

Synthesis of the Tetracyclic ABCD Ring Systems of Madangamines D–F

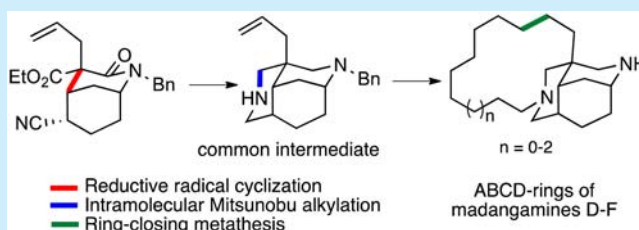
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S Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Synthesis of the tetracyclic cores of madangamines D–F was achieved, featuring a reductive radical process from an ethoxycarbonyldichloroacetamide to build the morphan nucleus, a Mitsunobu-type aminocyclization toward the common diazatricyclic intermediate, and ring-closing metathesis reactions for the macrocyclization step leading to the 13- to 15-membered rings.



Madangamines are a group of 3-alkylpiperidine marine alkaloids embodying a pentacyclic skeleton.¹ The six madangamines isolated so far have in common a perhydro-6,4-(iminomethano)isoquinoline core (ABC ring)^{2–4} and a western macrocycle of 13 to 15 members. Madangamines A–E contain an eastern polyunsaturated ring and madangamine F shows a greater oxidation state in rings B and E (Figure 1). Their

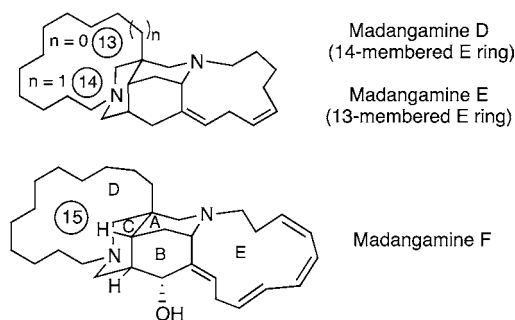
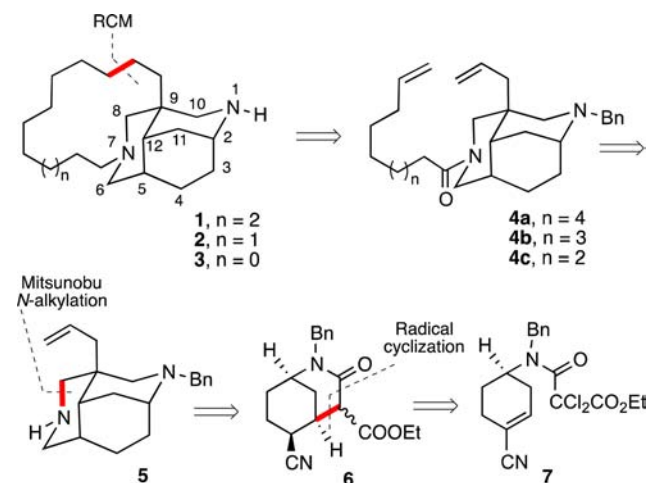


Figure 1. Madangamines D–F embodying a macrocyclic saturated D-membered ring.

biological activities, coupled with a highly complex structure, have made these alkaloids attractive synthetic targets. However, only one member of this family, madangamine D, has been achieved by total synthesis, in recent work by Amat and Bosch.⁵ Four other approaches have been developed to access the madangamine ABC diazatricyclic core using either hydroisoquinolines⁶ or 2-azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonanes (morphans) as intermediate platforms.^{7,8}

Herein, we report a synthetic approach to the tetracyclic cores of madangamines D–F from a common precursor. As depicted in Scheme 1, the synthetic strategy we pursued toward our goal, macrocycles 1–3, leads back, via the dienes 4, to diazatricyclic compound 5, which served as a strategic point of divergence en route to these targeted compounds. Overall, ring-closing

Scheme 1. Retrosynthetic Strategy for Synthesis of the Tetracyclic ABCD Rings of Madangamines



metathesis (RCM)⁹ macrocyclizations of dienes 4 were required in the range of 13- to 15-membered rings. The polyfunctionalized morphan¹⁰ 6 was envisaged as an early stage intermediate from which an allyl group would be selectively introduced at C9. The nitrile at C5 and the ester at C9 stemming from the morphan cyclization would undergo reduction for the synthesis of a useful amino alcohol to promote the ring closure leading to 5. Morphan 6 would be accessed by the reductive radical cyclization of alkoxycarbonyldichloroacetamide 7, thereby expanding the scope of haloacetamides able to generate radical species for the building of nitrogen-containing rings, either in reductive¹¹ or atom-transfer radical cyclizations.¹² The usefulness of radical synthetic methods for constructing valuable intermediates in

