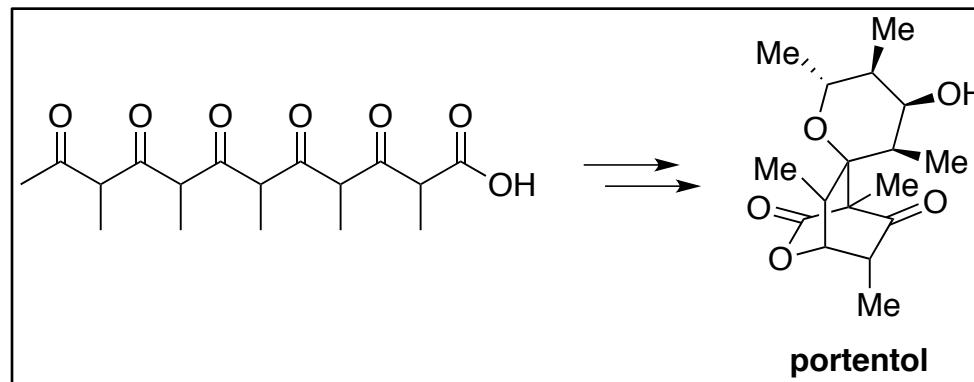


# A Highly Convergent and Biomimetic Total Synthesis of Portentol



B. Cheng, D. Trauner,  
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# Dirk Trauner

- **1967:** Born in Linz, Austria
- **1986-88:** Studied Biology, Vienna
- **1988-91:** Studied Biochemistry, Vienna
- **1992-95:** Studied Chemistry, Berlin
- **1995-97:** PhD, Prof. J. Mulzer, Berlin & Vienna
- **1998-00:** Postdoc, Prof. S. Danishefsky, New York
- **2000-06:** Assistant Professor, Berkeley
- **2006-10:** Associate Professor, Berkeley
- **2008- :** Full Professor, Munich

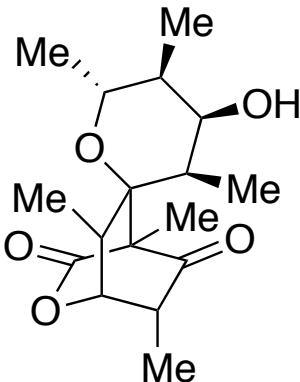


## Research Interest:

- Chemical Synthesis
- Cell Biology
- Natural Product Chemistry
- Neuroscience
- Photopharmacology

# Portentol

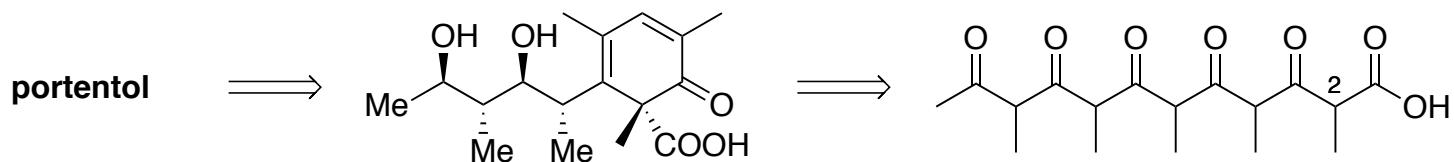
## Isolation and Characterisation



- First isolated in **1967** from *Roccella portentosa* (lichen)
- Moderate growth inhibition against several cancer cell lines
- Densely functionalized spiro tricyclic core (9 consecutive stereocenters)



### - Biosynthetic Speculation (Overton)



- $^{14}\text{C}$  labelling: Carbon chain from acetate and malonate
- C2 Me from acetate, other Me from methionine

