

# Synthesis of (–)-conocarpan by two routes based on radical cyclization and establishment of its absolute configuration†

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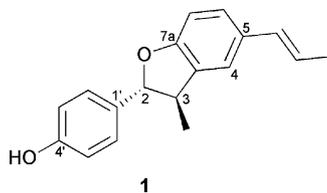
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We report the synthesis of (–)-conocarpan (1) in 98% ee) via a 5-exo-trig radical cyclization of the allylic alcohol 6 (88% ee), which is derived from (+)-conocarpan (2) via a 6-exo-trig radical cyclization of the allylic alcohol 7. The absolute configuration of (+)-conocarpan (2) was established by comparison of its optical rotation with that of the natural product (+)-conocarpan (2) and by X-ray crystallographic analysis of the diastereomeric diols 8 and 9.

## Introduction

(+)-Conocarpan (1), a bicyclic sesquiterpene, is a natural product of the plant *Conocarpus erectus*. It is a member of the conocarpan class of sesquiterpenes, which are characterized by a bicyclic core and a side chain. The absolute configuration of (+)-conocarpan (1) was established by X-ray crystallographic analysis of the diastereomeric diols 8 and 9. The synthesis of (+)-conocarpan (1) has been reported by Clive and co-workers, and by other groups. The synthesis of (+)-conocarpan (1) is a challenge due to its complex structure and the presence of multiple stereocenters. In this paper, we report the synthesis of (+)-conocarpan (1) via a 5-exo-trig radical cyclization of the allylic alcohol 6 (88% ee), which is derived from (+)-conocarpan (2) via a 6-exo-trig radical cyclization of the allylic alcohol 7. The absolute configuration of (+)-conocarpan (2) was established by comparison of its optical rotation with that of the natural product (+)-conocarpan (2) and by X-ray crystallographic analysis of the diastereomeric diols 8 and 9.



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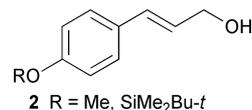
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## Results and discussion

The synthesis of (+)-conocarpan (1) was achieved via a 5-exo-trig radical cyclization of the allylic alcohol 6 (88% ee), which is derived from (+)-conocarpan (2) via a 6-exo-trig radical cyclization of the allylic alcohol 7. The absolute configuration of (+)-conocarpan (2) was established by comparison of its optical rotation with that of the natural product (+)-conocarpan (2) and by X-ray crystallographic analysis of the diastereomeric diols 8 and 9. The synthesis of (+)-conocarpan (1) is a challenge due to its complex structure and the presence of multiple stereocenters. In this paper, we report the synthesis of (+)-conocarpan (1) via a 5-exo-trig radical cyclization of the allylic alcohol 6 (88% ee), which is derived from (+)-conocarpan (2) via a 6-exo-trig radical cyclization of the allylic alcohol 7. The absolute configuration of (+)-conocarpan (2) was established by comparison of its optical rotation with that of the natural product (+)-conocarpan (2) and by X-ray crystallographic analysis of the diastereomeric diols 8 and 9.



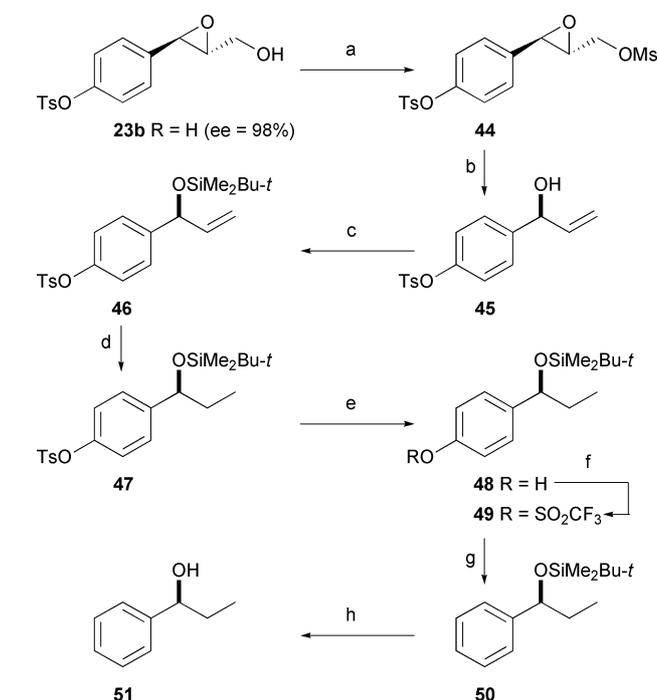
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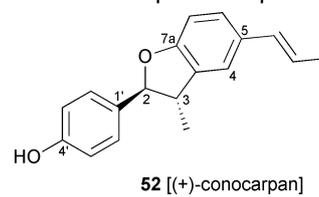


