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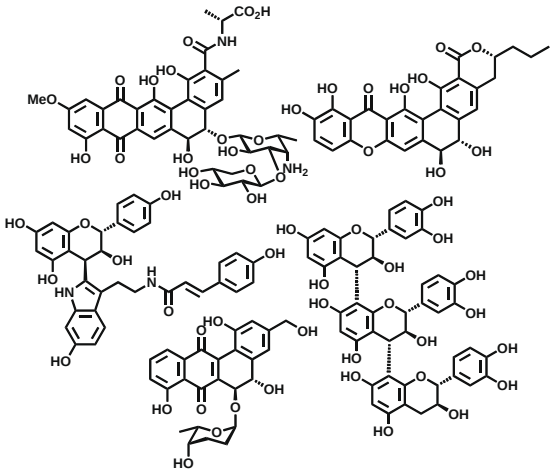
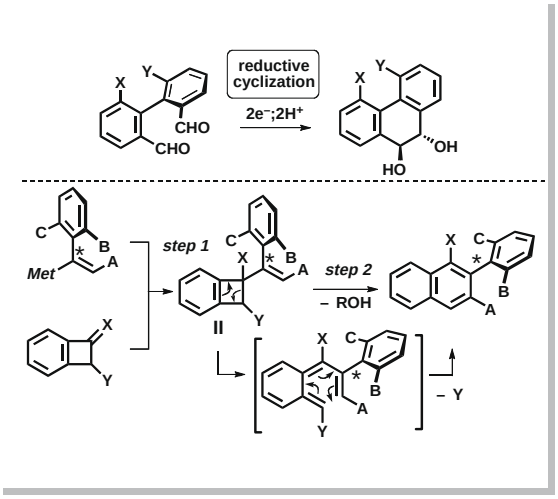
Announcement of the Winner for the Lectureship Award "MBLA 2008"

Dr. Ken Ohmori (Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan) has received the MBLA 2008. Total synthesis of architecturally complex natural products remains a formidable challenge in organic chemistry. In parallel with evolving separation and analytical technologies, target molecules are explosively increasing, and becoming more intricate and considerable size. These situations often render present synthetic methodologies less accessible for the targets, and more direct and efficient approaches are needed. Dr. Ohmori has developed novel synthetic approaches to densely functionalized polycyclic framework embedded in various bioactive natural products. One of major challenges is the total synthesis of the benanomicin–pradimicin antibiotics via the stereo-selective and -specific pinacol cyclization with the chirality transfer from an axial to centrals. This approach would serve as a general and practical synthetic way for highly-oxygenated polycyclic natural/unnatural compounds.

Dr. Ken Ohmori (born in 1969) received his Ph.D. from Keio University under the supervision of Prof. Shosuke Yamamura in 1996. He joined Prof. Keisuke Suzuki's group as Assistant Professor of Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1996. He was then promoted to Associate Professor in 2007. He received the Chemical Frontier Award for Young Chemist (1999), the Nakamura Prize, Tejima Awards (2001), the Chemical Society of Japan Award for Young Chemists (2002), the Sankyo Kagaku Award in Synthetic Organic Chemistry (2005), and the Challenging Research Award of Tokyo Institute of Technology (2007). His research interest includes exploitation of new synthetic methods for selective total synthesis of natural products.

natural product synthesis





new synthetic strategy

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