Total Synthesis of Hirsutine and Related Compounds by Domino Reactions

Problem:

Cat. EDDA,
$$C_6H_6$$
, 55 °C

Boc

N

NCbz

Boc

H

OPMB

84% yield > 20:1 dr

OPMB

3

- 1) (for Master and starting PhD) Name and draw all the protecting groups! How do you introduce resp. deprotect them synthetically? (reagents??)
- 2) The cascade consists of two name reactions. What are the names of these transformations and give the mechanism of the cascade?
- 3) With what type of reaction could you generate such type of tricyclic indoles (name reaction)? And what is their biosynthetic precursor?

Solution:

1) Protecting Groups

Boc: *t*-Butoxycarbonyl, Boc₂O, acidic conditions (HCl, TFA, ...etc.)

Cbz: benzyloxycarbonyl, CbzCl, hydrogenolysis (Pd/C, H₂)

PMB: p-methoxybenzyl, PMBOC(=NH)CCl₃ and Triflic acid, removed by acid, hydrogenolysis or oxidation

2) Cascade Reaction

a. Knoevenagel condensation of aldehyde and Meldrum's acid

b. Hetero-Diels-Alder/Fragmentation of Meldrum's acid

3) Pictet-Spengler/Tryptophan

Pictet Spengler via Schiff base

References:

Angew. Chem Int Ed. 1999, 38, 2045-2047.

Keywords:

Knoevennagel condensation, hetero-Diels-Alder-reaction, Meldrum's acid, Pictet Spengler