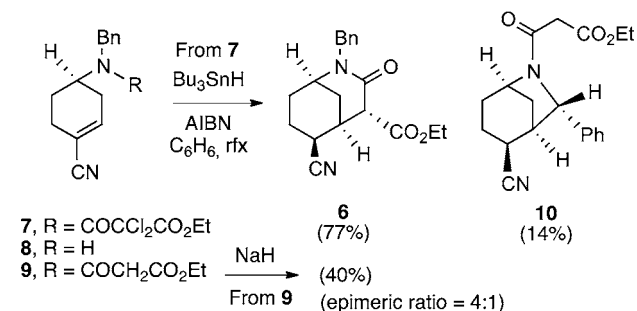
Received: December 12, 2014

Published: January 21, 2015

target-oriented natural product synthesis would thus be enhanced.^{13,14}

The synthesis began with the 4-(benzylamino)cyclohex-1-encarbonitrile (**8**), which was available in six steps from the monoethylene acetal of 1,4-cyclohexanedione using a protocol without any chromatographic purification.¹⁵ This secondary amine was acylated with 2,2-dichloro-2-ethoxycarbonylacetyl chloride,¹⁶ and the resulting dichloroamido ester **7** was treated with Bu₃SnH to induce a reductive radical cyclization¹⁷ leading to the bridged morphan nucleus **6** in 77% yield (Scheme 2).

Scheme 2. Radical vs Ionic Cyclization toward the Morphan Ring



Notably, attempts to obtain **6** by an ionic intramolecular Michael reaction from amido ester **9**, also available from **8**, gave poor results, not only because of the overall yield but also, and even more importantly, due to the low stereocontrol. The lack of diastereoselectivity (**6** was isolated as a 4:1 epimeric mixture at C5, using NaH as the base) seems inherent to the process, since it is known that the equatorial protonation of exocyclic α -cyano cyclohexyl anions can occur, leaving an axial cyano substituent.¹⁸

Some interesting results were observed in the radical cyclization: (i) the formation of **6** was diastereoselective, the stereochemistry at C5 and C9 in morphan **6** being well-defined, since the cyano group at C5 was equatorially located by a kinetic axial delivering of the hydrogen from the Bu₃SnH and the ester group at C9 has an axial disposition (Figure 2), and (ii) a

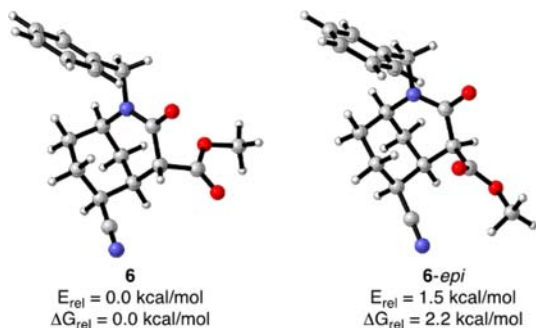


Figure 2. Fully optimized geometries (B3LYP/6-31+G(d) level) and relative energies of morphans **6** and **6-epi** (methyl esters).

normorphan compound **10** was also isolated as a minor byproduct.¹⁹ The α -amidoyl radical derived from **7** presents two reactive conformations, namely the *Z* rotamer INT3 and *E* rotamer INT1, the latter being required for the cyclization step (Figure 3). Although INT3 is 5.6 kcal/mol more stable than INT1, **6** was formed from rotamer INT1 via transition state TS1 ($\Delta G^\ddagger = 10.9$ kcal/mol, from INT3). In contrast, normorphan **10** arose from the most stable radical rotamer INT3, unable to

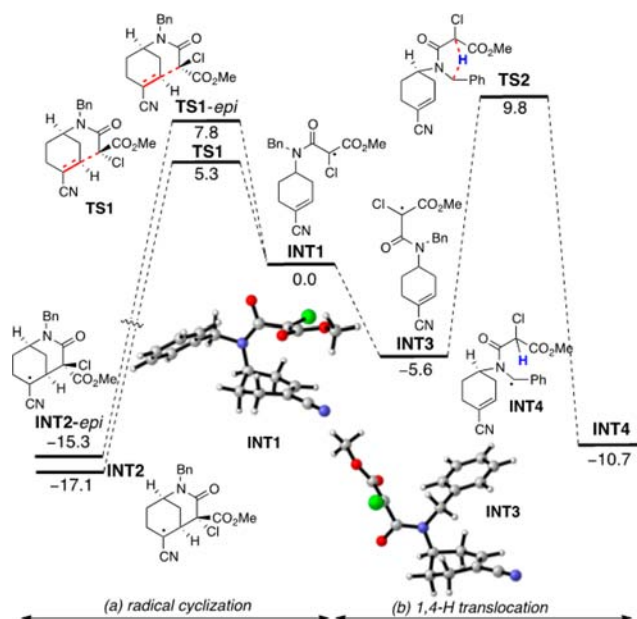


Figure 3. Computed reaction profile (uB3LYP/6-31+G(d) level) for the radical processes from amide rotamers: (a) radical cyclization via TS1; (b) 1,4-H translocation via TS2. Relative free energies (ΔG_{298} , at 298 K) are given in kcal/mol.

