SYNTHESIS OF QUINOLINES AS NEURAL PROTECTIVE REAGENTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS TOTAL SYNTHESIS OF (+) - MYRICERIC ACID A

by

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B.S., East China University of Science and Technology 2005

AN ABSTRACT OF A DISSERTATION

submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Department of Chemistry College of Arts and Sciences

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Manhattan, Kansas

2014

Abstract

The first chapter of this dissertation introduces and discusses the synthesis of a series of substituted quinolines as glycogen synthase kinase-3 β (GSK-3 β) inhibitors. GSK-3 β is highly associated with Alzheimer's disease (AD), and it is suggested that inhibition of this enzyme could alleviate the symptoms of AD. Total 16 novel substituted quinolines were designed and synthesized, and their bio-activities were evaluated on MC65 cell protection assay. Four of the most active compounds were selected to test their enzyme inhibitory activities on GSK-3ß and assays. Among protein kinase C these compounds, 4-{[6-methoxy-4-methyl-5-(3-(trifluoromethyl)phenoxy)quinolin-8-ylamino]methyl} phenol (1.5) shows the highest MC65 cell protection and GSK-3^β enzyme inhibitory activities and potential enzyme specificity. Structureactivity relationship (SAR) was built as well, and the binding mode was simulated via computational method to interpret the observed SAR. Although additional bio-evaluation is needed, compound 1.5 is a promising lead compound for the development of more active and less toxic drug for the counteraction of AD.

The second chapter introduces the progress on the total synthesis of myriceric acid A. Myriceric acid A is a triterpene-type natural product which was isolated from the young twigs of Myrica cerifera. It is a non-peptide endotheline-1 (ET-1) receptor antagonist. The total synthesis of this natural product started from the stereoselective synthesis of bicyclic intermediate (R)-5,8a-dimethyl-3,4,8,8a-tetrahydronaphthalene-1,6(2H,7H)-dione [(-)-2.28]. Then a new method was developed to enatioselectively synthesize the tricyclic intermediate (4aR,8R,8aR)-8-(tertbutyldimethylsilyloxy)-1,4a,8a-trimethyl-4,4a,4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-decahydro phenanthren-2(3H)-[(+)-2.72]which used synthesized optically-pure (4a*R*,5*R*)-5-(*tert*one the butyldimethylsilyloxy)-1,4a-dimethyl-4,4a,5,6,7,8-hexahydronaphthalen-2(3H)-one [(-)-2.53] derived from (-)-2.28 and α -trimethylsilylvinyl ethyl ketone via a cascade reductive Michael addition - aldol condensation reaction. After functional group inter-conversion, the desired tricyclic intermediate (4a'S,8a'R)-1',1',4a',8a'-tetramethyldecahydro-1'H-spiro[[1,3]dioxolane-2,2'-phenanthren]-8'(3'H)-one [(-)-2.33] was synthesized. An intramolecular cascade Michael addition-aldol condensation reaction was designed to construct the triterpene-skeleton of myriceric acid A, and the desired starting material for this reaction was prepared with the trimethyl{(4a'R,8a'R)-1',1',4a',8a'-tetramethyl-3',4',4a',4b',5',6',8a',9',10',10a'-decahydro-1'H-

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List of Abbreviations

Αβ	Amyloid beta peptide
Ac	Acetate
AD	Alzheimer's disease
AIBN	Azobisisobutyronitrile
AMP-PNP	Adenylyl imidodiphosphate
APP	Amyloid precursor protein
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate
BBB	Blood brain barrier
BBr ₃	Boron tribromide
BF ₃ .ether	Boron triflouride etherate
CDI	Carbonyldiimidazole
CNS	Central nervous system
D-CSA	D-Camphorsulfonic acid
DCM	Dichloromethane
DBU	1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene
DIBAL-H	Diisopropylaluminum hydride
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
EC	Endothelial cell
ET-1	Endothelin-1
EtOH	Ethanol
FGI	Functional group interconversion
HCl	Hydrochloric acid
IBX	2-Iodoxybenzoic acid
IP ₃	Inositol triphosphate-3
GPCR	G-protein coupled receptors
GSK-3a	Glycogen synthase kinase-3 alpha
GSK-3β	Glycogen synthase kinase-3 beta
HMPA	Hexamethylphosphoramide

HPLC	High performance liquid chromatography
LDA	Lithium diisopropylamide
LPNM	Lithium perchlorate/Nitromethane
NaIO ₄	Sodium periodate
OsO ₄	Osmium tetraoxide
РКС	Protein kinase C
PPTS	Pyridinium <i>p</i> -toluenesulfonate
PTSA	<i>p</i> -Toluenesulfonic acid
SAR	Structure activity relationship
SR	Sarcoplasmic reticulum
SOCl ₂	Thionyl chloride
TBAF	Tetrabutylammonium fluoride
TBSC1	t-Butyldimethylsilyl chloride
TBS-OTf	t-Butyldimethylsilyl triflate
TC	Tetracycline
THF	Tetrahydrofuran
TMS	Trimethylsilyl
TMSCl	Trimethylsilylchloride

Structure-number correlation list









1.10











1.13









1.16







1.19



1.21







1.22



1.24







1.25









1.28





















1.34

















1.41

1.42







1.43









1.46









1.49

1.49

1.49





1.53















Myriceric acid A

Oleanolic acid

2.1







2.2

2.3

2.4





2.6



2.7















2.11



2.13















2.17

2.18

Ĥ Ő Ή





2.20

2.21

2.22





2.23











2.26







(-)-2.29



(+)-2.30



(+)-2.31



(-)-2.32



(+)-2.34







(-)-2.35

(-)-2.36

(-)-2.37







2.38



2.40

















2.44

(+)-2.45

2.46







2.47

2.48

2.49







2.50



















2.56

2.57

(-)-2.58













2.63

2.64







2.65



2.67











(+)-2.72

(+)-2.73



(-)-2.74

Me

_0



(-)-2.76



















(-)-2.81





2.83



2.84


































2.99

2.100



(+)-2.101



2.102



2.103



° ()



2.104

2.105

(-)-2.106

Acknowledgements

I would like to give sincere gratitude and appreciation to my major professor Dr. Duy H. Hua. Thanks for his kind support for my study in his group in the past five years; thanks for his insightful guidance for my research; thanks for his constant encouragement when I was in adversity. What I learned from him and from his laboratory will definitely benefit me a lot.

I would like to thank my Dr. Takashi Ito, Dr. Ping Li, Dr. Kun Yan Zhu and Dr. Annelise Nguyen for serving me on my committee during my Ph.D. study at Kansas State University. I also would like to thank all the other faculty and staff members in the Department of Chemistry for their kind support on my study and research for the past five years. Special thanks give to Mr. James Hodgson, Mr. Tobe Eggers and Mr. Ron Jackson for their friendship and help.

I would like to thank all former and current members in Dr. Hua's group for their friendship, encouragement and help. We shared memorable time and all the good and bad experiences together. They are: Dr. Aibin Shi, Mr. Weier Bao, Dr. Keshar Prasain, Dr. Laxman Pokhrel, Dr. Mahendra Thapa, Dr. Allan Prior, Mr. Duy Le, Ms. Thi Nguyen, Ms. Medha Jaimini Gunaratna Anhettigama Gamaralalage, Ms. Sahani Weerasekara, Ms. Man Zhang, Mr. Bo Hao and Mr. Serkan Koldas.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Chen Qiu (邱晨), for her encouragement on my study and research and sacrifice to my family. I would like to thank my parents and parents-in-law for their love and support in taking care of my family.

Chapter 1 - Synthesis of quinolines as glycogen synthase kinase 3beta (GSK 3-β) inhibitors possessing neural protective activities

1.1 Introduction – GSK-3β and its relationship with Alzheimer's disease (AD)

Glycogen synthase kinase-3 are the thirdly discovered kinases for controlling the activity of glycogen synthase enzyme, and, in human body, two isoforms of glycogen synthase kinase-3 exist, which are named as glycogen synthase kinase-3 alpha (GSK-3 α) and glycogen synthase kinase-3 beta (GSK-3 β).¹ GSK-3 β is found having a high level of concentration in central nervous system (CNS) tissue and playing an important role in many neuronal cellular activities.² The imbalanced activity of GSK-3 β is associated with many CNS degenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease (AD).³

AD now is the most common type of dementia, and about 50 - 80 % of dementia patients are diagnosed as AD patients.^{4a} Development of this disease is highly associated with the increase of age, and most of AD patients are 65 or older. This disease is aggravated over time. At the early stage, AD only induces a short-term memory loss; but the advanced-stage AD causes cognitive impairment, long term memory loss, and loss of motor functions as well.^{4b} Most AD patients die in about 9 years after the diagnose of the disease. Till now, there is still no cure for the AD because the detailed pathological mechanism is still not known. However, considering that most of AD patients are elderly and slowing down the AD development could reduce their suffer and prolong their life presently, all of the available therapies are aiming alleviate the symptoms.⁴

AD shows two main pathological characters: extracellular toxic amyloid beta (A β) oligomer deposits and intracellular fibrillary tangles.⁴ Toxic A β oligomer is composed of the toxic A β peptide which is cleaved from the amyloid precursor protein (APP), and the intracellular tangles are made of the hyper-phosphorylated tau proteins.^{4b} These toxic A β oligomer and fibrillary tangles induce the neuronal cell death.^{4b} GSK-3 β is indirectly or directly associates with the formations of A β oligomer and fibrillary tangles.³ In AD's brain, GSK-3 β is highly expressed and deregulated.³ Highly expressed GSK-3 β hyper-phosphorylates tau protein to produces fibrillary tangles.^{4b} Inhibition of GSK-3 β by lithium chloride shows protection effect on neural cells.⁵ In AD mice model, lithium chloride treatment reduces the A β oligomer

production.⁸ In clinical trial, combination of lithium with drug Divalporex which has been shown to inhibit GSK-3 β is used to reduce the hyper-phosphorylation of tau.⁸ Therefore, GSK-3 β is a potential target for alleviation of the AD symptoms.

There are only 2 types of FDA approved drugs for AD in the market now;⁶ however, these drugs either have strong side-effects or show less therapeutic effect than expected after long-term study.⁷ Research on discovering new drug with better therapeutic effect and less side-reactions for AD are highly demanded and carrying out by scientists. Drug candidates for AD which are targeting GSK-3 β have been reported as well.^{3,8,9} Among these reported inhibitors, only two candidates are currently in the clinical trial for AD, which are Np-12 (phase I)⁸ and tideglusib (phase II)⁹; however, there is still no conclusive result is reported yet. The rest of the GSK-3 β inhibitors are still in the different stages of drug discovery.⁹

Figure 1.1 : Structure of Np-12 and tideglusib



Np-12 (Phase I)

tideglusib (Phase II)

It is worthy to note that most of these reported GSK-3 inhibitors are pyrimidine analog, pyridine analog, pryarzole and thiazole analog compounds (Table 1.1).^{3,8} To expand the structural diversity of drug candidates and enhance the possibility to develop more efficitve medicine for AD, novel GSK-3 β inhibitors as AD drug candidates possessing different structural characters a.