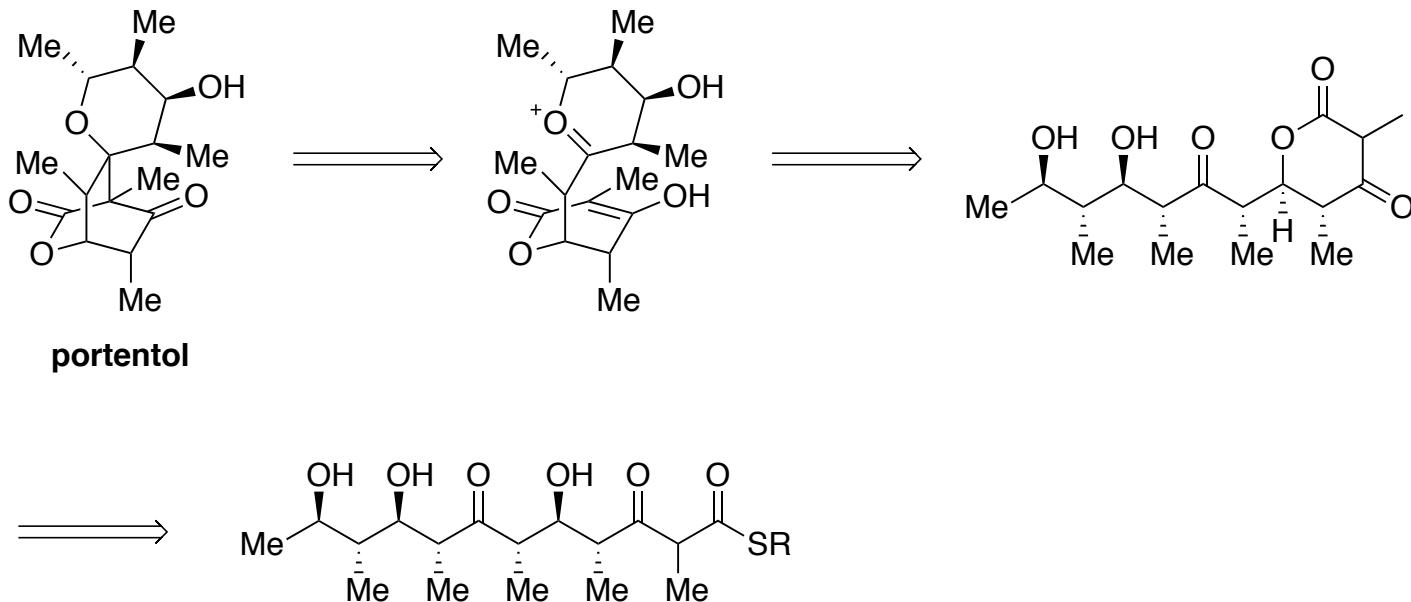
D. J. Aberhart, K. H. Overton, S. Huneck, *J. Chem. Soc., C* **1970**, 1612–1623.

D. J. Aberhart, A. Corbella, K. H. Overton, *J. Chem. Soc. D* **1970**, 664–665.

# Biosynthetic Analysis

## Speculations

- Cationic Cyclization Cascade

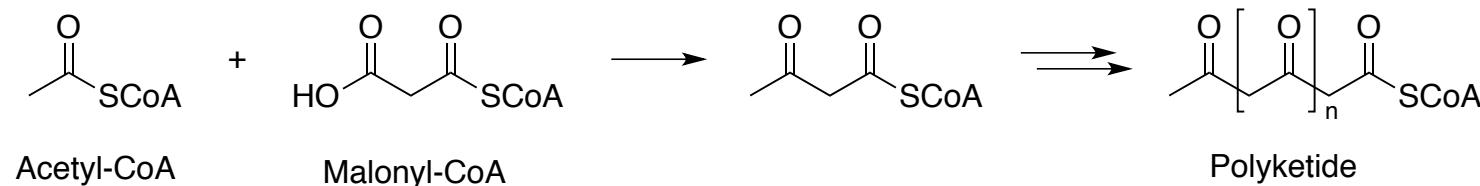


- Lactone assembled by **type II polyketide synthase (PKS)**
- Containing two ***anti-anti triads*** (synthetically challenging)
- PKS (thioesterase domain) might also catalyze subsequent cationic cyclization

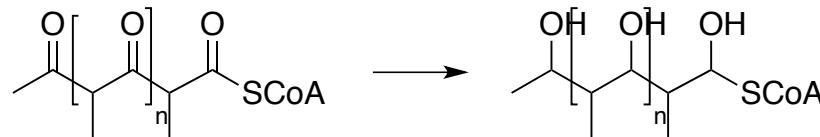
# Polyketides

## Stereotriades; Propionate Triades

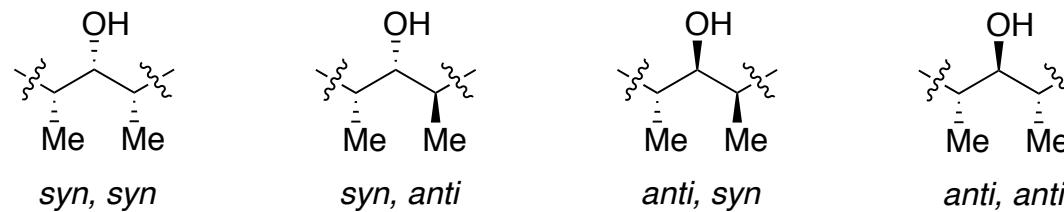
- Biosynthesis (polyacetylation)



