Total Synthsis of (+)-Ambuic Acid: α -Bromination with 1,2-Dibromotetrachloroethane

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Total synthesis of (+)-ambuic acid has been accomplished from the readily available stereocontrolled Diels–Alder adduct of cyclopentadiene and iodo-1,4-benzoquinone monoketal through an efficient series of steps. A new method for the highly commendable synthesis of α brominated Diels–Alder adduct is described.

C hiral cyclohexenone epoxide compounds are frequently found in natural products and exhibit a wide range of interesting biologically active properties, including antibiotic, antimicotic, and antitumoral activities.¹ Among these compounds is the highly functionalized (+)-ambuic acid 1, which has antifungal activity. This compound was isolated from the rainforest endophytic fungi, *Pestalotiopsis* spp. and *Monochaetia* sp., by Strobel and co-workers in 2001.² The structure of 1 was confirmed from solid NMR studies and more recently from the combined data of synchrotron X-ray powder diffraction and ¹³C NMR shift tensor data.³ Che and co-workers isolated (+)-ambuic acid 1 derivatives, including the acetylated derivative 2, which displayed antimicrobial activity against the Gram-positive bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus* (Figure 1).⁴



Figure 1. Structures of natural ambuic acid 1 and its acetate 2.

Recent studies have shown that 1 is a novel quorum-sensing inhibitor, suggesting that it could be a lead compound for antipathogenic drugs targeting cyclic peptide quormonemediated quorum sensing in a wide range of Gram-positive bacteria.⁵ To develop a more potent inhibitor based on 1, it is necessary to develop an efficient and flexible total synthesis methodology.

The first total synthesis of **1** was accomplished by Porco and co-workers in 2003, and the absolute configuration was determined based on their synthesis. However, the regiose-lective reduction of quinone for the introduction of the 7β -hydroxy group of **1** results in a 1.2:1 diastereomeric ratio of a mixture of interemediates.⁶ The Mehta group developed an



approach for the total synthesis of ambuic acid in racemic form using the Diels–Alder adducts of cyclopentadiene and 2-allyl-*p*benzoquinone.⁷ In recent years, our group has been interested in developing a general approach for the synthesis of natural cyclohexenone epoxide products.⁸ Herein, we report first efficient method for the total synthesis of (+)-ambuic acid 1, which requires the easily available Diels–Alder adduct 6, prepared from the catalytic enantioselective Diels–Alder reaction with a chiral oxazaborolidinium ion.⁹

The retrosynthetic strategy for (+)-ambuic acid 1 is delineated in Scheme 1. (+)-Ambuic acid 1 could be accessed





from epoxyquinone derivative **3**, which could be generated by bromination and the introduction of a β -hydroxy group from **4**. Access to **4** could be achieved through regioselective epoxidation and hydroxymethylation of **5**. Chiral quinone **5** could be obtained from chiral Diels–Alder adduct **6**, which was chosen as the starting point for the synthesis of (+)-ambuic acid **1**.

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Optically pure Diels–Alder adduct 6 was obtained through the highly enantioseletive Diels–Alder reaction of cyclopentadiene and 2-iodo-1,4-quinone monoketal 7, as we recently described (Scheme 2).^{8,10} The reaction was carried out at -78

Scheme 2. Synthesis of Diels-Alder Adduct 6



 $^{\circ}$ C by stirring 2-iodo-1,4-quinone monoketal 7 and cyclopentadiene in the presence of chiral (*R*)-oxazaborolidium catalyst 8 (20 mol %) in dichloromethane under nitrogen.

The attachment of the allyl chain was accomplished by Stille coupling with tributyl allyl stannane.¹¹ Exposing 9 to acidic conditions resulted in the deprotected ketone 5. The hydrogen peroxide-mediated epoxidation of 5 in the presence of base was both regio- and stereoselective, providing only the *exo*-epoxide **10** in 93% yield. The monohydroxymethylation of **10** with aqueous HCHO in the presence of DBU followed the efficient and regioselective protocol of Metha et al. (Scheme 3).¹²

Several reduction conditions were studied to introduce a 7β -hydroxy group to the tricyclic hydroxy dione 4. The DIBAL-H reduction, which employs 2 equiv of the reagent, furnished the *exo*-hydroxy product 11 in a remarkably regio- and stereo-controlled operation.¹³ The diol in 11 was protected as the acetonide 12 in 98% yield. The primary hydroxyl group of 11 was protected as its TBS derivative to produce 13 in a 95% yield.

