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A General Entry to Antifeedant Sesterterpenoids: Total Synthesis of (+)-Norleucosceptroid A, (–)-Norleucosceptroid B, and (–)-Leucosceptroid K

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Introduction

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- > Thomas Magauer, born in 1983 in Linz, Austria
 - PhD in Vienna under the supervision of Johann Mulzer (2007)
 Enantioselective syntheses of the complex polyketide kendomycin and the sesquiterpenoid echinopines A and B
 - Post-Doc in Harvard University with Andrew G. Myers (2009) worked on chiral silicon pretecting groups, synthesis of natural and diverse unnatural antiproliferative trioxacarcins
 - Liebig-junior research group leader at the LMU Munich (2012)



Antifeedant Sesterterpenoids



- Isolated from Leucosceptrum canum Smith ("Bird's Coca Cola tree") and Colquhounia coccinea var. mollisa found in China and Nepal
- > Both plants are remarkably resistent to herbivores and pathogens
- showed potent antifeedant activity agains the cotton bollworm and the beet armyworm
- > concept of employing **nontoxic antifeedant compounds** to protect plants
- Extracted many different novel sesterterpenoids as norleucoscetroids A–C, Leucosceptroids A–O, … etc. (23 members)
- > 5,6,5 skeleton



Previous Synthesis



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> Horne and coworkers, **2011**: approach to core of leucosceptroids (IMDA)



 Liu and coworkers, 2013: First (asymmetric) total synthesis of leucosceptroid B (Micheal/Aldol/oxy-Micheal sequence)



Huang, X.; Song, L.; Xu, J.; Zhu, G.; Liu, B. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, *52*, 952–955. Xie, J.; Ma, Y.; Horne, D. A. *J Org Chem* **2011**, *76*, 6169–6176.

Retrosynthetic Analysis



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Synthesis of C-ring butenolide 7 and AB segment 12 (\rightarrow 6)

> C fragment 7



> AB fragment $12 (\rightarrow 6)$



Corey, E. J.; Guzmanperez A.; Noe, M. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1995**, *117*, 10805–10816. (*from* **8** *to* **9**) Marx, J. N.; Norman, L. R. *J Org Chem* **1975**, *40*, 1602–1606. (*from* **10** *to* **11**)



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Fragment coupling to ABC tricycle I



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DFT calculations B3LYP/6-31G(d)

Fragment coupling to ABC tricycle II



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Functionalization of ABC core and completing total syntheses I



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Functionalization of ABC core and completing total syntheses II



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Conclusion

- > Concept of employing antifeedant compounds from plants to protect plants from insects → natural and nontoxic pesticide (alternative to synthetic)
- > Hauser-Kraus annulation (alternative to [4+2]-cycloaddition with substituted furans)
- intramolecular aldol-type condensation as key step to produce 5,6,5-skeleton in multigram scale (3.0 g)



> 16 steps (longest linear sequence) for norleucosceptroid A and B