- Biosynthesis (Methylation, Reduction)



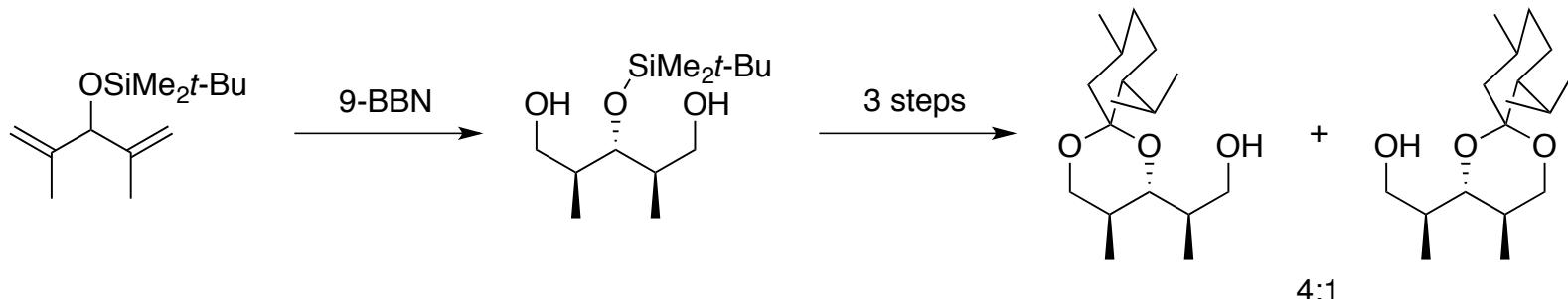
- Biosynthesis (Selectivity)



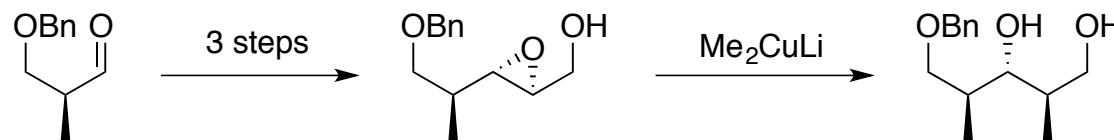
# *anti,anti*-Triade

## Previous Approaches

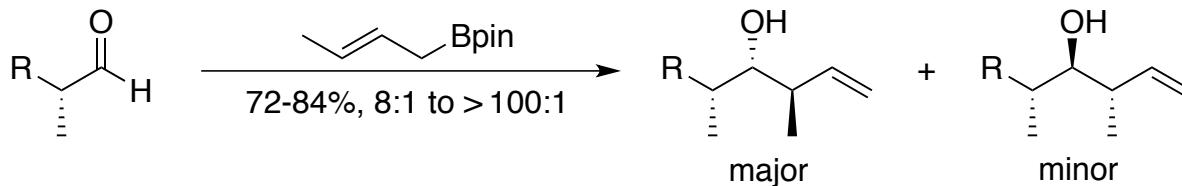
- Desymmetrization (Mesoforms)