After the retro-Diels–Alder reaction of 12, various α -halogenation reactions for 14 were attempted (Scheme 4). However, the desired product 15 was not obtained when 14 was treated with Br₂/NaHCO₃,^{8b} I₂/DMAP,¹⁴ or I₂/TMSN₃.¹⁵ Iodinated cyclohexenone 17 can be prepared from 16 in high yield,^{8a,16} but iodinated 15 could not be isolated under similar reaction conditions. Before the retro-Diels–Alder reactions of ketones 12 and 13, α -bromination reactions were performed. Scheme 4. α -Halogenation of 14



1,2-Dibromotetrachloroethane¹⁷ was found to be an excellent brominating agent compared to Br₂ and NBS (Table 1).

Solvent effects were tested using substrate 18,¹⁸ and dichloromethane was confirmed as the best solvent (Table 1, entries 1 and 2). 1,8-Diazabicycloundec-7-ene (DBU) was the most effective base for this reaction, producing the bromination adduct 19 at room temperature with 90% yield (Table 1, entry 2). N-Bromosuccinimide was not as effective as 1,2-dibromotetrachloroethane and resulted in a lower yield (Table 1, entry 3). After optimizing a new α -bromination protocol, the scope of this methodology was investigated with a range of Diels–Alder adducts (6, 11–13). Although other functional groups, such as hydroxy and epoxide groups, exist in the substrates, α -bromination adducts were obtained in excellent yields, as summarized in Table 2.

Treating 13 with 1,2-dibromotetrachloroethane and DBU at ambient temperature produced 20 in 98% yield (Table 2, entry 4). The retro-Diels-Alder reaction of 20 disengaged the cyclopentadiene and led to epoxyquinone derivative 3, which has all the necessary functional elements for further transformation to the target natural (+)-ambuic acid (Scheme 5).







entry	solvent	base	time (h)	yield ^{a} (%)
1	THF	DBU	48	78
2	CH_2Cl_2	DBU	2	90
3 ^b	CH_2Cl_2	DBU	24	50
4	CH_2Cl_2		24	
5	CH_2Cl_2	imidazole	24	
6	CH_2Cl_2	Cs ₂ CO ₃	24	5
7	CH_2Cl_2	1,1,3,3-tetramethyl guanidine	24	30

^{*a*}Isolated yield after column chromatography. ^{*b*}NBS was used instead of 1,2-dibromotetrachloroethane.





^{*a*}All reactions were performed with 2.0 equiv of 1,2-dibromotetrachloroethane and 2.0 equiv of DBU under CH_2Cl_2 solvent at ambient temperature. ^{*b*}Isolated yield after column chromatography.

Scheme 5. Synthesis of (+)-Ambuic Acid from 13

Ozonolysis of the allyl group of **3** and a subsequent Wittig reaction using $Ph_3P=C(CH_3)CO_2t$ -Bu provided **21** in 74% yield in two steps. Finally, Stille cross-coupling with (*E*)-tributyl-1-heptenyl-stannane⁶ followed by deprotection of **22** with HF/CH₃CN produced the natural product (+)-ambuic acid **1**. The identity of the synthetic material has been fully established through comparison of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra and specific rotation, $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +92.7$ (c = 0.83, MeOH) [lit. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +92.1$ (c = 1, MeOH)].^{2,6}

In summary, we have achieved an efficient process for the enantioselective synthesis of (+)-ambuic acid 1 in 20% overall yield using 12 steps starting with chiral *endo*-Diels–Alder adduct 6. A new α -bromination protocol for Diels–Alder adduct 13 provided α -bromoenone intermediate 3 in excellent yield. The synthetic approach delineated here can be altered to provide analogues for biological evaluations.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

(1'R,4'S,4'aS,8'aR)-7'-lodo-1',4',4'a,8'a-tetrahydro-5'-((spiro-1,3-dioxolane)-1',4'-methanonaphthalene)-8'-one (6). To a solution of the freshly prepared catalyst 8 (0.72 mmol, 20 mol %)⁹ at -78 °C were added a solution of 7 (1.0 g, 3.6 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) and cyclopentadiene (2.27 mL, 27 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min at the same temperature and then