Table 1.1 : First three of the largest groups of reported GSK-3 inhibitors ^{3,8}

In this study, a focus library of quinoline compounds were designed and synthesized as the novel type of GSK-3 β inhibitors possessing neural cell protection activities.

1.2 Design and syntheses of quinoline compounds

In this section, the design and syntheses of quinolines are described and discussed.

Initially, reported compounds $PQ-1^{10}$ and $PQ-7^{10}$ which were firstly prepared by Dr. Aibin Shi in Dr. Duy H. Hua's laboratory were tested their activities on MC65 cell protection assay, and the EC₅₀ is 147 ± 20 nM for PQ-1 and 691 ± 27 nM for PQ-7, respectively (Details about the MC65 cell assay will be introduced in the section 1.3). Structures of PQ-1 and PQ-7 are depicted in Figure 1.2. Total four substituents are attached on their quinoline core, and they are 4-methyl group, 5-(3-triflouromethylphenoxyl) group, 6-methoxyl and 8-amino group. For PQ-1 and PQ-7, the structural difference is the substituent connected at the 8-amino group. PQ-1 has an alkyl amino group, and PQ-7 contains furan moiety in the 8-amino substituent. With these positive feedbacks from neuronal cell protection assay, PQ-1 and PQ-7 were selected as the lead compounds to develop a library of novel quinolines with higher neuronal cell protection activities.

Figure 1.2 : Structure of PQ-1 and PQ-7¹⁰



Decided by the lead compounds, two categories of compounds, PQ-1 derivatives and PQ-7 derivatives, were designed and synthesized. PQ-7 derivative compounds are introduced firstly.

By altering the furan moiety with other heterocycles or aromatic structures, compounds 1.1 - 1.8 were initially designed and synthesized.

Amino quinolone 1.17^{10} was coupled with benzofuran-2-carboxylaldehyde to form compound 1.1 via reductive amination reaction (Scheme 1.1).

Scheme 1.1 : Synthesis of compound 1.1



The optimal procedure for this reductive amination reaction was explored.

Initially, acetic acid and sodium cyanoborohydride were planned to be added only after compound **1.17** and the aldehyde were completely transferred into the imine intermediate. However, after stirring at 25 $^{\circ}$ C over 14 hours, less than 10% of the starting materials were transferred into the desired imine, and the rest stayed unchanged. The imine formation is an equilibrium process. Since amino group (–NH₂) of compound **1.17** is not a strong nucleophile, the attack to the aldehyde carbonyl is demoted. Therefore, the reaction reaches equilibrium after forming little amount of imine and stop (Scheme 1.2).





The alternative strategy was to add acetic acid and sodium cyanoborohydride after compound **1.17** and aldehyde were stirred at 25 °C for 30 minutes; then, this mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 14 hours. Sodium cyanoborohydride could reduce the imine intermediate to generate desired product, and the disappearing of imine intermediate in the reaction mixture drives reaction equilibrium going forward to the right to complete the reaction. The problem of this method is that sodium caynoborohydride could also slowly reduce the aldehyde during long reaction period, and this process consumes both the aldehyde and reducing reagent. To solve this problem, excess amount of aldehyde (1.2 eq.) and sodium cyanoborohyride (3.0 eq.) are used in the reaction. This method is proven to be effective for synthesizing designed compounds, but the drawback is the yields are moderate. It might because the formed secondary amine could also undergo reductive amination reaction with the aldehyde to yield a dialkylated byproduct, which could consume the desired product.

Besides furans, sulfur-containing heterocyclic aldehydes were coupled with compound **1.17** as well. With thiazole-2-carboxylaldehyde and 5-phenyl thiophene-2-carboxylaldehyde, compound **1.2** and **1.3** were synthesized via the reductive amination reaction under the optimized condition, respectively (Scheme 1.3).

Scheme 1.3 : Syntheses compound 1.2 and 1.3



3,5-Dimethoxy-4-hydroxyl benzaldehyde, 4-hydroxyl benzaldehyde, were also coupled with compound **1.17** to give compounds **1.4** and **1.5** (Scheme 1.4).

Scheme 1.4 : Syntheses of compound 1.4 and 1.5



Bi-quinoline structures were designed as well. Amino quinoline **1.17** was treated with carboxylaldehyde substituted quinoines¹¹ to give compound **1.6** and **1.7**, respectively (Scheme 1.5).

Scheme 1.5 : Syntheses of compound 1.6 and 1.7



Till then, all of the designed compounds were the *N*-alkylated derivatives of **1.17**. To explore the potential of other functionality, an *N*-amidation product **1.8** was therefore designed and synthesized. To prepare compound **1.8**, furfural was oxidized by hydrogen peroxide with selenium dioxide as a catalyst to yield 2-furoic acid.¹² This carboxylic acid was treated with thionyl chloride (SOCl₂) to give compound **1.18** which was directly introduced into compound **1.17** in dry tetrahydrofuran (THF) solution at 0 °C to give compound **1.8** (Scheme 1.6).¹³

Scheme 1.6 : Synthesis of compound 1.8



Prepared compounds 1.1 - 1.8 were tested their cell protection activities on MC65 cell protection assay, and compound 1.5 is turned out to be the most active one with EC₅₀ = 120 ± 10 nM (Testing results are summarized in section 1.3). This compound is six times more active than PQ-7, which indicates the success of structure modification. From this stage, compound 1.5 was selected as lead compound for the further structure modification (Figure 1.3). Compounds 1.9 – 1.12 are all derived from compound 1.5.

Figure 1.3 : Structure of compound 1.5



By keeping the 8-(4-hydroxylbenzyl) amino group unchanged, 6-methoxy group of compound **1.5** was modified into 6-hydroxyl group to generate structure of compound **1.9**. To prepare **1.9**, compound **1.17** was treated with boron tribromide (BBr₃) in dry dichloromethane (DCM) over 14 hours to generated intermediate **1.19** which was coupled with 4-hydroxy benzaldehye by the same method as that for the synthesis of compound **1.5** to yield compound **1.9** (Scheme 1.7). However, the desired product **1.9** could not dissolve well in most of the common solvents. Various solvents combinations were tried for column chromatographic purification, but pure product could not be obtained. Finally, to remove the impurities, a recrystallization procedure was carried out after the column chromatography. Therefore, the overall yield of this reaction was lower than compound **1.5**.

Scheme 1.7 : Synthesis of compound 1.9



5-(3-Trifluoromethylphenoxyl) group of compound **1.5** was also modified into 5-(3-fluorophenoxyl), 5-phenoxyl and hydrogen to generate the structures of compounds **1.10**, **1.11**, **1.12**, respectively (Figure 1.3).

Figure 1.4 : Structures of designed 1.10, 1.11 and 1.12



To synthesize these designed compounds, amino quinolines **1.27**, **1.28** and **1.31** were needed to be prepared.

Amino quinolines **1.27** and **1.28** were prepared in the same method as that of compound **1.17**.¹⁰ Bromide **1.20** was treated with potassium 3-fluorophenolate and potassium phenolate respectively to give S_NAr products **1.21** and **1.22**. 3-Fluoro, an electron-withdrawing group, decreased the reactivity of the phenolate, and, therefore, the reaction yield was lower than that of **1.22**. Removals of the acetate groups of **1.21** and **1.22** were furnished by refluxing in hydrochloric acid (HCl) and ethanol (EtOH) solution to give anilines **1.23** and **1.24** respectively in quantitative yields. Methyl vinyl ketone was added dropwisely into a mixture of compound **1.23**, arsenic pentoxide hydrate in phosphoric acid at 120 °C to give nitro quinoline **1.25**. Nitro quinoline **1.26** was synthesized in the same way by using compound **1.24** as the starting material. The nitro group in compounds **1.25** and **1.26** was reduced by iron powder and acetic acid to give amino quinolines **1.27** and **1.28** (Scheme 1.8).

Scheme 1.8 : Syntheses of compounds 1.27 and 1.28



N-Acetyl-*p*-anisidine was treated with 20 % nitric acid to yield nitration–deacetylation product **1.29** in one pot. Aniline **1.29** reacted with methyl vinyl ketone, arsenic pentoxide hydrate

in phosphoric acid to furnish the synthesis of nitro quinoline **1.30**. Reduction of **1.30** with iron powder in acetic acid gave quinoline **1.31** (Scheme 1.9).

Scheme 1.9 : Synthesis of compound 1.31



Quinoline synthesis is the key step in the syntheses of designed quinolines, and a possible mechanism is proposed herein (Scheme 1.10).

Scheme 1.10 : Proposed mechanism for quinoline synthesis reaction



This quinoline synthesis reaction starts with Michael addition of the aniline $-NH_2$ to methyl vinyl ketone. This is proven by the isolation of the Michael-addition intermediate **1.35** from the synthesis of compound **1.17** (R = 3-trifluoromethylphenoxyl) (Scheme 1.11).¹⁰ Intra-molecular Friedel-Craft reaction followed by dehydration are carried out to furnish the cyclic structure construction.





An oxidation step is needed to finish the synthesis of aromatic quinoline structure. This reaction was carried out with and without argon protection, and the reaction yields did not show significant difference. This indicates that the oxidizing reagent is not the oxygen in the air. Under heating, As₂O₅ decomposes to give As₂O₃ and oxygen (Scheme 1.12);¹⁴ hence, As₂O₅ probably is the oxygen source to provide the oxygen *in situ* to furnish the oxidation. Work-up of the reaction with sodium hydroxide gave free quinoline compounds.

Scheme 1.12 : Oxygen from As₂O₅¹⁴

$$As_2O_5 \longrightarrow As_2O_3 + O_2$$

In the proposed mechanism above, the intramolecular Friedel-Craft reaction is the key step for quinoline structure construction. A detailed mechanism of this step is proposed as well to interpret the reaction outcomes. Firstly, the Michael addition products are divided into 2 groups: (1) with aryloxyl at 6-position (compound **1.32**, **1.23**, **1.24**); (2) without aryloxyl at 6-position (compound **1.30**) (Scheme 1.13).

Scheme 1.13 : Two groups of compounds for mechanism proposal



For group (1) compounds, there are two possible mechanisms for the intramolecular Friedel-Craft reaction (Scheme 1.14). Pathway (a) is the aniline nitrogen undergoes deprotonation firstly to free the long pair electrons and then donates this long pair of electrons to initiate the Friedel-Craft process; pathway (b) is the 6-oxygen donates one long pair of electrons to initiate the Friedel-Craft reaction. Considering the reaction is carried out in the highly acidic environment, the deprotonation of the aniline nitrogen could be slow. Hence, it is more reasonable that pathway (b) is the predominate route for the Friedel-Craft reaction. A di-cation intermediate **1.37** was formed after the dehydration. To stabilize the structure, the nitrogen could be easily deprotonated to yield a free amine intermediate **1.38** which is the resonance structure of compound **1.33**.