y e e e w para y e u u e .<sup>22</sup> F e  
 w u e e e y - y y , u e p u e e  
 c y e e y e e c i c p e p e  
 23b w e e u u c c e u l c c y, w e u e e e l e e  
 c e c e e p e 23b (S)-1-p e y -1-p p i ,  
 w e e u e c i f u e i w c l e c c e e i  
 w S-(-) e e c .<sup>48,49</sup>  
 u e i e e c y e c e e p e 23b w c i e e i  
 e y e 44 (S c e e e 8), w c l e e f 45 w e y e  
 y e e e w e u e . N y a i w u e  
 u e c i e e p e u e i e e e e p e i  
 e f ; e p e e e e e e e e e e e p e  
 e e, u e e c c e e e p e e  
 y c c l y e c i w e i e e e u e e  
 e e c i c c e e .<sup>50</sup> H y y p e c l y y i (45 →  
 46) u l e l y e i e 47. e e y u p w  
 e e e y e c i M (H). e e u i  
 p e t (48 → 49) w e u e e e p e t c y e l y  
 l y e y e<sup>51</sup> (49 → 50). i y, (S)-1-p e y p p i 51 w  
 e e e y e y i . e c p u i [a<sup>22</sup> -29.3 (c 1.23,  
 C H C<sub>3</sub>) ] .<sup>48</sup> -45.6 (c 1.3, C H C<sub>3</sub>) , c e p i e e  
 64%. u i e p e 23b i e e 98% i w e  
 i e y e e w c l e e e i p c p u y;  
 p l y, c c u u e y e i v i a  
 u l e i c c u w e l e e e , w e  
 l y u . S e e c e c c c y e e  
 u i e y i e c c u i . e u e c i f u  
 e y 51 i e e e .<sup>48,49</sup> u e



**Scheme 8** Reagents and conditions: (a)  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_9\text{MgBr}$ ; (b)  $\text{N}_3\text{H}$ , 1,2-dichloroethane,  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ , 57% yield; (c)  $t\text{-BuLi}$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{SiMe}_2\text{Bu-t}$ ,  $\text{SiMe}_2\text{Bu-t}$ , 100%; (d) 5%  $\text{LiAlH}_4$ ,  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ , 99%; (e)  $\text{H}_2$ ,  $\text{Pd/C}$ , 60% yield; (f)  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ ,  $\text{SiMe}_2\text{Bu-t}$ , 75%; (g)  $\text{H}_2$ ,  $\text{Pd/C}$ , 100%; (h)  $\text{H}_2$ ,  $\text{Pd/C}$ , 71%.

e p e t c i f f y e y e e c e p i (22 → 23)  
 w e e p e c e c u e; c i e q u e y, i u (+)-c i c p i  
 u e e e c e e y w i 52.



52 [(+)-conocarpan]

### Conclusions

The present work has shown that (+)-conocarpan can be synthesized from (+)-conocarpan via a series of steps. The synthesis of (+)-conocarpan is a multi-step process. The synthesis of (+)-conocarpan is a multi-step process. The synthesis of (+)-conocarpan is a multi-step process.

### Experimental

#### General methods

The  $J$  values were determined by the following procedure. The  $J$  values were determined by the following procedure. The  $J$  values were determined by the following procedure.

#### First route

**Toluene-4-sulfonic acid 4-[(2*S*,3*R*)-3-hydroxymethyloxyranil]-phenyl ester (23).** Cu<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.5 g),  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{MgBr}$  (0.5 M in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 4 mL), (-)-pinaneborane (0.050 g, 0.23 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (4 mL),  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{MgBr}$  (0.10 M, 0.34 mmol) were added to a solution of  $t\text{-BuLi}$  (3 M in  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$ , 1.6 mL, 4.8 mmol). The mixture was cooled to  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  and 23 (728.4 mg, 2.390 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (1.2 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred for 2 h and quenched with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (30% w/v, 0.38 mL) and extracted with  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$ . The combined organic layers were washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (ca. 500 mL) and dried over  $\text{CaH}_2$  (ca. 1 g) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography (6:3:1  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ : $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$ : $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ ) to give 23 (712.4 mg, 93% yield). mp 51–53 °C;  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz)  $\delta$  1.74 (s, 3H,  $J = 5.1, 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 3.18 (s, 3H,  $J = 2.3, 2.3, 3.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H,  $J = 3.6, 7.8, 12.6$  Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, 1H), 4.06 (s, 3H,  $J = 2.5, 4.9, 12.9$  Hz, 1H), 6.99 (ppm, 1H,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.21 (ppm, 1H,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H), 7.30 (ppm, 1H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.71 (ppm, 1H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H);  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,