Note

quenched by addition of 0.3 mL of Et₃N. After the mixture was warmed to room temperature, the solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. Flash chromatography purification afforded the 6 as yellow solid (1.16 g, 94% yield, 95% ee, endo). Recrystallization from hexane/CH2Cl2 afforded the desired product as yellow solid, >99% ee. The enantiomeric purity was determined by HPLC analysis (Daicel Chiralcel OJ-H, hexanes/2-propanol = 9:1, 1.0 mL/min, $t_{\rm R}$ = 23.4 min (major) and $t_{\rm R} = 26.3$ min (minor)). Characterization data: $\left[\alpha\right]_{\rm D}^2$ -84.67 (c 1.0, acetone); mp 77–79 °C; IR (ATR) ν_{max} 2994, 2887, 1673, 1607, 1336, 1137, 1114, 1055, 1013, 949, 768 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.07 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (dd, J_{AB} = 5.4 Hz, $J_{AC} = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 5.85 (dd, $J_{AB} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{AC} = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.19– 4.05 (m, 2H), 4.04-3.93 (m, 2H), 3.35-3.25 (m, 2H), 3.24-3.21 (m, 1H), 2.88–2.81 (m, 1H), 1.44–1.37 (m, 1H), 1.36–1.31 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.4, 153.8, 135.8, 133.2, 108.6, 105.2, 65.4, 64.4, 50.7, 48.4, 46.5, 46.4, 46.3; HRMS (FAB+) Exact mass calcd for C₁₃H₁₃IO₃ [M]⁺ 343.9909, found 343.9909.

(1'R,4'S,4'aS,8'aR)-7'-Allyl-1',4',4'a,8'a-tetrahydro-5'-((spiro-1,3-dioxolane)-1',4'-methanonaphthalene)-8'-one (9). To a solution of 6 (5.57 g, 16.2 mmol) in degassed THF (20 mL) was added Pd(PPh₃)₄ (1.4 g, 1.2 mmol) and tributyl(allyl)tin (7.5 mL, 24.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 4 h and then quenched with 10% KF aqueous solution. The aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether $(3 \times 30 \text{ mL})$. The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The mixture was filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford 9 as yellow oil (3.84 g, 92%): $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -59.13$ (c 0.3, CHCl₃); IR (ATR) ν_{max} 2947, 2831, 1665, 1338, 1224, 1147, 1072, 1026, 946, 724 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.06–6.01 (m, 2H), 5.89 (dd, J = 5.4, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 5.76-5.64 (m, 1H), 5.09-5.07 (m, 1H), 5.06-5.02 (m, 1H), 4.13-3.96 (m, 4H), 3.31–3.30 (m, 1H), 3.17 (s, 1H), 3.06 (dd, $J_{AB} = 8.7$ Hz, $J_{AC} = 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.88–2.80 (m, 3H), 1.44–1.39 (m, 1H), 1.34–1.27 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.5, 141.8, 140.7, 135.5, 134.4, 133.4, 117.3, 104.5, 65.4, 64.1, 50.3, 48.8, 47.8, 46.6, 46.0, 33.1; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for $C_{16}H_{19}O_3$ [M + H]⁺ 259.1334, found 259,1338.

(1'R,4'S,4'aS,8'aR)-7'-Allyl-1',4',4'a,8'a-tetrahydro-(1',4'methanonaphthalene)-5',8'-dione (5). To a solution of 9 (955 mg, 3.7 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added acetone (5 mL) and 1 N H_2SO_4 (aq) (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and then quenched with saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃. The aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ $(3 \times 10 \text{ mL})$. The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na2SO4. The mixture was filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to furnish adduct 5 as yellow oil (745 mg, 94%), which is pure enough for next step without further purification: $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +26.3$ (c 1.0, CHCl₃); IR (ATR) ν_{max} 2995, 1665, 1618, 1335, 1295, 1261, 1216, 1026, 916, 724 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.44 (t, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.07–6.00 (m, 2H), 5.79-5.66 (m, 1H), 5.16-5.07 (m, 2H), 3.53 (br s, 2H), 3.22 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 3.06 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 1.55-1.51 (m, 1H), 1.43 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.4, 199.0, 153.4, 139.2, 135.5, 135.1, 132.9, 118.8, 49.1, 49.0, 48.9, 48.7, 48.6, 33.4; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for C₁₄H₁₅O₂ [M + H]⁺ 215.1072, found 215.1072.