Scheme 1.14 : Possible mechanisms for the intramolecular Friedel-Craft reaction



Mechanism (b) could perfectly interpret the observed reaction outcomes. For different quinolines, the yield changes from 25 % of **1.17** [R = 3-(trifluoromethyl) phenoxyl], 35 % of **1.25** (R = 3-fluoropehnxoyl) to 45 % of **1.26** (R = phenoxyl). With stronger electron withdrawing groups attached, the reaction yield is lower. It might because that the electron withdrawing group destabilized the quinone cation intermediate **1.36**. The electron withdrawing abilities comparison is: $-CF_3 > -F > -H$; hence, the yield is **1.17** < **1.25** < **1.26**.

For the group (2) compound **1.31**, since no aryloxyl group is available at 6-position, pathway (a) is the only possible mechanism to give the desired product. Meanwhile, the disappearing of 6-aryloxyl significantly reduces the steric hindrance in the Friedel-Craft reaction step; hence, a higher yield (87 %) is achieved.

Compounds **1.10**, **1.11** and **1.12** were prepared from quinolines **1.27**, **1.28** and **1.31** respectively by using the same method as that of synthesis of compound **1.5** (Scheme 1.15).





Till now, syntheses of **PQ-7** derivative compounds are all described and discussed. The syntheses of **PQ-1** derivative compounds will be introduced.

First **PQ-1** derivative compound, compound **1.13**, was synthesized by a Michael addition reaction of compound **1.17** with acrylamide in acetonitrile (Scheme 1.16).

Scheme 1.16 : Synthesis of compound 1.13



With the synthesized amino quinolins **1.27**, **1.28** and **1.30** in hand, three new **PQ-1** derivative compounds were prepared. Compounds **1.27**, **1.28** and **1.30** were treated with iodide **1.39** and sodium bicarbonate as the base in DMF to yield *N*-substituted compounds **1.40**, **1.41**, **1.42**, respectively. The imido groups were deprotected by refluxing in hydrazine ethanol solution to give compounds **1.14**, **1.15** and **1.16** (Scheme 1.16).



Scheme 1.17 : Syntheses of compounds 1.14, 1.15, 1.16

All the designed quinoline compounds were synthesized and discussed, and, in the next section, bio-evaluation results of these novel quinoline compounds are summarized.

1.3 Bio-evaluation results for synthesized quinoline compounds

The synthesized quinoline compounds 1.1 - 1.16 were firstly treated with succinic acid to generate the corresponding succinic salt. These prepared salts were used to screen their bio-activity on MC65 cell protection assay.

MC65 cell possesses a S β C gene which could produce C99 fragment APP.¹⁵ This APP eventually could be cleaved to generate toxic A β peptide which induces cell death.¹⁵ Tetracycline (TC) is introduced to MC65 cells to suppress S β C gene's expression.¹⁵ Designed quinoline compounds were incubated with MC65 cells in the absence of TC to test their cell protection activity against the A β peptide induced cyto-toxicity.¹⁵ This work was carried out by Dr. Izumi Maezawa and Dr. Lee-Way Jin. The cell protection activity results of compounds **1.1** – **1.16** are summarized in Table 1.2.

	EC ₅₀	TD ₅₀		EC ₅₀	TD ₅₀		EC ₅₀	TD ₅₀
1.1	0.46 ±	> 50		2.39 ±	20.32 ±	1.3	0.39 ±0.02	14.50 ±
	0.10			0.06	1.22			1.68
1.4	$0.48 \pm$	2.91 ±	1.5	0.12 ±	1.38 ±	1.6	0.13 ±0.01	3.35 ±
	0.03	0.15		0.01	0.08			0.36
1.7	0.19 ±	> 50	1.8	3.47 ±	> 50	1.9	0.30 ± 0.01	3.31 ±
	0.02	> 50		0.32	> 50	0.50 ±0.	0.30 ±0.01	0.30
1.10	0.70 ±	2.60 ±	1.11	0.53 ±	4.00 ±	1.12	2.62 ± 0.15	20.54 ±
	0.01	0.20		0.01	0.38		2.02 ±0.13	0.21
1.13	0.50 ±	> 50	1.14	0.60 ±	$7.28 \pm$	1.15	0.42 ±0.01	8.16 ±
	0.02			0.02	0.25			0.01
1.16	17.62 ±	> 50	PQ-1	0.15 ±	2.09 ±	PQ-7	0.69 ± 0.03	$42.82~\pm$
	0.37			0.20	0.02			2.43

Table 1.2 : EC_{50} (µM) and TD_{50} (µM) Values of quinoline compounds on MC65 protection assay

To explore the mechanism, four of the most active compounds **1.5** (EC₅₀ = 0.12 \pm 0.01 μ M), **1.6** (EC₅₀ = 0.13 \pm 0.01 μ M), **1.7** (EC₅₀ = 0.19 \pm 0.02 μ M) and **1.9** (EC₅₀ = 0.30 \pm 0.01 μ M) were selected to test their enzyme inhibitory activities on GSK-3 β ADP-GloTM kinase assay¹⁶ and protein kinase C (PKC)-PepTagTM kinase assay¹⁷. These works were done by Sahani Weerasekara and Dr. Keshar Prasain in Dr. Duy Hua's lab.

On GSK-3 β ADP-GloTM kinase assay, there are four steps to test the enzyme inhibitory activities of designed quinolines (Figure 1.5).¹⁶ Firstly, the compound, enzyme, ATP and substrate are incubated at 25 °C for 1 hour; then, ADP-GloTM reagent is introduced to stop the enzyme reaction and deplete the unreacted ATP. Thirdly, the remaining ADP is converted into ATP by the kinase detection reagent. At last, via a luciferase/luciferin reaction, the newly synthesized ATP is used to generate a light signal which is measured by luminometer. The measure luminescence is correlated with the concentration of ADP which is generated from the kinase reaction and therefore reflects the enzyme activity.



Figure 1.5 : Procedure for operating GSK-3β ADP-GloTM kinase assay¹⁶

On PKC PepTagTM kinase assay, a dye molecule attached eleven amino acids residue is used as the substrate, and, at pH = 7.4, this substrate held +1 net charge. There are three steps to test the enzyme inhibitory activities of designed quinolines (Figure 1.5).¹⁷ Firstly, the kinase reaction is carried out by the incubation of compound with the substrate, ATP and enzyme at pH = 7.4 and 31 °C for 45 minutes. After the kinase reaction, the phosphorylated substrate would held -1 net charge at the reaction pH while the unphosphorylated substrate stays unchanged. Secondly, the enzyme is destroyed to stop the reaction, and the phosphorylated substrate and the unphosphorylated substrate are separated by electrophoresis. At last, the fluorescence intensities of the bands from the electrophoresis experiment are measured, and these intensities are correlated with the enzyme activity.



Figure 1.6 : Procedure for operating PKC PepTagTM kinase assay¹⁷

Results on the enzyme inhibitory assays are summarized in Table 1.3.

Table 1.3 : Enzyme inhibition activities of 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 and 1.9 on GSK-3β and PKC assays

Quinoline	GSK-3β	РКС
PQ-1	> 1 mM	$35 \pm 8 \text{ nM}$
PQ-7	> 1 µM	42.3 nM
1.5	35 ±6.36 nM	240 ±21.2 μM
1.6	> 1 mM	216.3 nM
1.7	>1mM	$400~\pm13.7~\mu M$
1.9	158 ±19.1 nM	$750 \pm 9.3 \ \mu M$

1.4 Discussion

Designed quinoline compounds were synthesized and evaluated their bio-activities on both cell and enzymes assays. From these bio-evaluation results, a structure-activity relationship (SAR) could be derived, which may help to the development of a higher efficient and lower toxic drug candidate for AD therapy in future. Moreover, to explore the mechanism, a computational experiment was also carried out to simulate the binding mode of the designed quinolines with GSK-3β. All of these works are discussed in this section.

1.4.1 Structure-activity relationship of the synthesized quinoline compounds

From results of MC65 cell protection assay, a SAR could be derived (Figure 1.7).

Figure 1.7 : Structures activity relationship of synthesized quinoline compounds





Structural modifications of **PQ-1** do not give a positive feedback. The new synthesized **PQ-1** analog compounds do not show better cell protection activities, and changes made on the **PQ-1**'s structure impair the bio-activity. From the result of the enzyme inhibitory assays, **PQ-1** is PKC inhibitor instead of GSK-3 β inhibitor which indicates **PQ-1** protects the neuronal cell through different mechanism. Since this research is aiming to discover a GSK-3 β inhibitor, **PQ-1** derivatives are not considered for deriving the SAR.

Among the **PQ-7** derivatives, compound **1.5** shows the highest cell protection activity and GSK-3 β inhibitory activity. Some **PQ-7** derivative compounds (compound **1.6** and **1.7**) were

also examined their GSK-3 β inhibitory activities; but the results indicate they are not the GSK-3 β inhibitors. Hence, only the compounds derived from **1.5** are used to derive the SAR.

Compound **1.5** possesses the highest cell protection activity (EC₅₀ = 120 ± 10 nM). Comparing with quinoline **1.5**, compounds **1.4** shares the same substitution groups on the 4-, 5- and 6- positions of quinoline core, and the difference is the functionality which is connected to 8- amino group. The cell protection results suggest the importance of 4-hydroxybenzyl group to the activity of designed compounds. Any changes on this portion of the molecule cause the decrease of the activity. Structure of compound **1.4** is very similar to compound **1.5**; however, the addition of two methoxyl groups on the phenyl ring decreases quinoline **1.4** 's activity (EC₅₀ = 480 ± 30 nM) four times comparing to compound **1.5**. 5-Aryloxy group is also very important. Removal of the 5-aryloxy group in compound **1.5** gives compound **1.12**, and compound **1.12** (EC₅₀ = 26.20 ± 0.15 μ M) almost lose the cell protection activity. Trifluoro group on the 5-aryloxy is also proven to be unsubstitutable for the activity, and the replacements of it with fluoro [compound **1.10** (EC₅₀ = 700 ± 10 nM)] or hydrogen [compound **1.11** (EC₅₀ = 530 ± 10 nM)] decrease the activity. Replacement of the methoxy group with hydroxyl group at 6- position [compound **1.9** (EC₅₀ = 300 ± 10 nM)] did not improve the activity neither.

In summary, 3-trifluoromethylphenoxyl at 5- position, methoxyl at 6- position and 4hydroxybenzyl at 8-amino position are all important to the designed quinoline compound activity. To modify **1.5**'s structure to get more effective GSK-3 β inhibitors, the functions of these substitutions in inhibiting GSK-3 β should be learned. The best way to acquire these information is from the co-crystal structure of GSK-3 β with compound **1.5**. However, this experiment dose not have to chance to be carried out yet. Hence, a computational docking experiment was carried out to simulate the binding mode of **1.5** to GSK-3 β . The design of the docking experiment and the results are summarized in the next section.

1.4.2 Computational experiment and the result

To understand the mechanism of 1.5's inhibitory activity on GSK-3 β , a computerdocking experiment was carried out, and the result is introduced and discussed in this section.

