# Total Synthesis of (±)-Gephyrotoxin by Amide-Selective Reductive Nucleophilic Addition



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# Gephyrotoxin

 isolated 1977 from skin extracts of tropical dart frog (Dendrobates histrionicus)

- mild muscarinic antagonist
- array of neurological activities

 3 total syntheses of (±)-Gephyrotoxin by Kishi 1980, Hart 1983 and Overman 1983

- 6 formal syntheses
- (+)-Gephyrotoxin by Kishi 1981
- (-)-Gephyrotoxin by Spino 2013



Η

HO

١H

н

## **Total Synthesis of Overman**















### **Approach of Chida:**

Chemoselective reductive nucleophilic addition to *N*-methoxyamides





#### Variation of the nucleophile



52, 1.

### **Application: Total Synthesis of (±)-Gephyrotoxin**

amide/aldehyde coupling



52, 1.





#### **Conclusion:**

- Quite efficient total synthesis
  - 14 steps form commercially available 4-pentenoic acid (Overman: 19 steps; Kishi: 24 steps; Hart: 21 steps)
  - 9.4% overall yield (Overman: 2.0%; Kishi: not reported; Hart: 1.0)
- Interesting key methodology: N-methoxy group as reactivity control element
  - minimization of the need of protecting groups
  - increased nucleophilicity of the iminium ion enable amide-selective nucleophile addition in presence of methyl ester





**Z-Selective Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons Reaction of Ethyl** (Diarylphosphono)acetates Using Sodium Iodide and DBU:



K. Ando, T. Oishi, M. Hirama, H. Ohno, T. Ibuka, J. Org. Chem. 2000, 65, 4745.