(1'*R*,4'S,4'aS,6'S,7'*R*,8'a*R*)-7'-Allyl-1',4',4'a,8'a-tetrahydro-(1',4'-methanonaphtho-6',7'-epoxy)-5',8'-dione (10). To a stirred solution of 5 (745 mg, 3.48 mmol) in acetone (10 mL) at 0 °C was added 10% Na₂CO₃ (2.5 mL) and 30% H₂O₂ (5 mL) dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and then quenched with saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl. The aqueous phase was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 10 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The mixture was filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford 10 as white solid (745 mg, 93%): $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -35.60$ (*c* 0.3, CHCl₃); mp 54–56 °C; IR (ATR) ν_{max} 2994, 1706, 1646, 1425, 1319, 1240, 930, 912, 847, 725 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.06 (t, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 5.70– 5.56 (m, 1H), 5.15–5.09 (m, 2H), 3.47 (t, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (s, 1H), 3.30–3.28 (m, 2H), 2.76–2.69 (m, 1H), 2.56 (dd, *J*_{AB} = 15.3 Hz, *J*_{AC} = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 1.51–1.47 (m, 1H), 1.31 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.0, 136.7, 136.7, 130.2, 120.1, 66.3, 62.0, 50.5, 50.0, 46.7, 43.4, 43.2, 31.7; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for C₁₄H₁₅O₃ [M + H]⁺ 231.1021, found 231.1021.

(1'R,4'S,4'aS,6'S,7'R,8'aR)-7'-Allyl-4'a-hydroxymethyl-1',4',8'a-trihydro-(1',4'-methanonaphtho-6',7'-epoxy)-5',8'dione (4). To a solution of 10 (2.29 g, 10.6 mmol) in dry THF (30 mL) at 0 °C were added DBU (0.3 mL, 2 mmol) and 37 wt % formaldehyde (4 mL, 53 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min and then quenched with saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×20) mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The mixture was filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 5:1) to afford 4 as white solid (2.48 g, 90%): $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -127.8$ (c 0.22, CHCl₃); mp 104–106 °C; IR (ATR) v_{max} 3482, 1713, 1699, 1397, 1204, 1069, 1038, 934, 823, 742 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.07 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 5.69-5.55 (m, 1H), 5.16-5.08 (m, 2H), 4.37 $(dd, J_{AB} = 11.4 Hz, J_{AC} = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (dd, J_{AB} = 11.4 Hz, J_{AC} =$ 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.47 (s, 1H), 3.34-3.30 (m, 2H), 2.87 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 2.72–2.56 (m, 2H), 2.11 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 1.53 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 1.48–1.43 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 205.5, 204.4, 138.3, 138.2, 130.1, 120.4, 68.4, 67.3, 62.1, 61.8, 54.0, 46.0, 44.5, 43.6, 31.9; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for $C_{15}H_{17}O_4$ [M + H]⁺ 261.1127, found 261.1128.

(1'*R*,4'5,4'a5,5'*R*,6'5,7'*R*,8'a*R*)-7'-Allyl-5'-hydroxy-4'a-hy-droxymethyl-1',4',8'a-trihydro-(1',4'-methanonaphtho-6',7'epoxy)-8'-one (11). To a solution of 4 (2.37 g, 9.62 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL) was added DIBAL-H (1.5 M solution in toluene, 19.2 mL, 28.8 mmol) at -78 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 30 min at that same temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched with MeOH (5 mL), saturated NH₄Cl (aq) (3 mL), and 1 M HCl (aq) (15 mL). The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (5 \times 20 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The mixture was filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 2:1) to afford 11 as white solid (2.19 g, 87%): $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -59.9$ (c 1.0, CHCl₃); mp 70–72 °C; IR (ATR) v_{max} 3459, 2988, 1707, 1416, 1329, 1086, 1044, 1030, 933, 705 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.30 (dd, $J_{AB} = 5.7$ Hz, $J_{AC} = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.12 (dd, $J_{AB} = 5.7$ Hz, $J_{AC} = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.72-5.58 (m, 1H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 5.07 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.99 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H),3.18-3.72 (m, 2H), 3.47 (s, 1H), 3.34(s, 1H), 3.23(s, 1H), 2.65 (dd, J = 6.3, 15.0 Hz, 1H), 2.51–2.44 (m, 2H), 1.61 (d, J = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 1.48 (d, I = 9.3 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 208.0, 140.4, 136.3, 131.3, 119.4, 73.2, 69.8, 66.6, 63.6, 55.2, 51.2, 46.3, 44.6, 44.2, 31.9; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for $C_{15}H_{19}O_4$ [M + H]⁺ 263.1283, found 263.1286.