To begin with, the structural properties of GSK-3 β is briefly introduced herein. Figure 1.8 shows one of the reported GSK-3 β crystal structures in both cartoon and surface representations.¹⁸ GSK-3 β has a small N-terminal domain and large C-terminal domain. The

kinase domain lies in the space between these two domains and is responsible for the kinase reaction.¹⁸ This domain is divided into three regions by their functions: ATP-binding pocket, phosphate transfer region and substrate binding groove.¹⁸

Figure 1.8 : Cartoon and surface representations of GSK-3β¹⁸: (a) Cartoon representation;
(b) Surface representation (Green: carbon; Red: oxygen; Blue: nitrogen; Yellow: sulfur)



Studies indicate that some residues in the kinase domain are extremely important to the enzyme's activity.^{18,19} In the ATP-binding pocket, residues Asp133 and Val135 are suggested to be vital for the binding the ATP molecule to enzyme. Adenylyl imidodiphosphate (AMP-PNP) which has similar structure as the ATP was co-crystalized with GSK-3ß to mimic the binding mode of ATP molecule with the enzyme.¹⁹ From the structure of the co-crystal, hydrogenbonding interactions are detected between residues Asp133 and Val135 with the adenylyl group of the AMP-PNP.¹⁹ Moreover, these hydrogen-bonding interactions are conserved in the cocrystal structures of GSK-3^β with some of its ATP-competitive inhibitors, such as staurosporine, indirubin-3'-monoxime and alsterpaullone (Figure 1.9).¹⁹ In the phosphate transfer region, Lys85 and Lys183 are responsible for the enzyme's binding to the phosphates in AMP-PNP molecule.¹⁹ In the substrate binding groove, two residues, Phe67 and Try216, are suggested to control the enzyme's activity.^{3,20} F67A mutant GSK-3β lose its activity on the phosphorylation of substrate peptide, which indicates that Phe67 is vital for GSK-3β's substrate recognition.²⁰ Residue Try216 could be self-phosphorylated to be the pTry216 by GSK-3β, and pTry216 has a conformational change comparing with Try216. The enzyme is activated to hyperphosphorylate the substrate, such as tau, after Try216 is phosphoryated.²





Autodock Vina was used as the computer docking program.²¹ The 3D structure of compound **1.5** was constructed via Chem3D 11.0. The exact binding site of compound **1.5** to GSK-3 β was unknown; therefore, compound **1.5** was docked in whole kinase domain. Docking conformation of **1.5** with the lowest binding energy was supposed to simulate the real binding mode of compound **1.5**.

The crucial step for the computer docking is to choose the right crystal structure of GSK-3β, and the criterions are rationally investigated. Since computer docking by Autodock Vina is a rigid docking process,²¹ the 3D structure of GSK-3β for docking should mimic the real structure of the enzyme in the enzyme and inhibitor (compound 1.5) complex. For GSK-3 β , it has different structural characters for different types of inhibitors. If compound 1.5 is an ATPcompetitive inhibitor and binds into the ATP-binding pocket, it would block ATP molecule bind to the enzyme. Hence, the Try216 would not have chance to be phosphorylated, and the enzyme would be in an inactive state. Moreover, it is highly possible that the compound conserved some similar interactions as other ATP-competitive inhibitors do. To resemble the similar interactions, the key residues in the ATP binding pocket should have the similar conformations as those of the same residues in other known GSK-3 β -inhibitor co-crystals. If compound **1.5** is a substrate competitive inhibitor and binds to the substrate binding groove of GSK-3 β , the enzyme is highly possible in its activated state. Since residue Try216 phosphorylation is self-phosphorylation process (in other words, intramolecular process), this phosphorylation process is fast in the presence of ATP (the enzyme assay environment). When the inhibitor binds into the substrate binding groove, it is highly possible that the Try216 is phosphorylated and the enzyme is in active state. Unfortunately, the exact binding site of compound 1.5 with GSK-3 β is not clear. In other words, whether compound 1.5 is an ATP-competitive inhibitor or substrate competitive

inhibitor was not known. Hence, the protein structures for both possible cases should be considered.

Considering the ideal docking would probe the ATP binding pocket and substrate binding groove with equal chance in one experiment, the ideal protein structure should be able to perfectly mimic the real protein for each case. In other words, the ideal protein crystal structure used for docking should possess the ATP binding pocket which should be the same as the one in the inactive enzyme, and a substrate binding pocket which should be the same as the one in the active enzyme! This seemed impossible. However, after screening the available crystal structures of GSK-3 β ,²² fortunately, file 1O9U²³ is finally found to satisfy this criterion. It had the same ATP binding pocket as the inactive enzyme, and the phosphorylation of residue Try216 caused the conformational change in the substrate binding pocket compares with the inactive enzyme.²³ This enzyme is overlaid with inactive enzyme¹⁸ to show the difference in the substrate binding pocket (Figure 1.10).





Meanwhile, crystal structure 1O9U is also overlaid with the crystal structure of GSK-3 β which was complex with the known ATP-competitive inhibitor (alsterpaullone, pdb: 1Q3W)¹⁹ to compare the conformations of key residues in the ATP binding pocket. From the overlay, it is obvious that the key residues (Asp133, Val135, Lys85, Lys183) in the ATP-binding pocket and phosphate transfer region share very similar conformations. Therefore, it is highly possible that the docking environment in the ATP-binding pocket is well mimicked the "real" case if compound **1.5** is an ATP-competitive inhibitor (Figure 1.11).

Figure 1.11 : Overlay of crystal structure 1O9U (Green) with enzyme complex with ATPcompetitive inhibitor (pdb: 1Q3W) (Yellow)



Crystal structure for docking (file: 109U) was added hydrogens by MOL Probity program²⁴ before docking experiment, and the results are displayed in Figure 1.12.

Figure 1.12 : Docking result of compound 1.5 with GSK-3β



From the docking result, the conformation with lowest binding energy is displayed in Figure 1.12. Compound **1.5** binds into the substrate binding groove of GSK-3 β , instead of ATP-binding pocket. A hydrogen bonding interaction between hydroxyl group on the benzyl ring and residue Arg96 is discovered in the result. π - π Interaction is also found between the quinoline core of compound **1.5** and residue Phe67 in the computer simulation. Trifluoromethyl group is found having close contacts with residues Asp181 and Cys218.

Docking result suggests that compound **1.5** is a substrate-competitive inhibitor; hence, this could explain high enzyme inhibitory selectivity. Since GSK-3 β and PKC have distinct substrate binding areas, the substrate-competitive inhibitors "fit" for the GSK-3 β would not "fit" in PKC.





The observed SAR could also be interpreted by the docking result. In docked conformation, compound **1.5** opens its structure to support itself binds in the substrate binding groove; therefore, the "length" of the molecule is important. A shorter molecule (compound **1.16**) has less possibility to conserve this type of binding to GSK-3 β . Meanwhile, the trifluoromethyl group and 4-hydroxyl group on the benzyl ring are two terminals of the structure and have important interactions with residues of GSK-3 β to secure the binding of **1.5**. As discussed above, residue Phe67 is important for substrate recognition of the enzyme²⁰; hence, the detected π - π interaction might responsible for the deactivation of the enzyme.

To sum up, via the computational experiment, the binding mode of compound **1.5** to GSK-3 β is simulated. The importance of the required substitutions and quinoline core are demonstrated and explained. The information acquired from the SAR and computational experiment provides clues for designing more effective GSK-3 β inhibitors, and this work will be discussed in the next section.

1.4.3 Future work

The novel quinoline analog compounds with higher bio-activities and less toxicities are being expected to be developed in future. Since the most active quinoline compound till now is **1.5**, this compound is used as the lead compound. Aiding by the information obtained from the SAR analysis and computational experiment, some novel GSK-3 β inhibitors derived from **1.5** is proposed herein.

The criterions for designing new 1.5-derived inhibitors are discussed firstly. From the derived SAR, the threefold molecular structure is required for the inhibitor's activity; 4hydoxybenzyl group, 5-(3-trifluoromethylphenoxyl) group and 6-methoxyl group are also important to the quinoline **1.5**'s activity. Roles of the threefold structure and these substituents are interpreted by computer simulation. The threefold structure is essential for binding to the wide substrate binding groove of GSK-3β; 4-hydroxyl group acts as the hydrogen bond donor; trifluoromethyl group has polar-polar interactions with residues in the substrate binding groove, and quinoline core is proposed to be responsible for the deactivation of enzyme via π - π interaction with Phe67. According to these information, the new designed inhibitors should maintain the threefold structure to ensure secure binding to wide-opened area; at the two terminals of the molecule, functional groups should be carefully designed to ensure an interaction with residues in the substrate binding groove. From the rigid docking result, it is worthy to note that the quinoline core of **1.5** is not in the perfectly parallel position of the phenyl ring of Phe67, which indicates this π - π interaction may not be well-established. Since this π - π interaction is proposed to be important for enzyme's deactivation, enhancement on this π - π interaction is supposed to increase the designed inhibitor's activity. Hence, modifications made on the structure of 1.5 are aiming to improve this π - π interaction. To achieve this purpose, the stereo-position of the quinoline core could adjusted by modify the whole structure; or other aromatic moieties could be used to instead of quinoline.

Moreover, to assist design new inhibitors, two parameters, log P _{Octanol/Water} and log S, are predicted by computer simulation method for each proposed molecules. log P _{Octanol/Water} Value is used to estimate the lipophilicity of the drug candidates.²⁵ The definition is, in the mixture of octanol and water at the equilibrium, the log value of the solute concentration in octanol minus the log value of the solute concentration in water (Equation 1.1).²⁵ log P Value is important parameter for CNS drugs: with higher log P value, the drug candidate has higher chance to pass the blood-brain barrier (BBB) by diffusion, which has better bio-availability.

Equation 1.1 : Definition of log P Octanol/Water

 $\log P_{Octanol/Water} = \log c_{solute in octanol} - \log c_{solute in water} = \log [c_{solute in octanol} / c_{solute in water}]$

log S Value is also very important for the bio-availability of drug candidates. It is defined as the log value of the drug's solubility in water (Equation 1.2).²⁶ The higher of log S, the better solubility of the drug in water, and the better the drug distribution in body.²⁶ For CNS drugs, the higher log S indicates a better diffusion to penetrate the BBB to reach the brain.²⁶

Equation 1.2 : Definition of log S

$\log S = \log solubility_{water}$

The log P and log S Values could be predicated by the computer program: ALOGPS $2.1.^{27}$

Meanwhile, Lipinski's the rules-of-five for designing more drug-like molecules are also utilized to evaluate the proposed inhibitors.²⁸ The rules-of-five are including: log P should be in the range of -0.4 - +5.6; molecular weight should be in the range of 180 - 500; number of atoms should be in the range of 20 - 70; rotatable bonds should be less than 10; hydrogen bond donors should less than 5; hydrogen bonding acceptors less than or equal to 10; for CNS drugs, total nitrogen and oxygen atoms' number $[n_{(N+O)}]$ should less than or equal to 5, and the other rule is $\log P - n_{(N+O)} > 0$.²⁸

According to the discussed, three compounds are designed, and their properties are predicted and summarized in Table 1.4

