8, 27.3, 26.2, 26.00, 25.9, 23.1, 20.4, 18.2, 15.6, 14.4, 11.3, −4.0, −5.3; IR (film) ν$_{max}$ 35.07, 1727, 1024 cm^{-1}; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C$_{38}$H$_{72}$O$_7$Si + Na$^+$ 691.4939, found 691.4938.

(5*S*,6*S*)-5-((*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)-6-((4*S*,5*R*,6*S*,*E*)-6-((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)-4-hydroxy-5-methylheptadec-1-en-1-yl)-5,6-dihydro-2*H*-pyran-2-one (63). LiAlH$_4$ (1.0 M in THF, 0.26 mL, 0.26 mmol) was added to a solution of **59** in 1.8 mL of anhydrous THF at 0 °C under N$_2$ with stirring. After 3 h, the reaction was quenched at 0 °C by careful addition of H$_2$O, and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were dried (Na$_2$SO$_4$) and concentrated. The crude **60** was dissolved in CH$_2$Cl$_2$/pyridine (1:1, 2.6 mL). AgNO$_3$ (0.21 g, 1.2 mmol) was added followed by TBDPSCl (0.36 g, 1.3 mmol), and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h in the dark. The mixture was diluted with Et$_2$O and filtered through Celite. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue purified by flash chromatography (SiO$_2$ pretreated with 2% Et$_3$N/hexanes, 3% EtOAc/hexanes) to give **61** as a colorless oil which was taken to the next step without further characterization. A solution of 0.5 M aqueous HCl (2.6 mL) was added to a solution of **61** in THF (54 mL) at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched by addition of saturated aqueous NaHCO$_3$, and the aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc. The combined organic phases were washed with saturated aqueous NaCl, dried (Na$_2$SO$_4$), concentrated, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography

(SiO$_2$, 10−30% EtOAc/hexanes gradient) to give 0.055 g (48% overall for three steps) of **62** as a mixture of anomers as a colorless oil that was immediately taken to the next step without further characterization. Ag$_2$CO$_3$ (50% on Celite, 2.52 g, 4.6 mmol) was added in four portions over the course of 1 h to a solution of **62** (0.055 g, 0.063 mmol) in 6.3 mL of benzene at reflux. After the final addition, the mixture was stirred for 30 min, cooled to room temperature, and filtered through a plug of Celite while washing with EtOAc. The filtrate was concentrated, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO$_2$, 10% EtOAc/hexanes) to give 0.046 g (84%) of **63** as a colorless oil: [α]^{25}$_D$ +44 (*c* 0.75, CHCl$_3$); ^{1}H NMR (C$_6$D$_6$, 600 MHz) δ 7.85−7.77 (m, 4H), 7.27−7.15 (m, 12H), 5.98 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (dt, *J* = 15.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.86 (dd, *J* = 9.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 5.66 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.86−3.82 (m, 1H), 3.34 (brs, 1H), 2.51−2.43 (m, 1H), 2.18−2.10 (m, 1H), 1.80−1.72 (m, 1H), 1.64−1.55 (m, 2H), 1.39−0.94 (m, 18H), 1.17 (s, 9H), 1.15 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.08 (s, 9H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (C$_6$D$_6$, 150 MHz) δ 162.3, 144.2, 136.5, 136.4, 136.22, 136.18, 134.5, 133.8, 133.5, 133.23, 133.17, 130.4, 130.32, 130.31, 130.1, 128.0, 127.1, 122.5, 81.2, 80.0, 70.1, 65.2, 39.5, 38.8, 35.1, 32.3, 30.09, 30.05, 30.0, 29.9, 29.81, 29.78, 27.3, 27.0, 25.8, 23.1, 19.7, 19.5, 14.4, 11.3 ; IR (film) ν$_{max}$ 3504, 1731, 1106, 701 cm^{-1}; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C$_{55}$H$_{76}$O$_5$Si$_2$ + H$^+$ 873.5304, found 873.5302.