(4aS,5S,6S,7aR,8R,11S,11¹S)-6-Allyl-3,3-dimethyl-4a,7a,8,11hexahydro-(8,11-methanonaphthonaphtho-5,6-epoxy)-[1-d]-[1,3]dioxin-7(1*H*)-one (12). To a solution of 11 (1.1 g, 4.2 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) at 0 °C were added pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate (0.211 g, 0.84 mmol) and 2,2-dimethoxy propane (3 mL, 25.2 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h and then quenched with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate $(3 \times 20 \text{ mL})$. The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na2SO4. The mixture was filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford 12 as colorless oil (1.24) g, 98%): IR (ATR) v_{max} 2993, 2955, 1704, 1378, 1158, 1197, 1068, 733, 672 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.26 (dd, J_{AB} = 5.7 Hz, J_{AC} = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (dd, J_{AB} = 5.7 Hz, J_{AC} = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 5.75-5.61 (m, 1H), 5.13-5.06 (m, 2H), 4.71 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 1H), 3.62 (d, J = 12 Hz, 1H), 3.49 (s, 1H), 3.37 (s, 1H), 3.17 (s, 1H),

2.67 (dd, J = 6.6, 15.3 Hz, 1H), 2.47 (dd, $J_{AB} = 15.0$ Hz, $J_{AC} = 7.2$ Hz Hz, 1H), 2.33 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 1.68 (s, 3H), 1.51 (s, 2H), 1.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.6, 140.0, 136.6, 131.54, 119.4, 97.5, 72.5, 66.3, 66.0, 65.8, 54.5, 47.4, 45.1, 44.2, 43.9, 32.4, 30.5, 22.4; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for C₁₈H₂₃O₄ [M + H]⁺ 303.1596, found 303.1595.

(1'R,4'S,4'aS,5'R,6'S,7'R,8'aR)-7'-Allyl-5'-hydroxy-4'a-tertbutyldimethylsiloxymethyl-1',4',8'a-trihydro-(1',4'-methanonaphtho-6',7'-epoxy)-8'-one (13). To a solution of 11 (260 mg, 1 mmol) in DMF (5 mL) was added the imidazole (340 mg, 5 mmol). After 30 min at room temperature, TBSCl (376 mg, 2.5 mmol) was added to the mixture at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 4 h and then quenched with distilled water. The aqueous phase was extracted with hexane $(5 \times 10 \text{ mL})$. The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na2SO4. The mixture was filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/ ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford 13 as white solid (357 mg, 95%): $[\alpha]_D^2$ = -34.9 (c 0.3, CHCl₃); mp 72-74 °C; IR (ATR) v_{max} 3434, 2856, 1705, 1466, 1258, 1098, 1066, 837, 830, 776 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.26 (dd, J_{AB} = 5.4 Hz, J_{AC} = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (dd, $J_{AB} = 5.4$ Hz, $J_{AC} = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.72–5.58 (m, 1H), 5.42 (d, J = 5.7Hz, 1H), 5.11–5.06 (m, 2H), 4.89 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 3.72 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (s, 1H), 3.34 (s, 1H), 3.18 (s, 1H), 2.67 (dd, J_{AB} = 15.0 Hz, J_{AC} = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (dd, J_{AB} = 15.0 Hz, J_{AC} = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.30 (d, J = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 1.53 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 1.46 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.14 (s, 3H), 0.11 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 207.8, 139.4, 136.3, 131.2, 118.9, 72.7, 69.9, 67.1, 63.2, 54.3, 50.4, 45.5, 43.9, 43.7, 31.7, 25.7, 18.0, -5.6, -5.7; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for $C_{21}H_{33}O_4Si [M + H]^2$ 377.2148; found 377.2151.