- Asymmetric Epoxidation



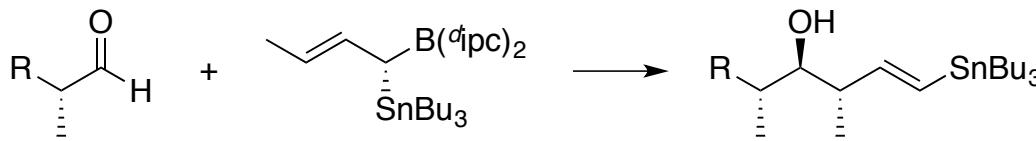
- Crotylboration



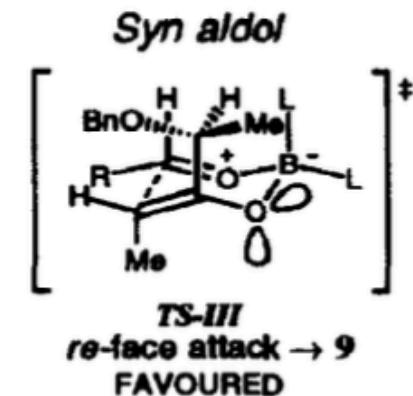
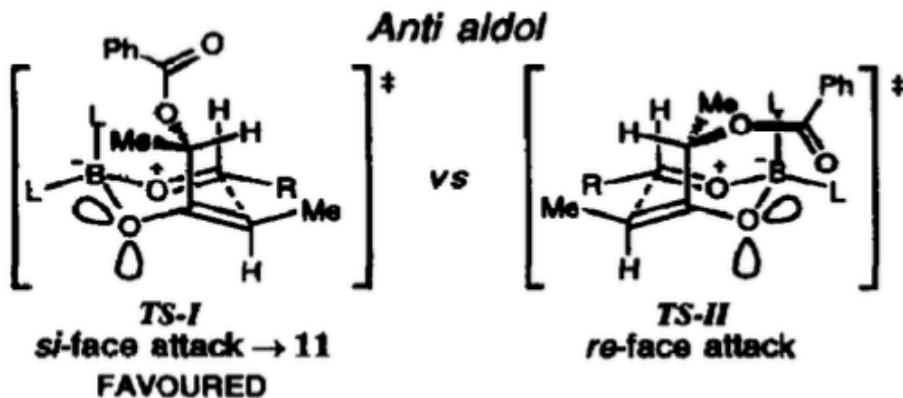
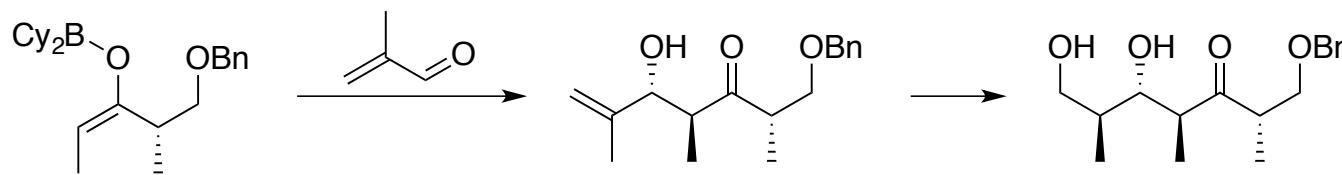
# *anti,anti*-Triade