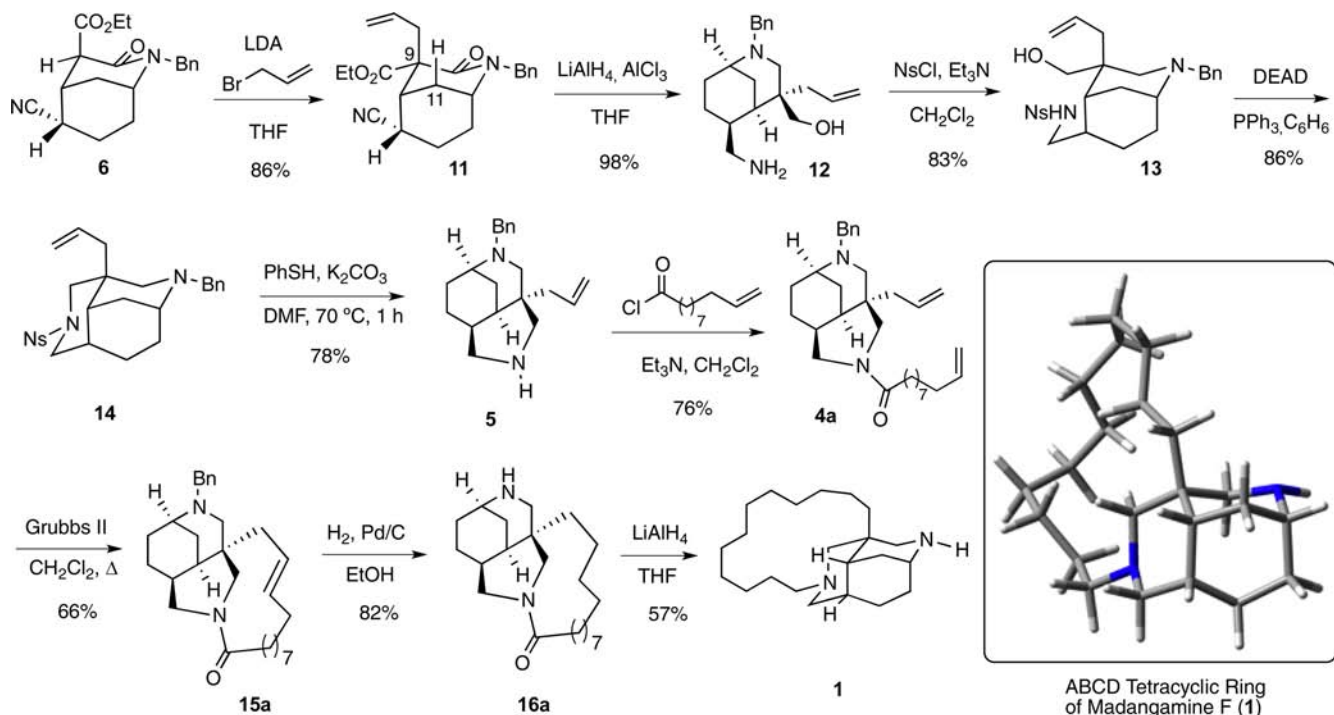
undergo radical cyclization, which underwent a 1,4-H radical translocation²⁰ in a more energetically demanding process ($\Delta G^\ddagger = 15.4$ kcal/mol, via TS2) followed by a radical cyclization to the normorphan nucleus (a complete profile of the process based on density functional theory calculations is included in the Supporting Information). Therefore, it can be concluded that the favored formation of the morphan-cyclized compound takes place mainly under kinetic control.²¹

The next step from morphan **6**, involving the generation of the quaternary stereogenic center, was the chemoselective allylation upon the methine at C9, which took place from the top face under a sterically controlled kinetic reaction to give exclusively **11**²² (Scheme 3). The configuration in the stereogenic quaternary center in **11** was established unequivocally from a NOESY NMR spectrum in which a methylene proton of the side chain at δ 2.65 give a cross-peak with the H-11 (*pro-S*) at δ 2.20. In the following step, the reduction of the carbonyl lactam, nitrile, and ester groups was carried out in only one operation by treatment of **11** with alane, generated in situ from LiAlH₄ and AlCl₃. The process gave the diamino alcohol **12** in high yield. For the ring closure of the piperidine A ring, a Fukuyama protocol was used involving an initial nosylation and further intramolecular alkylation through a Mitsunobu process. Removal of the nosyl group rendered the secondary amine **5**, which constitutes the common advanced synthetic intermediate en route to the three diazatetracyclic targets.