(1'S,4'S,4'aS,5'R,6'S,7'R,8'aS)-7'-Allyl-8'a-bromo-5'-hydroxy-4'a-tert-butyldimethylsiloxymethyl-1',4'-dihydro-(1',4'methanonaphtho-6',7'-epoxy)-8'-one (20). To a solution of 13 (233 mg, 0.62 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (3 mL) was added DBU (111 μ L, 0.74 mmol) and 1,2-dibromotetrachloroethane (242 mg, 0.74 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 h and then quenched with saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 \times 10 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na2SO4. The mixture was filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford 8 as white solid (276 mg, 98%): $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +52.8$ (c 1.0, CHCl₃); mp 50-52 °C; IR (ATR) v_{max} 3404, 2931, 1709, 1254, 1106, 1062, 1003, 946, 836, 778 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.26 (dd, J_{AB} = 5.7 Hz, $J_{AC} = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 6.15 (dd, $J_{AB} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{AC} = 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.96 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.78–5.64 (m, 1H), 5.21–5.12 (m, 2H), 4.72 (d, J = 1.0010.8 Hz, 1H), 4.05 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.63(s, 1H), 3.43-3.39(m, 2H), 2.85 (dd, $J_{AB} = 15.0$ Hz, $J_{AC} = 6.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.42 (dd, J_{AB} = 15.0 Hz, J_{AC} = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 1.82–1.77 (m, 1H), 0.95 (s, 9H), 0.18 (s, 3H), 0.16 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.3, 138.8, 137.0, 130.6, 119.2, 74.0, 71.2, 70.2, 67.9, 61.9, 55.3, 50.2, 47.2, 43.8, 32.1, 25.7, 18.0, -5.6, -5.7; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for C₂₁H₃₂BrO₄Si [M + H]⁺ 455.1253; found 455.1255.

(1*R*,5*R*,6*R*)-1-Allyl-3-bromo-4-((*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl)-5-hydroxy-7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]hept-3-en-2-one (3). A solution of 20 (100 mg, 0.22 mmol) in Ph₂O (5 mL) was heated to 230 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at that same temperature and then cooled to rt. The reaction mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford 3 as colorless oil (69 mg, 81%): $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -13.8$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃); IR (ATR) ν_{max} 2953, 2930, 2857, 1696, 1471, 1255, 1087, 836, 814, 781 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.79–5.65 (m, 1H), 5.19– 5.12 (m, 2H), 4.91–4.88 (m, 1H), 4.75 (dd, *J*_{AB} = 16.5 Hz, *J*_{AC} = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (dd, *J*_{AB} = 16.5 Hz, *J*_{AC} = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.21 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (dd, *J*_{AB} = 14.7 Hz, *J*_{AC} = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.63–2.55 (m, 1H), 0.93 (s, 9H), 0.16 (s, 3H), 0.15 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.5, 153.7, 130.8, 119.6, 116.8, 67.3, 66.6, 59.0, 57.9, 32.6, 25.6, 18.0, -5.5; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for C₁₆H₂₆BrO₄Si [M + H]⁺ 389.0784; found 389.0781. (E)-tert-Butyl 4-((1R,5R,6R)-3-bromo-4-((tert-

butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl)-5-hydroxy-2-oxo-7-oxabicyclo-[4.1.0]hept-3-en-1-yl)-2-methylbut-2-enoate (21). A solution of 3 (292 mg, 0.75 mmol) in MeOH (3 mL) was cooled to -78 °C and ozonolyzed for 3 min. The resulting solution was treated with methyl sulfide (1 mL), warmed to room temperature, and stirred for 30 min prior to dilution with water and extraction with CH_2Cl_2 (3 × 10 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The mixture was filtered and concentrated in vacuo to afford an oil. The crude aldehyde was used in the next step directly. A solution of tert-butyl 2-(triphenylphosphoranylidene) propionate (351 mg, 0.9 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (3 mL) was cooled to -40 °C. The crude aldehyde in CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed to -10 °C over 2 h, when all the starting material was consumed. Then, directly, the mixture was subjected to flash column chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate = 15:1) to afford 21 as yellow oil (279 mg, 74%): $[\alpha]_D^{25} = -8.7$ (c 1.0, CHCl₃); IR (ATR) ν_{max} 2955, 2931, 2858, 1699, 1367, 1254, 1172, 1129, 1089, 838 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.51-6.45 (m, 1H), 4.91-4.90 (m, 1H), $4.74(dd, J_{AB} = 16.5 Hz, J_{AC} = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 4.61(dd, J_{AB} = 16.2 Hz, J_{AC})$ = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dd, J_{AB} = 15.6 Hz, J_{AC} = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd, J_{AB} = 15.9 Hz, J_{AC} = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 9H), 0.93 (s, 9H), 0.16 (s, 3H), 0.15 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.2, 166.7, 153.9, 133.2, 131.8, 116.6, 80.5, 67.2, 66.68, 58.74, 58.10, 28.0, 27.7, 25.6, 18.0, 12.8, -5.5; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for C₂₂H₃₆BrO₆Si $[M + H]^+$ 503.1465, found 503.1464.