## Previous Approaches

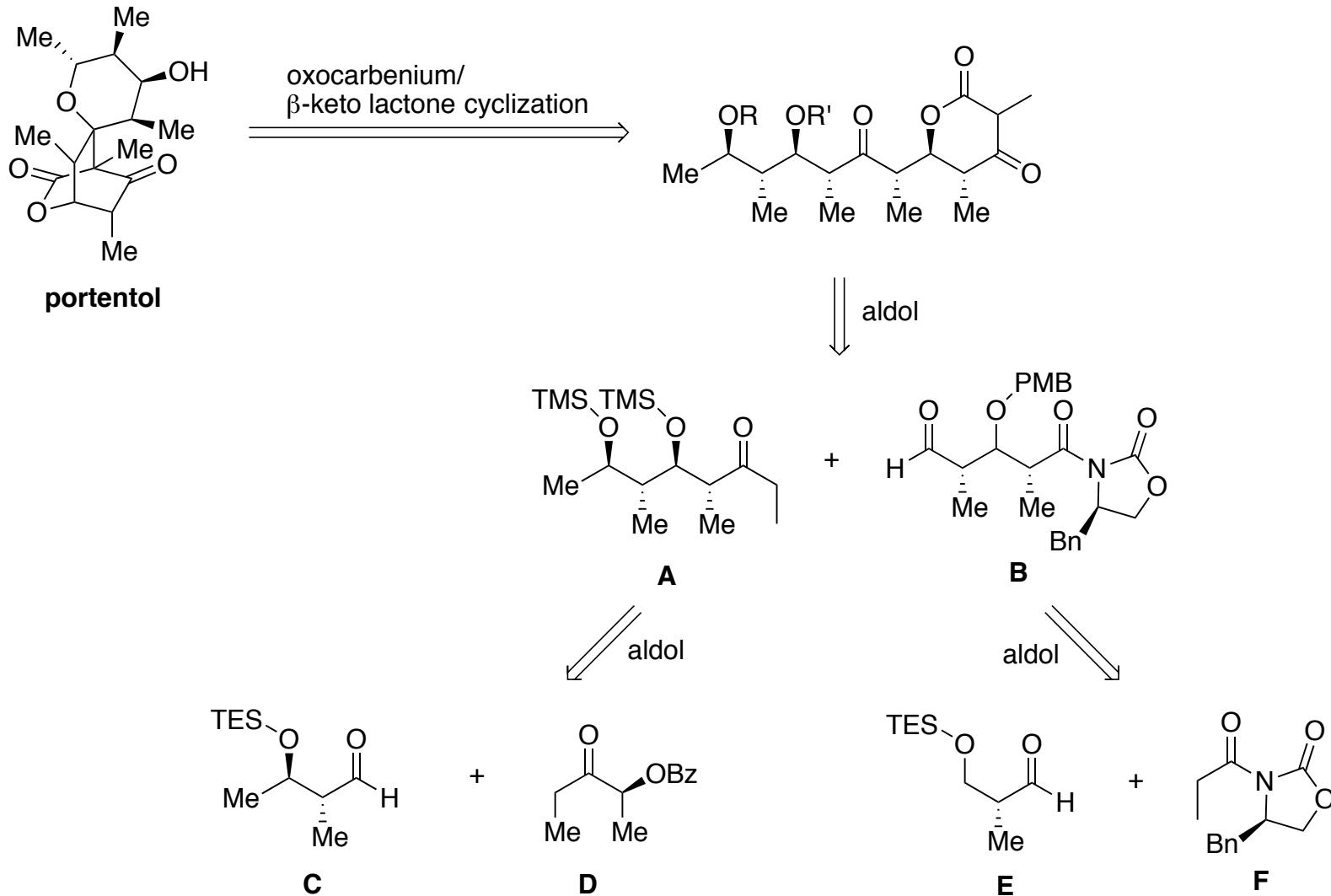
- Double Mismatched Crotylboronation



- Aldol reaction (*anti*-selective)

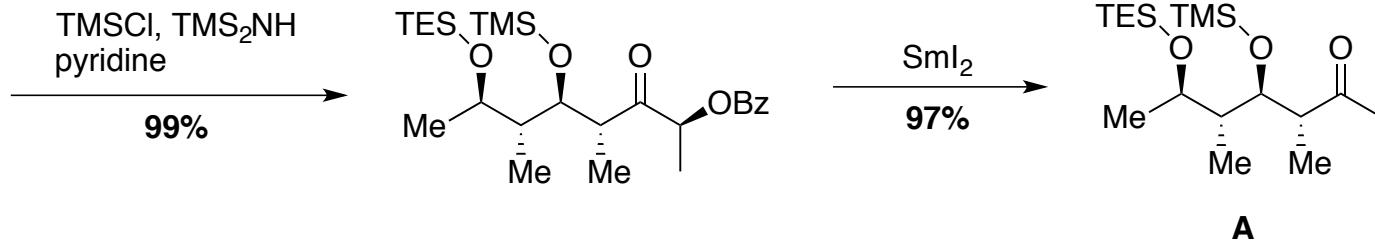
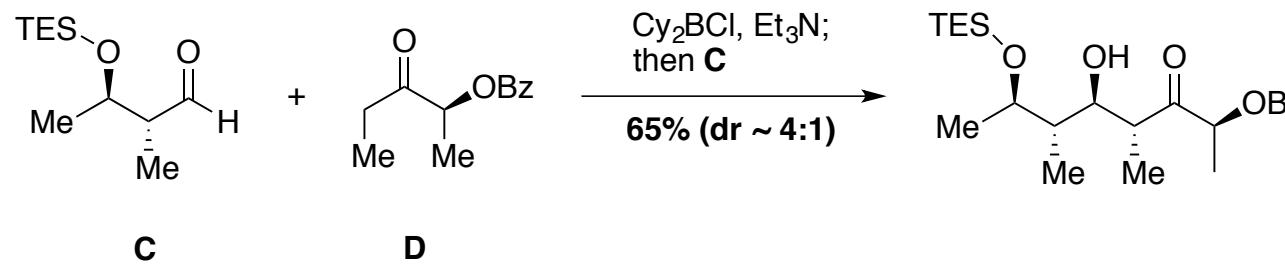
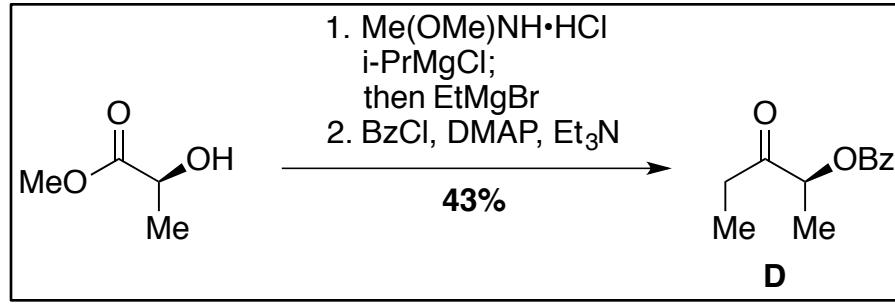
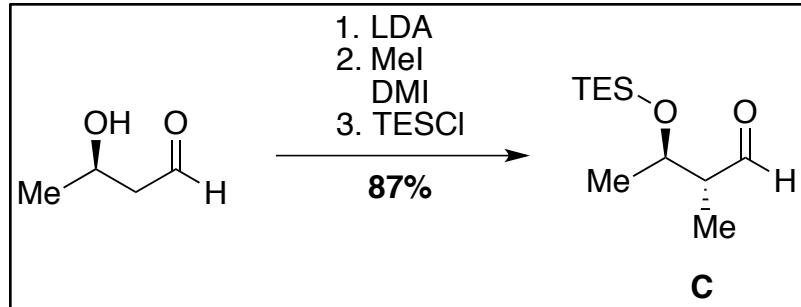