	1.5	1.43	1.44	1.45
Structure	F ₃ C O Me Me ⁻⁰ HN HN OH	HO O Me Me CF ₃	F ₃ C O Me Me ^{-O} H H HN OH	HO O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O
log P _{Octanol/Water}	5.50	5.62	5.44	4.93
log S _{Water}	-6.25	-5.63	-6.20	-5.35
Molecular weight	454.15	454.15	458.18	357.14
Number of atoms	54	54	58	46
Rotatable bonds	8	8	8	7
Hydrogen bond donors	2	2	2	3
Hydrogen bond acceptors	3	3	3	1
n _(N+O)	5	5	5	4
$\log P - n_{(N+O)}$	+ 0.50	+ 0.62	+ 0.44	+0.93

Table 1.4 : Structure and predicted properties of the newly designed quinolines

By exchanging position of the terminal substituents (3-trifluoromethylphenoxyl group and 4-hydroxybenzyl group), compound **1.43** is designed. If the hydroxyl group and trifluoromethyl group of the compound **1.43** could assumable the similar binding mode as that of **1.5**, the quinoline core of **1.43** will have a chance to adjust its position towards Phe67, which may strengthen the π - π interaction. By reducing quinoline core of **1.5** into benzopiperidine, the compound **1.44** is designed. From the docking result of **1.5**, only the non-nitrogen containing aromatic ring of the quinoline has the π - π interaction with Phe67, and nitrogen containing portion of quinoline sits apart from Phe67. The piperidine of the **1.44** will have chair conformation; therefore, with the π - π interaction unchanged, this chair-conformation piperidine is expected to have a new hydrophobic-hydrophobic interaction with benzyl's methylene group of Phe67, which also could strengthen the binding of inhibitor to Phe67 of GSK-3 β . By replacing the quinoline core of **1.5** in to naphthalene, compound **1.45** is designed. The trifluoromethyl group is changed into hydroxyl group to reduce the log P value. The naphthalene core of **1.45** is expected to improve π - π interaction with Phe67.

The log P and log S values of these designed inhibitors are predicted and summarized in Table 1.4. From the results, all of these newly designed GSK-3 β inhibitors are satisfying the rules-of-five and expected to be the qualified CNS drug candidates.

Syntheses of these designed GSK-3 β inhibitors are proposed herein as well.

Compound **1.43** could be synthesized via the same synthetic route as compound **1.5**. Phenolate **1.46** will be treated with bromide **1.20** to give compound **1.47**. Following the same quinoline synthesis procedure, **1.48** will be prepared. Hydrogenantion with Pd/C as catalyst could remove the benzyl group and reduce the nitro group in one-pot to give **1.49**.²⁹ Amino quinoline **1.49** will be coupled with 3-trifluoromethyl benzaldehyde to give desired **1.43** (Scheme 1.18).

Scheme 1.18 : Synthesis of compound 1.43



Compound **1.44** could be directly generated by reduction of the quinoline of compound **1.5.** In 2010, a hydroxyapatite (HAP) supported Pd nanoparticle is reported to be used to regio-selectively reduce the quinoline in good yield (Scheme 1.19).³⁰

Scheme 1.19 : Quinoline reduction with HAP supported Pd nanoparticle³⁰



Hence, compound **1.44** could be prepared under this reduction condition with compound **1.5** as the starting material (Scheme 1.20).

Scheme 1.20 : Synthesis of compound 1.44



The synthesis of compound **1.45** could be start with the commercial available compound **1.52**. Similar as the synthesis of **1.43**, bromide **1.52** will be treated with phenolate **1.53** to generate compound **1.54**. Hydrogenantion with Pd/C as catalyst could remove the benzyl group and reduce the nitro group in **1.54** in one-pot to give **1.55**.²⁹ Compound **1.53** will coupled with 4-hydroxyl benzaldehyde to give desired **1.45** (Scheme 1.21).

Scheme 1.21 : Synthesis of compound 1.45



In summary, with the information from the SAR study and computational docking of compound **1.5**, three new GSK-3 β inhibitors are designed which will provide a direction for further investigation on discovering more effective GSK-3 β inhibitor. log P and log S Values of these proposed compounds are predicted as well, and these inhibitors are also evaluated by the rules-of-five. The designing ideas for these new inhibitors is described, and the syntheses of these compounds are also proposed.

1.4.4 Concerns

Although the bio-evaluation experiments gave very promising results, a few issues are still needed to be taken into account. Firstly, it still lacks of convincing evidence that designed quinolines could inhibit the GSK-3 β in cell system. The difficulty in solving this problem is the GSK-3 β -overexpressed cell system is difficult to obtain. Therefore, at this stage, this experiment cannot carried out. Also, whether the designed quinoline compound could reduce the hyper-phosphorylation of tau level and/or A β oligomer production in an AD mice model is needed to be determined. This experiment is crucial to predict the designed inhibitor's therapeutic effect and should be performed if the requirements for this experiment, such as funding, mice model, could be satisfied.

1.5 Conclusion

A focus library of quinoline compounds was designed, synthesized, and their bioactivities evaluated on cell and enzymes assays. Compound 1.1 - 1.7 were synthesized from 1.17 with various aldehydes via reductive amination reactions. Amide 1.8 was synthesized from 1.17 with 1.18, and compound 1.18 was prepared from furfural. A deprotection of methoxyl of 1.17 with BBr₃ was performed to give 1.19, and compound 1.19 reacted with 4-hydoxybenzaldehyde to give compound 1.9. Compound 1.27, 1.28 and 1.31 were prepared in similar reaction sequences as that of compound 1.17 from the same starting material 1.20. From 1.27, 1.28, 1.31, similar reductive amination reactions were performed with 4-hydoxybenzaldehyde to yield compound 1.10, 1.11 and 1.12. Compound 1.13 was prepared from 1.17 with acrylamide via Michael addition reaction. 1.14, 1.15 and 1.16 were synthesized via a S_N2 reaction and deprotection reaction from 1.27, 1.28 and 1.31, respectively.

Bio-activities of compounds 1.1 - 1.16 were evaluated on MC65 cell protection assay. Most of quinoline compounds were found to have cell protection activities in nanomolar ranges. Four of the most active compounds were selected to test their enzyme inhibitory activities on GSK-3 β and PKC enzyme assays. Compound 1.5 is found to be the most active compound in the synthesized quinoline compounds. A structure activity relationship of designed quinolines is derived. The binding mode of 1.5 with GSK-3 β was simulated by the computational method, and several important interactions are shown in the result. The information acquired from the SAR study and docking experiment gives clues for designing more effective GSK-3 β inhibitors, and three novel GSK-3 β inhibitors are proposed. Meanwhile, synthetic routes of these proposed inhibitors are suggested. In future, inhibition of GSK-3 β in cell system and the level of phosphorylated tau in *in vivo* AD model by quinolines' need to be performed.

1.6 Experimental Section

General procedure: Melting points were tested on Thomas Hoover capillary melting point apparatus. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were obtained at 400 MHz for ¹H and 100 MHz for ¹³C in deuteriochloroform and reported in ppm, unless otherwise indicated. Low-resolution mass spectra were taken from an API 2000-triple quadrupole ESI-MS/MS mass spectrometer (from Applied Biosystems). Benzofuran-2-carboxylaldehyde, thiazole-2-carboxylaldehyde, 5-phenyl thiophene-2-carboxylaldehyde, 3,5-dimethoxy-4-hydroxyl benzaldehyde, 4-hydroxyl benzaldehyde and furfural, and aldehydes for synthesizing compounds **1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5** and **1.8** were purchased from Aldrich chemical Co.. Arcylamide was purchase from Fisher Scientific Co. Quinoline-4-carboxylaldehyde and quinoline-8-carboxylaldehyde for synthesizing **1.6** and **1.7** were prepared by Dr. Laxman Pokerhel in Dr. Duy Hua's laboratory¹¹.

N-(Benzofuran-2-ylmethyl)-6-methoxy-4-methyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenoxy) quinolin-8-amine (1.1).



A solution of 25.0 mg (0.071 mmol) of 6-methoxy-4-methyl-5-(3-(trifluoromethyl) phenoxy)quinolin-8-amine (**1.17**) and 11.3 mg (0.078 mmol) 2-benzofurancaboxaldehyde in 1 mL of dried methanol (distilled over magnesium) was stirred under argon at 25° C for 30 minutes.

To it, 2 drops of acetic acid was added. The mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 30 minutes. Then, 3.4 mg (0.213 mmol) of sodium cyanoborohydride were added, the solution was stirred 12 hours, diluted with 30 mL of aqueous ammonium chloride solution, and extracted three times with ethyl acetate. The combined extract was washed with water, brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed using a mixture of hexane and diethyl ether (1:1) as an eluent to 22.1 mg (65% yield) of compound **1.1** as a yellow oil. ¹H NMR δ 8.44 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (td, J = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25 - 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.11 (dd, J = 4.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (s, 1H), 6.91 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H, overlap with NH), 6.71 (d, J = 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 4.74 (s, 2H, CH₂N), 3.79 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.63 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 159.8, 155.5, 155.2, 150.9, 145.3, 143.9, 143.0, 133.9, 132.1 (q, ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 32$ Hz, C-CF₃), 130.2, 128.6, 126.5, 125.3, 124.5, 124.2, 123.6 (q, ${}^{1}J_{CF} = 239$ Hz, CF₃), 123.0, 121.1, 118.3, 118.2 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 4$ Hz), 112.3 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 4$ Hz), 111.4, 104.1, 93.9, 56.8, 41.8, 23.4; MS (electrospray), m/z 501.3 (M+Na)⁺. The succinic salt of 1.1 was generated by dissolving 20 mg (0.042 mmol) of 1.1 with 5 mg (0.042 mmol) of succinic acid in 4 mL of methanol. Then the methanol was concentrated off, the residue was dissolved in 1 mL acetonitrile, diluted with 10 mL deionized water and lyophilized to give a quantitative yield of the succinic salt of 1.1.

6-Methoxy-4-methyl-N-(thiazol-2-ylmethyl)-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenoxy)quinolin-8amine (1.2).



1.2

Prepared via the same procedure as compound **1.1**. Starting from 25.0 mg (0.071 mmol) of compound **1.17** and 8.8 mg (0.078 mmol) 2-thiazolecarboxaldehyde gave 22.7 mg (72% yield) of compound **1.2** as a light yellow oil. ¹H NMR δ 8.46 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H, NH), 6.91 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 4.94 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H,

CH₂N), 3.71 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.62 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 171.2, 159.7, 150.8, 145.4, 143.6, 143.0, 142.9, 134.0, 132.1 (q, ²*J*_{CF} = 33 Hz, <u>C</u>-CF₃), 130.2, 126.8, 125.3, 124.5, 124.1 (q, ¹*J*_{CF} = 271 Hz, -CF₃), 119.6, 118.3, 118.2 (q, ³*J*_{CF} = 4 Hz), 112.3 (q, ³*J*_{CF} = 4 Hz), 94.5, 56.7, 46.3, 23.4; MS (electrospray ionization), m/z 468.2 (M+Na)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.2** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by dissolving 20 mg (0.045 mmol) of **1.2** and 5.3 mg (0.045 mmol) of succinic acid in 4 mL methanol.

6-Methoxy-4-methyl-N-[(5-phenylthiophen-2-yl) methyl]-5-(3-trifluoromethyl phenoxy) quinolin -8 - amine (1.3).