Bis((9*H*-fluoren-9-yl)methyl) ((4*S*,5*S*,6*S*,*E*)-6-((*tert*-Butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)-1-((2*S*,3*S*)-3-((*tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)-6-oxo-3,6-dihydro-2*H*-pyran-2-yl)-5-methylheptadec-1-en-4-yl) Phosphate (64). *i*-Pr$_2$NP(OFm)$_2$ (0.044 g, 0.084 mmol) in CH$_2$Cl$_2$ (0.64 mL) was added at room temperature to a stirred solution of **63** (0.020 g, 0.023 mmol) and tetrazole (0.45 M in MeCN, 0.14 mL, 0.064 mmol) in anhydrous MeCN (0.33 mL) under N$_2$. After 1 h, aqueous H$_2$O$_2$ (35%, 0.12 mL) was added, and the mixture was stirred vigorously for 15 min. Saturated aqueous NaHCO$_3$ (4.6 mL) was added, and the mixture was extracted with CH$_2$Cl$_2$. The combined organic extracts were dried (Na$_2$SO$_4$) and concentrated, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO$_2$, 20−25% EtOAc/hexanes gradient) to give 0.027 g (90%) of **64** as a colorless oil: [α]^{25}$_D$ +34 (*c* 0.20, CHCl$_3$); ^{1}H NMR (C$_6$D$_6$, 600 MHz) δ 7.86−7.77 (m, 3H), 7.67−7.57 (m, 4H), 7.55−7.45 (m, 6H), 7.39−7.35 (m, 1H), 7.34−7.07 (m, 22H), 5.92 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 5.71 (d, 10.2 Hz, 1H), 5.67 (dt, *J* = 15.6, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.49 (p, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.30−4.23 (m, 2H), 4.23−4.17 (m, 2H), 4.14 (dd, *J* = 6.6, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.00−3.96 (m, 1H), 3.95 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.48−2.40 (m, 1H), 2.11−2.04 (m, 1H), 1.71−1.44 (m, 3H), 1.42−1.07 (m, 18H), 1.21 (s, 9H), 1.10 (d, *J* = 3H), 1.03 (s, 9H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H); ^{13}C NMR (C$_6$D$_6$, 150 MHz) δ 162.2, 144.0, 143.84, 143.82, 143.81, 143.76, 141.80, 141.79, 141.77, 136.54, 136.47, 136.2, 134.9, 134.5, 133.7, 133.1, 130.5, 130.4, 130.3, 130.0, 129.9, 128.5, 127.5, 127.40, 127.39, 127.3, 125.65, 125.57, 125.5, 122.7, 120.23, 120.21, 120.16, 80.7, 80.6, 80.5, 75.0, 69.14, 69.10, 69.07, 65.0, 48.44, 48.42, 48.39, 48.37, 43.24, 43.21, 37.2, 33.1, 32.4, 30.3, 30.26, 30.19, 30.15, 30.1, 29.8, 27.4, 27.0, 26.6, 23.1, 22.5, 19.7, 19.5, 14.4, 10.0; ^{31}P NMR (CD$_3$OD 160 MHz) δ −0.6; IR (film) ν$_{max}$ 1733, 1106, 988 cm^{-1}; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C$_{83}$H$_{97}$O$_8$PSi$_2$ + H$^+$ 1309.6532, found 1309.6513.

Sodium (4*S*,5*S*,6*S*,*E*)-6-Hydroxy-1-((2*S*,3*S*)-3-hydroxy-6-oxo-3,6-dihydro-2*H*-pyran-2-yl)-5-methylheptadec-1-en-4-yl Hydrogen Phosphate (65). TAS−F (1.0 M in DMF, 0.037 mL, 0.037 mmol) was added to a solution of **64** (4.8 mg, 0.0037 mmol) in MeCN (0.23 mL), and the mixture was stirred for 72 h at room temperature after which time it was concentrated. The residue was dissolved in 0.1 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7) and was purified by flash chromatography (C$_{18}$ reversed-phase SiO$_2$, 0−50% MeCN/H$_2$O gradient) giving 1.4 mg (73%) of **65** as a white solid: [α]^{25}$_D$ +38 (*c* 0.03, MeOH); ^{1}H NMR (CD$_3$OD, 600

MHz) δ 7.04 (dd, J = 9.6, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (dt, J = 15.3, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.81 (dd, J = 15.3, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (m, 1H), 4.20 (dd, J = 5.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.66−2.59 (m, 1H), 2.39−2.32 (m, 1H), 1.66−1.41 (m, 3H), 1.41−1.24 (m, 18H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.89 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CD$_3$OD, 150 MHz) δ 166.3, 147.4, 133.9, 127.8, 122.7, 83.4, 74.65, 74.61, 73.3, 63.7, 44.01, 43.98, 38.2, 35.5, 33.1, 30.97, 30.93, 30.89, 30.86, 30.84, 30.5, 27.2, 23.8, 14.5, 9.8; ^{31}P NMR (CD$_3$OD 160 MHz) δ 3.4; IR (film) ν_{max} 3386, 1720, 1084, 945 cm^{-1}; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C$_{23}$H$_{41}$O$_8$P + H$^+$ 477.2612, found 477.2593.

Supporting Information Available: Full experimental details and ^{1}H, ^{13}C, and ^{31}P NMR spectra for **1**, **2**, **35**, **36**, and **39−58**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.