# Retrosynthetic Analysis



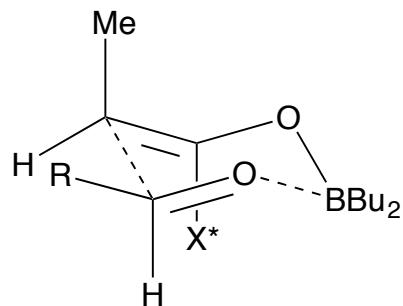
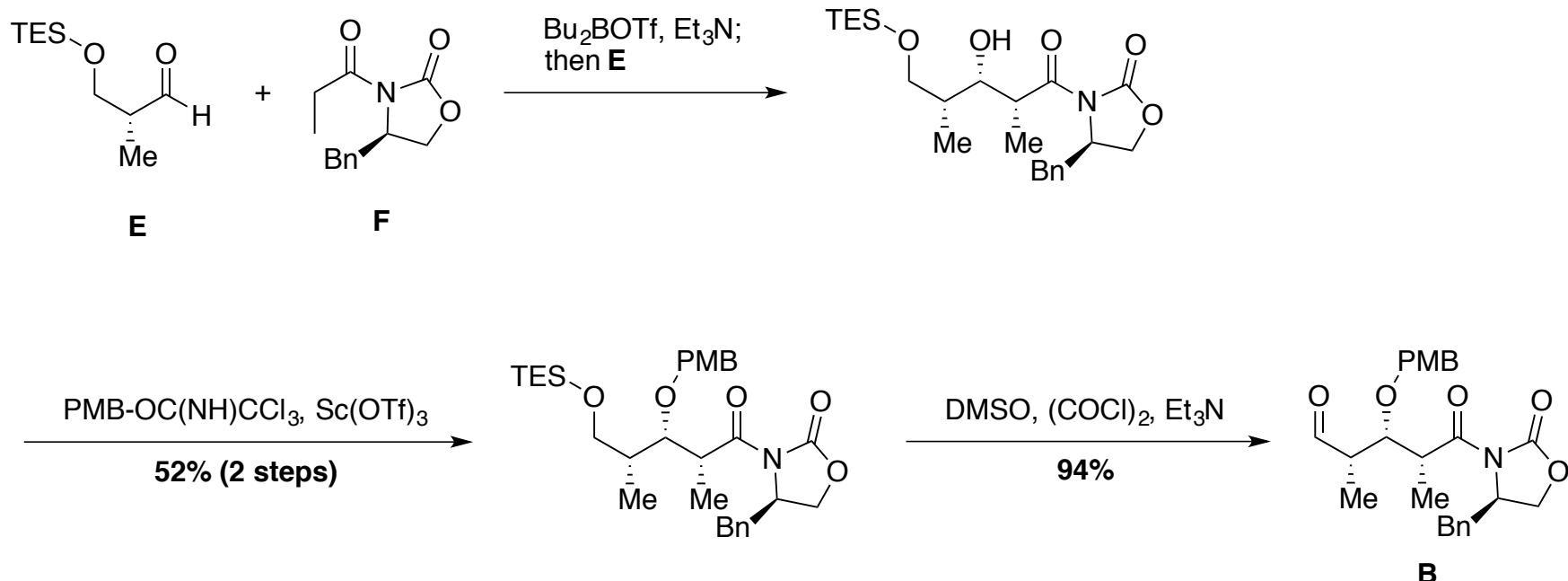
# Synthesis of Fragment A