Prepared via the same procedure as compound **1.1**. Starting from 25.0 mg (0.071 mmol) of compound **1.17** and 12.6 mg (0.078 mmol) of 5-phenyl thiophene-2-carboxaldehyde gave 27.1 mg (78% yield) of compound **1.3** as a green oil. ¹H NMR δ 8.44 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 – 7.19 (m, 6H), 7.11 – 7.08 (m, 2H), 6.93 – 6.86 (m, 2H), 6.62 (s, 1H), 4.75 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 3.78 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.62 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 159.8, 150.9, 145.3, 144.0, 143.9, 142.9, 142.2, 134.6, 134.0, 132.1 (q, ² $_{CF} = 32$ Hz, C-CF₃), 130.2, 129.1, 127.6, 126.5, 126.4, 125.9, 125.3, 124.5, 124.1 (q, ¹ $_{JCF} = 270$ Hz, CF₃), 123.0, 118.3, 118.2 (q, ³ $_{JCF} = 4$ Hz), 112.3 (q, ³ $_{JCF} = 4$ Hz), 94.1, 56.8, 43.6, 23.3; MS (electrospray), m/z 521.0 (M+H)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.3** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by starting with 20 mg (0.040 mmol) of **1.3** and 4.8 mg (0.040 mmol) of succinic acid.
2,6-Dimethoxy-4-{[6-methoxy-4-methyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenoxy)quinolin-8-ylamino]methyl}phenol (1.4).



Prepared via the same procedure as compound **1.1**. Starting from 25.0 mg (0.071 mmol) of compound **1.17** and 14.2 mg (0.078 mmol) of 3, 5-dimethoxy-4-hydroxybenzaldehyde gave 27.3 mg (75% yield) of compound **1.4** as a yellow solid. Melting point: 173 - 175 °C; ¹H NMR δ 8.41 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.94 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (bs, 1H, OH), 6.71 (s, 2 H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 5.55 (s, 1H, NH), 4.48 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 6H, 2 OMe), 3.75 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.62 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 159.9, 151.0, 147.5, 145.1, 144.6, 142.9, 134.2, 134.0, 132.1 (q, ² $_{JCF} = 33$ Hz, C-CF₃), 130.2, 130.1, 126.2, 125.3, 124.5, 124.1 (q, ¹ $_{JCF} = 271$ Hz, CF₃), 118.4, 118.2 (q, ³ $_{JCF} = 4$ Hz), 112.1 (q, ³ $_{JCF} = 4$ Hz), 104.5, 93.8, 56.7 (OMe), 56.6 (2 OMe), 48.7, 23.4; MS (electrospray), m/z 537.5 (M+Na)⁺, 515.2 (M+H)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.4** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by starting with 20 mg (0.039 mmol) of **1.4** and 4.5 mg (0.039 mmol) of succinic acid.

4-{[6-Methoxy-4-methyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenoxy)quinolin-8-ylamino]methyl} phenol (1.5).



А solution of 25.0 (0.071)mmol) of 6-methoxy-4-methyl-5-(3mg (trifluoromethyl)phenoxy)quinolin-8-amine (1.17) and 9.5 mg (0.078 mmol) **p**hydoxybenzaldehyde in 1 mL of dried methanol (distilled over magnesium) was stirred under argon at 25°C for 30 minutes. To it, 2 drops of acetic acid was added. The mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 1 hour. Then, 13.4 mg (0.213 mmol) of sodium cyanoborohydride were added, the solution was stirred 12 hours, diluted with 30 mL of aqueous ammonium chloride solution, and extracted three times with ethyl acetate. The combined extract was washed with water, brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed using a mixture of hexane and diethyl ether (1:1). The column purified product was washed with 3 mL hexane and diethyl ether (1:1) to give pure **1.5** 26.4 mg (82 %) as yellow solid. Melting point: $170 - 171^{\circ}$ C; ¹H NMR δ 8.41 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 - 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.25 - 7.21 (m, 1H), 7.11 - 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.93 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.71 (s, 1H, OH), 6.47 (s, 1H), 4.80 (s, 1H, -NH), 4.48 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 3.74 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.61 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 159.9, 155.3, 151.1, 145.1, 144.5, 143.1, 133.9, 132.2 (q, ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 33$ Hz, C-CF₃), 130.9, 130.2, 129.3, 126.1, 125.2, 124.6, 124.2 (q, ${}^{1}J_{CF} = 271$ Hz, CF₃), 118.4, 118.2 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 4$ Hz), 115.8, 112.3 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 4$ Hz) 4 Hz), 93.8, 56.7, 47.8, 23.4; MS (electrospray), m/z 477.0 (M+Na)⁺, 455.1 (M+H)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.5** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by starting with 20 mg (0.044 mmol) of 1.5 and 5.2 mg (0.044 mmol) of succinic acid.

6-Methoxy-4-methyl-N-(quinolin-4-ylmethyl)-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenoxy)quinolin-8amine (1.6).



А solution of 25.0 (0.071)6-methoxy-4-methyl-5-(3mg mmol) of (trifluoromethyl)phenoxy)quinolin-8-amine (1.17) and 12.5 mg (0.078 mmol) quinoline-4caboxaldehyde in 1 mL of dried methanol (distilled over magnesium) was stirred under argon at 25°C for 30 minutes. To it, 4 drops of acetic acid was added. The mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 1 hour. Then, 3.4 mg (0.213 mmol) of sodium cyanoborohydride were added, the solution was stirred 12 hours, diluted with 30 mL of aqueous ammonium chloride solution, and extracted three times with ethyl acetate. The combined extract was washed with water, brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed using a mixture of hexane and diethyl ether (1:1). The column purified product was washed with 3 mL hexane and diethyl ether (1:1) to give pure **1.6** 28.3 mg (75 %) as yellow solid. Melting point: 155 °C – 159 °C. ¹H NMR: δ 8.88 (d, J = 4.4Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (s, 1H), 7.00 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.40 (s, 1H), 5.09 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 3.65 (s, 3H), 2.65 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR: δ 159.8, 151.0, 150.8, 148.6, 145.4, 144.1, 144.0, 143.1, 134.0, 132.2 (q, ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 33$ Hz, C-CF₃), 130.7, 130.2, 129.6, 127.1, 126.8, 126.7, 125.4, 124.7, 124.2 (q, ${}^{1}J_{CF} = 271$ Hz, CF₃), 123.0, 119.5, 118.4, 118.2 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 4$ Hz), 112.3 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 4$ Hz), 93.9, 56.8, 44.9, 23.3; MS, m/z 490.2 $(M+H)^+$. Succinic salt of **1.6** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by starting with 20 mg (0.041 mmol) of **1.6** and 4.8 mg (0.040 mmol) of succinic acid.

6-Methoxy-4-methyl-N-(quinolin-8-ylmethyl)-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenoxy) quinolin -8-amine (1.7).



Prepared via the same as compound **1.4**. Starting from 25.0 mg (0.071 mmol) of compound **1.17** and 12.2 mg (0.078 mmol) of quinoline-8-caboxaldehyde gave 26.5 mg (76% yield) of compound **1.7** as yellow solid. Melting point: 158 - 160 °C; ¹H NMR δ 9.05 (m, 1H), 8.42 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09 – 7.07 (m, 3H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 5.31 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 3.65 (s, 3H, -OMe), 2.61 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 160.0, 151.2, 149.8, 146.8, 145.0, 144.8, 142.7, 137.0, 136.7, 134.1, 132.1 (q, ²*J*_{CF} = 32 Hz, <u>C</u>-CF₃), 130.2, 128.6, 128.1, 127.4, 126.7, 125.9, 125.2, 124.5, 124.2 (q, ¹*J*_{CF} = 270 Hz, CF₃), 121.4, 118.3, 118.1 (q, ³*J*_{CF} = 3 Hz), 112.3 (q, ³*J*_{CF} = 3 Hz), 93.8, 56.7 (OMe), 43.8 (CH₂N), 23.4 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 512.2 (M+Na)⁺, 490.2 (M+H)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.7** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by starting with 20 mg (0.041 mmol) of **1.7** and 4.8 mg (0.040 mmol) of succinic acid.

N-[6-Methoxy-4-methyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenoxy)quinolin-8-yl]furan-2-carboxamide (1.8).



Furfural (200 mg, 2.1 mmol), selenium dioxide (9 mg, 0.08 mmol) and 280 mg (4.2 mmol) of 50 % hydrogen peroxide were mixed with 10 mL THF. This mixture was heated to reflux for 3 hours and cooled to room temperature, diluted with 10 mL ethyl acetate. This mixture was washed with

5 % aq. sodium hydroxide. Obtained aqueous solution was acidified with 2N HCl to $pH = 3 \sim 4$ and extracted with ethyl acetate 3 times. The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated to give 2-furoic acid 200 mg (98 % yield) which is pure enough to do next step.

12 mg of 2-Furoic acid (0.11 mmol) was refluxed in 2 mL thionyl chloride under argon. The excess thionyl chloride was distilled off under vacuum to give compound 1.18 with quantitative yield. Compound **1.18** was dissolved in 1 mL dry THF, and this solution was cooled to -78°C. To this solution was added compound 1.17 (35 mg, 0.11 mmol) in 1 mL THF. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C until all the 1.17 was dissolved. Then this solution was warmed to 25 °C and stirred overnight. . The reaction solution was diluted with aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution, and extracted three times with ethyl acetate. The combined extract was washed with water, brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed using a mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate (1:1) as an eluent to give 30.5 mg (75% yield) of compound **1.8** as a white solid. Melting point: 201 - 204°C; ¹H NMR δ 11.0 (s, 1H, -NH), 9.0 (s, 1H), 8.60 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.94 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.70 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 169.3, 159.1, 156.8, 153.4, 150.0, 148.4, 146.6, 145.0, 143.6, 134.3 (q, $^{2}J_{CF} = 96$ Hz, <u>C</u>-CF₃), 131.5, 130.4, 125.4, 125.1, 122.7 (q, $^{1}J_{CF} = 278$ Hz, CF₃), 118.7, 118.3 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 4$ Hz), 115.5, 112.8, 112.4 (q, ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 4$ Hz), 105.3, 56.8 (OMe), 23.4 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 465 (M+Na)⁺, 443.3 (M+H)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.8** was prepared in the same way as compound 1.1 by starting with 30 mg (0.068 mmol) of 1.8 and 8.1 mg (0.068 mmol) of succinic acid.



1.19

To compound **1.17** (98.2 mg, 0.282 mmol) in 2 ml dried dichloromethane (distilled over calcium hydride) at 0 °C was added 1 ml 1.0 M BBr₃'s dichloromethane solution (4.0 eq); then this mixture was warmed to 25°C and stirred overnight. The reaction solution was diluted with aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution, and extracted three times with dichloromethane. The combined extract was washed with water, brine, dried (MgSO₄), and concentrated to give 78.2 mg of compound **1.19** as brown solid which is pure enough for next step. Melting point: 133 - 135°C; ¹H NMR δ 8.46 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (s, 1H), 5.40 (bs, 1H, OH), 5.30 – 5.10 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 2.55 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 159.1, 147.8, 145.4, 144.2, 141.8, 134.9, 133.1 (q, ²*J*_{CF} = 37 Hz, <u>C</u>-CF₃) 130.9, 125.1, 124.5, 124.2, 123.0 (q, ¹*J*_{CF} = 270 Hz, CF₃), 119.5, 118.2 (q, ³*J*_{CF} = 4 Hz), 112.5 (q, ³*J*_{CF} = 4 Hz), 100.5, 22.7 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 335.1 (M+H)⁺.