Amide bond formation between secondary amine **5** and 10-undecenoic acid chloride afforded the RCM precursor **4a** in 83% yield. The RCM of **4a** was undertaken using Grubbs second-generation catalyst in CH₂Cl₂ (3.3 mM) to give the cyclized product **15a** in 66% yield. Finally, adjustment of the oxidation level by hydrogenation with a concomitant *N*-debenzylation gave **16a**, which by reduction with LiAlH₄ finally rendered the target **1**. The overall yield for the synthesis of the tetracyclic ring of madangamine F, **1**, was 6.2% over 17 steps.

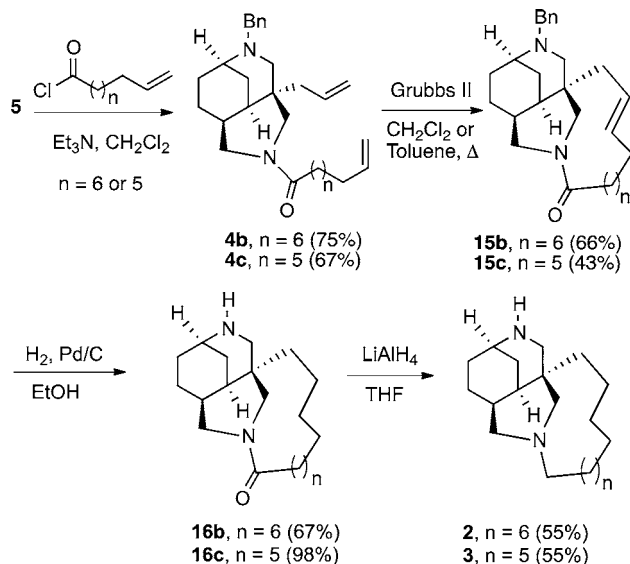
Having achieved the first target, we pursued synthetic access to the 14- and 13-macrocyclic ring analogues following the same

Scheme 3. Synthesis of the Tetracyclic Core of Madangamine F



protocol, i.e., using the secondary amine **5** as a common intermediate. Thus, treatment of **5** with 9-decenoic and 8-nonenic acid chlorides led to the amides **4b** and **4c**, respectively, in good yields. RCM from **4b** took place under the same reaction conditions as used from **4a** (Scheme 4). As expected, the

Scheme 4. Synthesis of Tetracyclic ABCD Rings of Madangamines D and E



formation of the 13-membered ring was more difficult as a consequence of the higher strain imposed by the double bond in this particular macrocycle.²³ Indeed, the cyclization did not proceed when **4c** in CH_2Cl_2 was used as a solvent, but when toluene at 80 °C was used with 1,4-benzoquinone as an additive,²⁴ macrocycle **15c** was isolated in 43% yield. Hydrogenation of **15b** and **15c** allowed us to isolate the tetracyclic

compounds **16b** and **16c**, respectively, which after reduction of the lactam moiety rendered **2** (37% over two steps) and **3** (53% over two steps).

In summary, a 17-step approach for the construction of the ABCD ring system of madangamines F, E, and D was successfully developed. We have shown that radical chemistry is a powerful tool for the stereoselective synthesis of the highly functionalized AB ring system. The synthetic pathway gave access to the three different ABCD fragments of madangamines from a common intermediate. This chemistry will pave the way for the total synthesis of madangamines.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

Experimental procedures, spectroscopic and analytical data, and copies of NMR spectra of new compounds. The computed complete profile of the radical process leading to **6** and **10** and Cartesian coordinates and energies for all the species considered. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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Notes

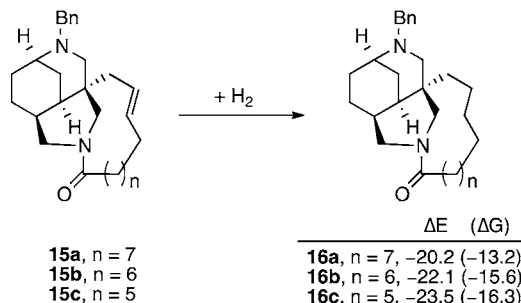
The authors declare no competing financial interest.

■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Support of this research was provided by the Spanish MINECO and FEDER (Project Nos. CTQ2013-41338-P and CTQ2013-44303-P).

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- (22) Using a reverse addition, a minor amount of the epimer at C9 was also isolated (see the Supporting Information).
- (23) As an estimation of the ring strain, we have computed the hydrogenation heats of macrocycles **15**. As shown below, the hydrogenation of **15c** is the most exothermic process, which correlates with the higher ring strain imposed by the double bond in the thirteen-membered ring (energy values are given in kcal/mol).



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