## Synthesis of C & D; Paterson Aldol Reaction



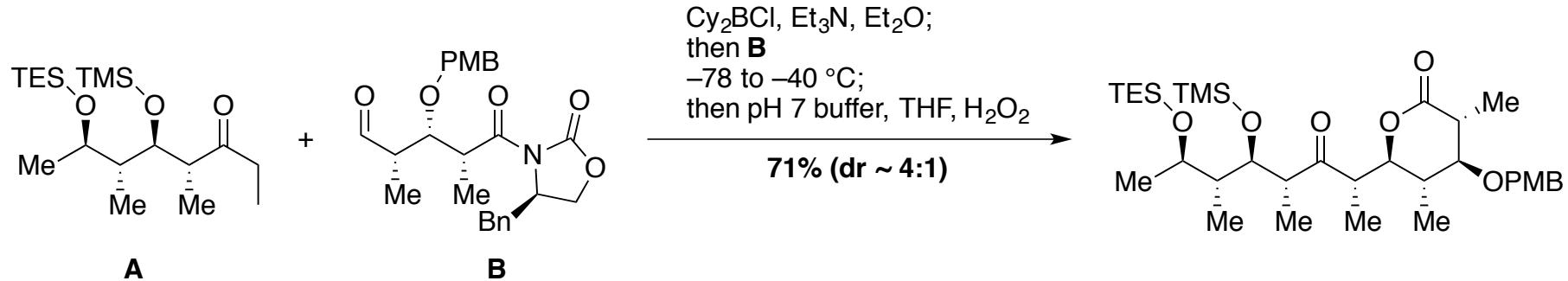
# Synthesis of Fragment B

## Evans Aldol Reaction



# Synthesis Lactone Precursor

## Key Coupling Reaction

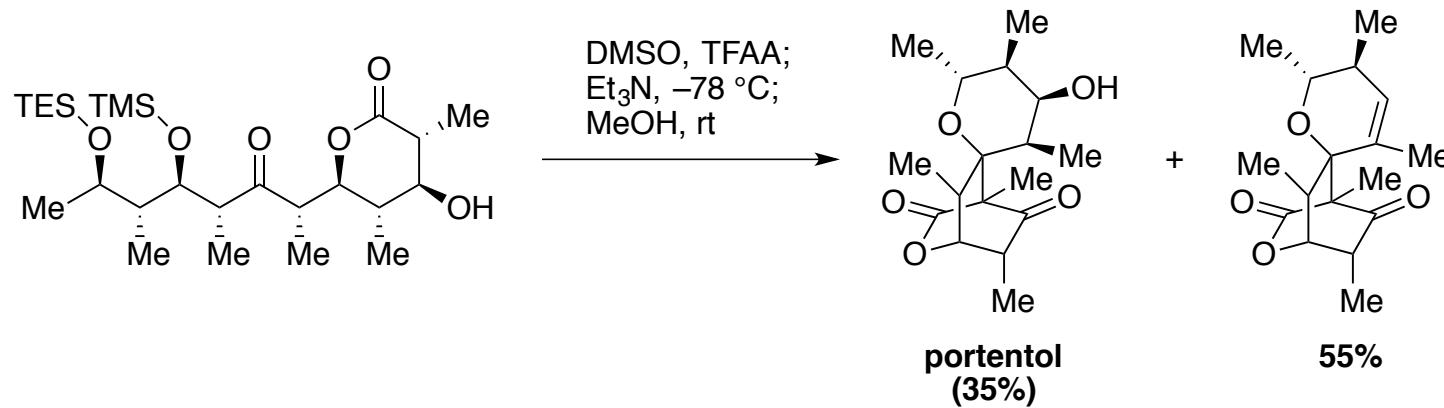


- Lactone directly obtained after removal of auxiliary when adding THF during wu
- Separation by FC (recovered fragment **A**)
- Confirmation of stereochemistry by NMR
- Removing PMB with DDQ (**84%**) → adding H<sub>2</sub>O or pH 7 buffer lead to byproduct formation