8-(4-Hydroxybenzylamino)-4-methyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenoxy)quinolin-6-ol (1.9).



50.0 mg (0.149 mmol) of compound **1.19** was stirred with 20.0 mg (0.163 mmol) of p-hydroxybenzaldehyde in 2 mL dry methanol for 30 minutes until the solid dissolved. Then 3 drops of acetic acid was injected, and this brown mixture was stirred for 30 minutes at 25 °C. To it 28.5 mg (0.450 mmol) of sodium cyanoborohydride were added, the solution was stirred 12 hours. Yellow solid participated out from the solution. This mixture was diluted with 30 mL of aqueous ammonium chloride solution, and extracted three times with ethyl acetate. The

combined extract was washed with water, brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed using a mixture of hexane and diethyl ether (1:1) as an eluent; the obtained product was recrystallized with 2 mL of hexane and diethyl ether (1:1) to give 34.2 mg (52% yield) of compound **1.10** as yellow solid; mp: 194 - 195°C; ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*6) δ 9.64 (bs, 1H, NH), 9.28 (s, 1H, OH), 8.37 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 6.97 – 6.93 (m, 2H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.36 (s, 1H), 4.32 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H), 2.51 (s, 3H, Ar-Me; overlap with DMSO-*d*6 signal); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*6) δ 160.2, 157.1, 149.5, 144.4, 144.37, 141.3, 133.6, 131.6, 130.9 (q, ²*J*_{*CF*} = 31 Hz, -<u>C</u>-CF₃), 130.1, 129.1 125.5, 124.6, 124.5 (q, ¹*J*_{*CF*} = 270 Hz, CF₃), 123.1, 119.5, 118.3 (q, ³*J*_{*CF*} = 4 Hz), 115.9, 112.0 (q, ³*J*_{*CF*} = 4 Hz), 97.2, 46.7 (CH₂N), 23.1 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 441.5 (M+H)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.9** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by starting with 30 mg (0.068 mmol) of **1.9** and 8.1 mg (0.068 mmol) of succinic acid.

4-Acetamino-5-nitro-2-(3-fluorophenyloxy) anisole (1.21).



1.21

Mixture of 3-fluorophenol (300.0 mg, 2.678 mmol) and potassium *t*-butoxide (300.5 mg, 2.678 mmol) in 10 mL dried *t*-butanol (distilled over sodium) was stirred at 25 °C for 12 hours under argon. Then, *t*-butanol was concentrated off under vacuum to yield the potassium 3-fluorophenolate as a yellow solid. The yielded 3-fluorophenolate in 4 mL dry DMF (distilled over calcium hydride) was added into *N*-(5-bromo-4-methoxy-2-nitrophenyl)acetamide **1.20** (722.5 mg, 2.500 mmol) in 4 mL dry DMF at 60 °C under argon. Then this solution was stirred at 120°C for 24 hours. The cooled solution was poured onto ice-water with vigorous stirring. The participated solid was collected by filtration and recrystallized with ethanol to give 520.5 mg (65% yield) of compound **1.21** as a light yellow solid. Melting point: 125 - 126°C; ¹H NMR δ 10.46 (s, 1H, NH), 8.37 (s, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 7.37 (td, *J* = 8.4, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (td, *J* = 7.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dt, *J* = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.23 (s, 3H, Me);

¹³C NMR δ 169.2 (C=O), 164.7 (d, ¹*J*_{*CF*} = 247 Hz, CF), 156.2 (d, ³*J*_{*CF*} = 11 Hz), 152.9, 145.7, 131.141 (d, ³*J*_{*CF*} = 10 Hz), 131.137, 115.4 (d, ⁴*J*_{*CF*} = 3.6 Hz), 112.3 (d, ²*J*_{*CF*} = 21 Hz), 110.7, 108.7, 107.8, 107.5, 56.7 (OMe), 25.8 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 343.3 (M+Na)⁺.

4-Acetamino-5-nitro-2-phenyloxyanisole (1.22).



1.22

Prepared via the same procedure as compound **1.21**. Potassium phenolate was made from 360 mg (3.825 mmol) of phenol and 429.3 mg (3.825 mmol) of potassium *t*-butoxide. Starting from the obtained phenolate and compound **1.20** (982 mg, 3.400 mmol) gave 821.0 mg (yield 80%) of compound **1.22** as yellow solid. Melting point: 124 - 126°C; ¹H NMR δ 10.46 (s, 1H, NH), 8.25 (s, 1H), 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.49 - 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.29 - 7.22 (m, 1H), 7.12 - 7.09 (m, 2H), 3.96 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.23 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 169.2, 154.7, 154.3, 145.4, 131.4, 130.4, 125.8, 120.4, 109.20, 109.18, 108.48, 108.47, 56.7 (OMe), 25.7 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 325.3 (M+Na)⁺.

4-Amino-5-nitro-2-(3-fluorophenyloxy) anisole (1.23).



1.23

Compound **1.21** (310.0 mg, 0.968 mmol) was stirred with 35 mL conc. HCl and ethanol (1:7)'s solution at reflux for 2 hours. This solution was poured onto ice-water mixture, stirred for 30 minutes. The resulted solid was collected by filtration, washed with water, vacuum dried to give 240.3 mg of **1.23** (95 %, yield) as organge solid which is pure enough for next step. Melting point: 120 - 121°C; ¹H NMR δ 7.70 (s, 1 H), 7.34 (td, *J* = 8.4, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (td, *J* = 7.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dt, *J* = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H, Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dt, *J* = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H, Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dt, *J* = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H, Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dt, *J* = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H, Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dt, *J* = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H, Hz, 1H), 6.87 (dz, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dz, *J* = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H, Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dz, *J* = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H, Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dz, *J* = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H, Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dz, *J* = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H, Hz, 1H), 6.81 (dz, *J* = 9.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H, Hz, 1H), 6.81 (s, 2H, Hz, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.96 (s, 2H, Hz, 1H), 6.81 (s, 2H, Hz,

NH₂), 3.90 (s, 3H, OMe); ¹³C NMR δ 163.6 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 247 Hz, CF), 156.2 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 10 Hz), 154.4, 142.2, 141.9, 131.1 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 10 Hz), 126.7, 115.7 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 3 Hz), 112.2 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 20.6 Hz), 108.3, 107.9 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 24 Hz), 106.1, 56.6 (OMe); MS (electrospray), m/z 279.2 (M+H)⁺.

4-Amino-5-nitro-2-phenyloxyanisole (1.24).



1.24

Prepared via the same procedure as compound **1.23**. Deprotection of compound **1.22** (260.0 mg, 0.839 mmol) gave 213.7 mg (98% yield) of **1.24** as yellow solid. Melting point: $162 - 163^{\circ}$ C; ¹H NMR δ 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.44 - 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.27 - 7.23 (m, 1H), 7.12 - 7.09 (m, 2H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 6.10 - 5.3 (bs, 2 H, NH₂), 3.92 (s, 3H, OMe); ¹³C NMR δ 155.8, 154.7, 142.1, 142.0, 130.4, 125.6, 120.8, 108.0, 104.6, 56.6 (OMe); MS (electrospray), m/z 261.2 (M+H)⁺.

6-Methoxy-4-methyl-8-nitro-5-(3-fluorophenyloxy)quinoline (1.25).



A mixture of compound **1.23** (240.0 mg, 0.863 mmol) and H₃AsO₄ (395.2 mg, 1.736 mmol) in 3 mL 85 % H₃PO₄ was heated to 120 °C. Methyl vinyl ketone (90.8 mg, 1.290 mmol) was added dropwise into this mixture. After stirring for 30 minutes, this dark solution was quickly poured onto ice-water mixture. This mixture was basified to pH = \sim 10 with 2N NaOH, and extracted with dichloromethane 3 times. The combined extract was washed with water, brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed using a mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate (2:1) as an eluent to give 99.0 mg (35% yield) of compound **1.25** as brown solid. Melting point: 167 - 169°C; ¹H NMR δ 8.76 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.28 - 7.21, (m, 2H), 6.78 (td, *J* = 2.4, 0.16 Hz, 1H), 6.76 - 6.56 (m, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.73 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 163.9 (d, ¹*J_{CF}* = 246 Hz, CF), 159.1 (d, ³*J_{CF}* = 10 Hz), 150.9, 148.4, 146.9, 143.9, 140.1, 136.2,

130.8 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CF} = 10$ Hz), 125.9, 125.3, 111.9, 110.9 (d, ${}^{4}J_{CF} = 3$ Hz), 109.7 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 21$ Hz), 103.3 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CF} = 25$ Hz), 57.4 (OMe), 23.4 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 329.3 (M+H)⁺.

6-Methoxy-4-methyl-8-nitro-5-phenyloxyquinoline (1.26).



1.26

Prepared via the same procedure as compound **1.25**. Starting from methyl vinyl ketone (89.8 mg, 1.275 mmol), **1.24** (220.0 mg, 0.846 mmol), H₃AsO₄ (387.0 mg, 1.689 mmol) and 3 mL 85% H₃PO₄ gave 118.0 mg (45 % yield) of compound **1.26** as brown solid. Melting point: 170 - 172°C; ¹H NMR δ 8.76 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.28 - 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81 - 6.78 (m, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.73 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 158.0, 150.9, 148.6, 146.5, 144.3, 140.8, 136.4, 130.4, 130.0, 125.8, 125.5, 122.7, 120.8, 115.2, 112.2, 57.4 (OMe), 23.5 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 311.2 (M+H)⁺.

8-Amino-6-methoxy-4-methyl-5-(3-fluorophenyloxy)quinoline (1.27).



1.27

Compound **1.25** (35.0 mg, 0.106 mmol) and iron powder (33.6 mg, 0.636 mmol) was mixed with 5 mL aqueous 10 % AcOH solution and heated to reflux for 2 hours. The mixture was cooled to 25 °C and diluted with water. This mixture was firstly extracted with 20 mL THF, then, followed by diethyl ether 2 times. The combined organic solution was washed with water and brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed using a mixture of hexane and diethyl ether (1:1) as an eluent to give 29.0 mg (92% yield) of compound **1.27** as yellow solid. Melting point: 146 - 147 °C; ¹H NMR δ 8.45 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 4 Hz, 1H), 6.8 (s, 1H), 6.67 (td, *J* = 8.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (dt, *J*

= 10.9, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 3.85 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.62 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 164.0 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 244 Hz), 161.0 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 10 Hz), 150.7, 145.6, 143.6, 143.0, 134.0, 130.4 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 9 Hz), 127.6, 125.1, 124.7, 111.0 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 3 Hz), 108.4 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 21 Hz), 102.9 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 25 Hz), 98.0, 56.4 (OMe), 22.9 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 299.3 (M+H)⁺.