(E)-tert-Butyl-4-((1R,5R,6R)-4-((tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)methyl)-3-((E)-hept-1-enyl)-5-hydroxy-2-oxo-7-oxabicyclo-[4.1.0]hept-3-en-1-yl)-2-methylbut-2-enoate (22). To a solution of 21 (25 mg, 0.05 mmol) in degassed toluene (2 mL) were added $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (11 mg, 0.01 mmol) and (E)-tributyl-1-heptenyl-stannane (25 mg, 0.05 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 1 h and then quenched with 10% KF aqueous solution. The aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether $(3 \times 10 \text{ mL})$. The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na2SO4. The mixture was filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes/ethyl acetate = 10:1) to afford 22 as pale yellow oil $(22.5 \text{ mg}, 86\%): [\alpha]_D^{25} = +54.26 \text{ (c } 1.0, \text{CHCl}_3); \text{ IR (ATR) } v_{\text{max}} 2956,$ 2930, 2856, 1707, 1683, 1367, 1255, 1081, 836, 780 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR $(300 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta 6.55 - 6.50 \text{ (m, 1H)}, 6.05 \text{ (d, } J = 15.9 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}),$ 5.76–5.66(m, 1H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.69 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 4.59 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.74 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.93 (dd, J_{AB} = 15.9 Hz, J_{AC} = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 2.67 (dd, J_{AB} = 15.9 Hz, J_{AC} = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 2.18-2.11 (m, 2H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.44-1.22 (m, 6H), 0.91–0.88 (m, 12H), 0.11 (s, 3H), 0.09 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 194.1, 166.9, 147.9, 139.8, 132.8, 132.6, 129.2, 120.9, 80.3, 66.2, 62.5, 59.5, 58.3, 33.4, 33.1, 28.8, 28.0, 27.4, 25.7, 22.4, 18.1, 13.9, 12.7, -5.5; HRMS (FAB+) Exact mass calcd for C₂₉H₄₇O₆Si [M-H]⁺ 519.3142, found 519.3143.

(+)-Ambuic Acid. To a solution of 22 (83.5 mg, 10.6 mmol) in dry CH₃CN (3 mL) at 0 °C were added 2 drops of 48% aqueous HF. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h and then quenched with saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (5×10 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The mixture was filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (dichloromethane/methanol = 9:1) to afford 1 as white solid (39 mg, 70%): $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ = +92.7 (c 0.83, MeOH); IR (ATR) $v_{\rm max}$ 3407, 2954, 2925, 2869, 1648, 1647, 1415, 1279, 1033, 982 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 6.69 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.14 (d, J = 17.1 Hz, 1H), 5.89–5.79 (m, 1H), 4.89 (s, 1H), 4.52 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, 1H), 3.75 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 2.87-2.71 (m, 2H),2.16 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.47–1.40 (m, 2H), 1.35–1.29 (m, 4H), 0.91 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.0, 171.1, 150.6, 140.1, 136.5, 131.9, 131.8, 122.7, 65.8, 61.1, 61.0,

60.3, 34.4, 32.5, 29.9, 28.7, 23.5, 14.4, 12.7; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for $C_{19}H_{26}NaO_6$ [M + Na]⁺ 373.1627; found 373.1625.

General Procedure for the α -Bromination. To a solution of Diels–Alder adduct (0.3 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL) were added DBU (0.6 mmol, 0.089 mL, 2.0 equiv) and 1,2-dibromotetra-chloroethane (0.6 mmol, 0.19 g, 2.0 equiv). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature and monitored by TLC. After the reaction time indicated in Table 2, it was quenched with saturated aqueous solution of NH₄Cl. The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 × 10 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The mixture was filtered, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The concentrated crude product was purified by flash column chromatography to afford the pure α -brominated product.

(1'*R*,4'*S*,**Â**'a**S**,8'a*R*)-4'a-Bromo-6'-iodo-1',4',8'a-trihydro-5'-((spiro-1,3-dioxolane)-1',4'-methanonaphthalene)-8'-one (19) (Table 1). Spectral data: IR (ATR) ν_{max} 2984, 2899, 1678, 1592, 1253, 1164, 1085, 1014, 950, 889, 760 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.16 (dd, J_{AB} = 5.4 Hz, J_{AC} = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 5.89 (dd, J_{AB} = 5.4 Hz, J_{AC} = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.33–4.07 (m, 4H), 3.48–3.45 (m, 2H), 3.13 (s, 1H), 2.05 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 1.75–1.71 (m, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 189.0, 142.7, 137.3, 133.4, 131.7, 104.8, 66.8, 65.7, 62.8, 58.9, 56.9, 47.6, 47.3; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for C₁₃H₁₃BrIO₃ [M + H]⁺ 422.9093, found 422.9093.