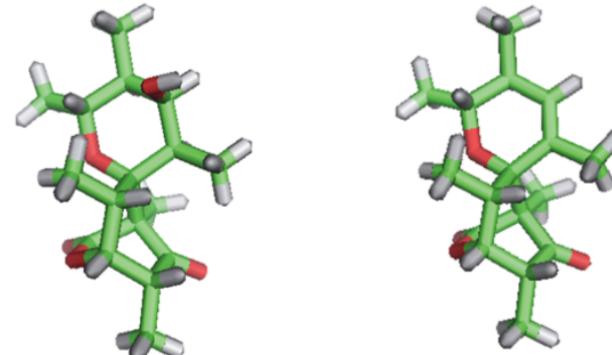
# Final Step

## Double Cyclization Cascade

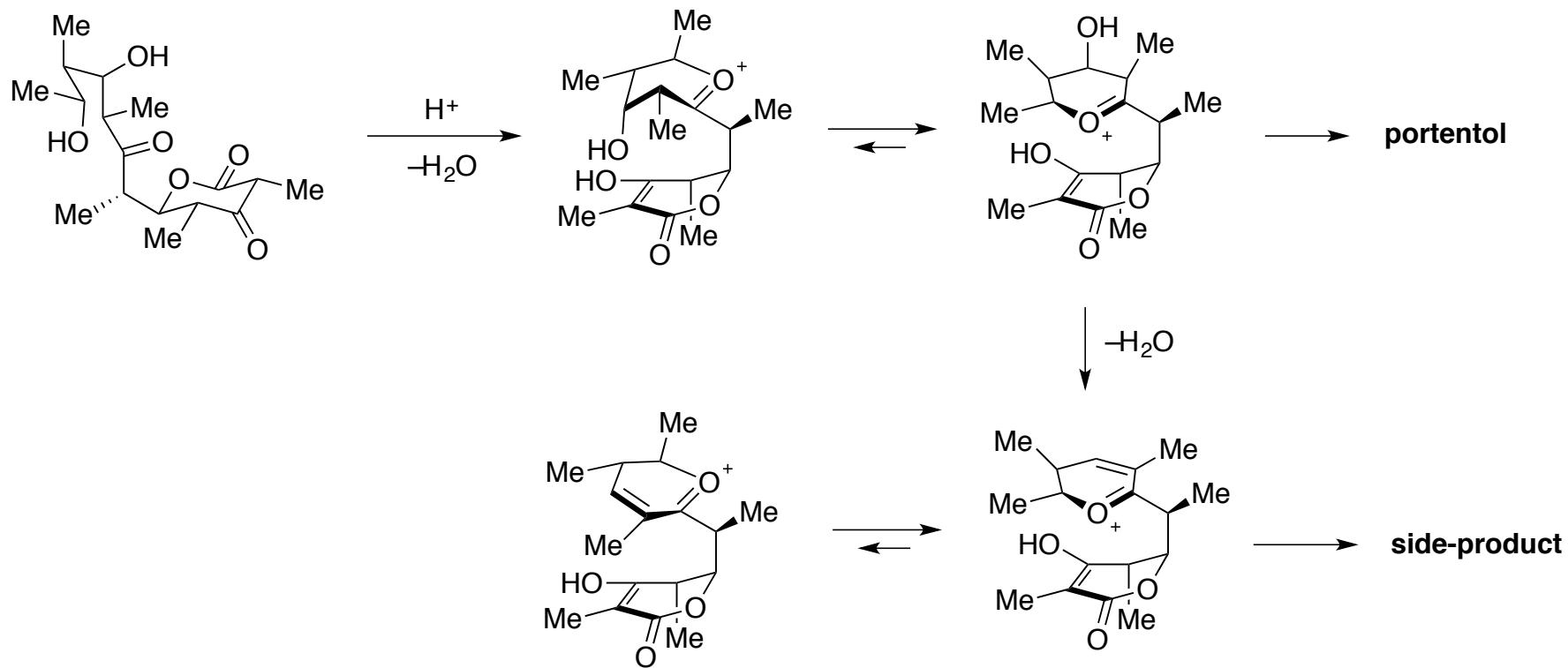
- Oxidation of  $\beta$ -hydroxy lactone under Swern conditions



- Acid formed in-situ during wu
- Spectroscopic data and X-ray structures



# Cationic Cascade Mechanism



- C2 and C7 bond formation slow (steric hindrance)
- A<sup>1,3</sup>-strain of C6 and C8 methyl groups

# Conclusion

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- Due to high yield and ease of the cascade → similar process in nature
- Enzymatic vs. Spontaneous
  - Side-product never isolated → points to catalysis
- Brief, and efficient synthesis due to biomimetic key step and convergent synthetic plan
- Three diastereoselective boron aldol reactions (one *syn*, two *anti*)
- First total synthesis

# Boron Enolate