(1'*R*,4'S,4'a,8'a*R*)-4'a-Bromo-7'-iodo-1',4',8'a-trihydro-5'-((spiro-1,3-dioxolane)-1',4'-methanonaphthalene)-8'-one (Entry 1 in Table 2). Spectral data: IR (ATR) v_{max} 2987, 2949, 2885, 1687, 1599, 1465, 1330, 1155, 1080, 1039, 1012, 956, 761, 672, 643 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.14 (d, *J* = 0.6 Hz, 1H), 6.22 (dd, *J_{AB}* = 5.4 Hz, *J_{AC}* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 5.88 (dd, *J_{AB}* = 5.4 Hz, *J_{AC}* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.15–4.0 (m, 4H), 3.53–3.49 (m, 2H), 3.17 (s, 1H), 2.08– 2.04 (m, 1H), 1.77–1.73 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 186.5, 153.6, 138.4, 132.5, 104.7, 104.2, 65.4, 64.9, 60.8, 60.4, 56.7, 47.2, 46.4; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for C₁₃H₁₃BrIO₃ [M + H]⁺ 422.9093, found 422.9092.

(1'*S*,4'*R*,4'a*S*,5'*R*,6'*S*,7'*R*,8'a*S*)-7'-Allyl-8'a-bromo-5'-hydroxy-4'a-hydroxymethyl-1',4'-dihydro-(1',4'-methanonaphtho-6',7'-epoxy)-8'-one (Entry 2 in Table 2). Spectral data: IR (ATR) ν_{max} 3728, 3628, 3231, 2991, 1711, 1425, 1248, 1099, 1040, 919, 695 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.27 (dd, J_{AB} = 5.4 Hz, J_{AC} = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (dd, J_{AB} = 5.4 Hz, J_{AC} = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (dd, J_{AB} = 5.4 Hz, J_{AC} = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (t, J = 10.2 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (s, 1H), 3.48–3.42 (m, 2H), 3.07 (s, 1H), 2.87–2.78 (m, 1H), 2.52–2.44 (m, 1H), 2.05–2.01 (m, 1H), 1.76–1.71 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 197.9, 138.4, 138.3, 130.4, 119.5, 73.8, 70.57, 70.51, 67.1, 62.4, 55.5, 54.2, 50.4, 44.2, 32.0; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for C₁₅H₁₇BrO₄Na [M + Na]⁺ 363.0208, found 363.0209. (4aS,5S,6S,7aS,8S,11R,11'S)-6-Allyl-7a-bromo-3,3-dimethyl-

(4aS,5S,6S,7aS,8S,11*R*,11'S)-6-Allyl-7a-bromo-3,3-dimethyl-4a,8,11-trihydro-(8,11-methanonaphthonaphtho-5,6-epoxy)-[1-d][1,3]dioxin-7(1*H*)-one (Entry 3 in Table 2). Spectral data: IR (ATR) v_{max} 3727, 2989, 1712, 1378, 1255, 1131, 1058, 913, 736, 663 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.28–6.25(m, 1H), 6.14–6.10 (m, 1H), 5.79–5.66 (m, 1H), 5.21–5.13 (m, 2H), 4.67 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (dd, *J*_{AB} = 12.0 Hz, *J*_{AC} = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 3.57 (s, 1H), 3.43 (t, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 2.88–2.81 (m, 1H), 2.49– 2.41 (m, 1H), 2.13 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 1.86–1.81 (m, 1H), 1.66 (s, 3H), 1.45 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.1, 139.1, 136.9, 130.6, 119.3, 97.2, 73.4, 69.2, 66.9, 66.7, 64.3, 55.3, 48.6, 44.9, 44.6, 32.3, 30.0, 21.8; HRMS (FAB⁺) Exact mass calcd for C₁₈H₂₂BrO₄ [M + H]⁺ 381.0701, found 381.0703.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for all intermediates 3-7, 9-13, 19-22, (+)-ambuic acid 1, and α -brominated products in Tables 1 and 2. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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