8-Amino-6-methoxy-4-methyl-5-phenyloxyquinoline (1.28).



1.28

Prepared via the same procedure as compound **1.27**. Starting from compound **1.26** (57 mg, 0.184 mmol), iron (62.0 mg, 1.100 mmol) and 10 mL aqueous 10% AcOH solution gave 47.4 mg (92% yield) of compound **1.28** as brown solid. Melting point: 145 - 146 °C; ¹H NMR δ 8.44 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.26 - 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.03 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (t, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.79 - 6.76 (m, 3H), 5.15 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 3.78 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.63 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR δ 159.7, 150.8, 145.5, 143.3, 143.26, 134.1, 129.7, 128.0, 125.0, 124.9, 121.5, 115.0, 98.4, 56.8 (OMe), 23.4 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 281.4 (M+H)⁺.

4-Methoxy-2-nitrobenzenamine (1.29)



1.29

N-Acetyl-*p*-anisidine (2.0 g, 12.0 mmol) was mixed with 20 % nitric acid, and this mixture was heated to reflux for 1 h and poured onto the ice-water mixture. After vigorous stirring for 10 minutes, the solid was collected by filtration to give crude product. The crude product was purified by recrystallization in ethanol to give 413 mg (33 % yield) of compound **1.29** as brown solid. ¹H NMR δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H); MS, m/z 169.0 (M+H)⁺.

6-methoxy-4-methyl-8-nitroquinoline (1.30).



1.30

Prepared via the same procedure as compound **1.25**. Starting from methyl vinyl ketone (275 mg, 3.93 mmol), **1.29** (440.0 mg, 2.62 mmol), H₃AsO₄ (1.20 g, 5.24 mmol) and 12 mL 85% H₃PO₄ gave 500.0 mg (87 % yield) of compound **1.30** as brown solid. Melting point: 159 - 162 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.77 (d, *J* = 4 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.33 - 7.34 (m, 1H), 4.00 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.70 (s, 3H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR δ 156.1, 149.9, 143.4, 135.3, 130.3, 123.8, 115.6, 106.2, 56.4 (OMe), 19.4 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 241.0 [M+Na]⁺, 219.1 [M+H].

8-Amino-6-methoxy-4-methylquinoline (1.31).



1.31

Prepared via the same procedure as compound **1.27**. Starting from compound **1.30** (250 mg, 1.15 mmol), iron (385.0 mg, 6.88 mmol) and 60 mL aqueous 10% AcOH solution gave 212 mg (98% yield) of compound **1.31** as brown solid. Melting point: 88 - 91 °C; ¹H NMR δ 8.48 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.55 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 3.80 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.61 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR δ 158.8, 145.8, 144.8, 142.9, 135.1, 129.9, 122.8, 101.2, 91.5, 55.4 (OMe), 19.4 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 189.3 [M+H].

4-{[5-(3-Fluorophenoxy)-6-methoxy-4-methylquinolin-8-ylamino]methyl}phenol (1.10).



Prepared via the same procedure same as compound **1.5**. Starting from compound **1.27** (34.0 mg, 0.114 mmol) and *p*-hydroxbenzaldehyde (15.3 mg, 0.125 mmol) gave 29.2 mg (65 %) of compound **1.12** as yellow solid. Melting point: 168 - 169 °C; ¹H NMR δ 8.41 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (dt, *J* = 8.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (dd, *J* = 4.4, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.66 (td, *J* = 6, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 6.62 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 0.4 Hz, 1H), 6.51 - 6.49 (m, 3H), 5.02 (s, 1H, OH), 4.44 (s, 2H, CH₂N), 3.79 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.65 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 164.0 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 247 Hz), 161.2 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 10 Hz), 155.4, 151.2, 145.0, 144.3, 143.4, 133.7, 130.7, 130.4 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 10 Hz), 129.4, 126.4, 125.2, 124.7, 115.8, 111.0 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 3 Hz), 108.3 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 21 Hz), 103.0 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 21 Hz), 93.9, 56.8 (OMe), 47.8 (CH₂N), 23.4 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 427.1 (M+Na)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.10** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by starting with 20 mg (0.047 mmol) of **1.10** and 5.5 mg (0.047 mmol) of succinic acid.

4-[(6-methoxy-4-methyl-5-phenoxyquinolin-8-ylamino)methyl]phenol (1.11).



Prepared via the same procedure same as compound **1.5**. Starting from compound **1.28** (58.0 mg, 0.207 mmol) and *p*-hydroxbenzaldehyde (27.8 mg, 0.228 mmol) gave 73.9 mg (84 %) of compound **1.11** as yellow solid. Melting point: 181 - 182 °C; ¹H NMR δ 8.41 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.31 - 7.23 (m, 4H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.81 - 6.79 (m, 4H), 6.54

(s , 1H), 6.53 (bs, 1H, OH), 6.08 (bs, 1H, NH), 4.45 (s, 2H, CH₂N), 3.79 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.67 (s, 3H, Me); 13 C NMR δ 159.8, 155.4, 151.3, 144.9, 144.0, 143.7, 133.8, 130.7, 129.7, 129.4, 126.8, 125.04, 125.0, 121.4, 115.7, 115.1, 94.32, 94.30, 56.9 (OMe), 47.8 (CH₂N), 23.5 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 409.2 (M+Na)⁺, 387.1 (M+H)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.11** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by starting with 20 mg (0.052 mmol) of **1.11** and 6.1 mg (0.052 mmol) of succinic acid.

8-Amino-6-methoxy-4-methylquinoline (1.12).



Prepared via the same procedure same as compound **1.5**. Starting from compound **1.31** (100.0 mg, 0.532 mmol) and *p*-hydroxbenzaldehyde (71.4 mg, 0.585 mmol) gave 114.2 mg (73%) of compound **1.12** as yellow solid. Melting point: 164 °C; ¹H NMR δ 8.43 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (bs, 1H, -OH), 6.34 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (bs, 1H, -NH), 4.38 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H, -OMe), 2.62 (s, 3H, Ar-Me); ¹³C NMR δ 159.4, 155.4, 146.2, 144.2, 143.4, 134.8, 130.8, 129.9, 129.3, 122.9, 115.6, 97.2, 89.3, 55.4, 47.5, 19.5; MS, m/z 295.2 (M+H)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.12** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by starting with 20 mg (0.068 mmol) of **1.12** and 8.1 mg (0.068 mmol) of succinic acid.

6-Methoxy-8- (3-phtalimidopropylamino)-4-methyl-5-(3-fluorophenyloxy)quinoline (1.33).



1.33

The solution of compound **1.27** (25.0 mg, 0.084 mmol), 3-iodopropylphthalimide (26.0 mg, 0.084 mmol) and NaHCO₃ (7.0 mg, 0.084 mmol) mixed with 0.5 mL dry DMF (distilled over calcium hydride) under argon. This mixture was heated to 80 °C for 48 hours. After cooling to 25 °C, this mixture was diluted with water, extracted with ethyl acetate 3 times, washed with water, brine, dried (MgSO₄), concentrated, and column chromatographed using a mixture of hexane and diethyl ether (1:1) as an eluent to recover 13.5 mg of compound **1.27** and give 17.0 mg (85% yield, basing on recovered compound **1.27**) of compound **1.33** as yellow solid. Melting point: 146 - 147 °C; ¹H NMR δ 8.36 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.86 - 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.73 - 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.18 (dt, *J* = 7.2, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 4 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (td, *J* = 8.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (bs, 1H, -NH), 6.50 - 6.42 (m, 2H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 3.83 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.43 (q, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 2.60 (s, 3H, Ar-Me), 2.19 (pent, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, CH₂); ¹³C NMR δ 168.7 (C=O), 163.9 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 244 Hz), 161.2 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 10 Hz), 151.1, 144.9, 144.3, 142.8, 134.2, 132.3, 130.4 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 10 Hz), 126.1, 125.1, 124.5, 123.5, 111.0 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 3 Hz), 108.3 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 21 Hz), 102.9 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 25 Hz), 93.1, 56.9 (OMe), 41.2 (CH₂N), 36.2 (CH₂N), 28.2 (CH₂), 23.3 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 508.2 (M+Na)⁺, 486.2 (M+H)⁺.

6-Methoxy-8- (3-phtalimidopropylamino)-4-methyl-5-phenyloxyquinoline (1.34).



1.34

Prepared via the same procedure as compound **1.33**. Starting from compound **1.28** (37.0 mg, 0.133 mmol), 3-iodopropylphthalimide (41.0 mg, 0.133 mmol) and NaHCO₃ (12.0 mg, 0.133 mmol) gave 17.3 mg (89 % yield, basing on the recovered compound **1.28**) of compound **1.34** and recovered compound **1.28** 27.1 mg. Melting point: 164 - 165 °C; ¹H NMR δ 8.36 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.85 - 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.72 - 7.69 (m, 2H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.49 - 6.46 (m, 2H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 3.83 (s, 1H, OMe), 3.43 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 2.61 (s, 3H, Ar-Me), 2.20 (pent, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, CH₂); ¹³C NMR δ 168.7, 159.8, 151.2, 144.9, 144.0, 143.0, 134.2, 134.0, 132.3,

129.7, 126.5, 125.0, 124.8, 123.5, 121.4, 115.1, 93.4, 57.0 (OMe), 41.2 (CH₂N), 36.2 (CH₂N), 28.2 (CH₂), 23.3 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 468.3 (M+H)⁺.

2-[3-(6-Methoxy-4-methylquinolin-8-ylamino)propyl]isoindoline-1,3-dione (1.35).



1.35

Prepared via the same procedure as compound **1.33**. Starting from compound **1.31** (70.0 mg, 0.372 mmol), 3-iodopropylphthalimide (115.0 mg, 0.372 mmol) and NaHCO₃ (31.0 mg, 0.372 mmol) gave 57.3 mg (86 % yield, basing on the recovered compound **1.31**) of compound **1.35** and recovered compound **1.31** 35.5 mg. ¹H NMR δ 8.40 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.88 - 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.72 - 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 6.41 - 6.40 (m, 2H, ArH & NH), 6.28 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.87 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 3.36 (q, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 2.59 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.13 (pent, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, CH₂); ¹³C NMR δ 168.7 (CO), 159.3, 146.3, 144.3, 142.8, 135.0, 134.2, 132.3, 129.7, 123.5, 122.9, 96.4, 89.0, 55.4 (OMe), 40.9 (CH₂N), 36.2 (CH₂N), 28.1 (CH₂), 19.5 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 398.0 [M+Na]⁺, 376.3 [M+H]⁺.

3-[6-Methoxy-4-methyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenoxy)quinolin-8ylamino]propanamide (1.13).



1.13

Compound **1.17** (70.0 mg, 0.201 mmol) and acrylamide (14.3 mg, 0.201 mmol) was dissolved in 3 mL acetonitrile in a sealed tube. The system was degased with argon and heated to 120 °C for 30 hours. The solvent was concentrated off, and residue was directly column chromatographed using a mixture of hexane and diethyl ether (1:1) as an eluent to give 48.2 mg (57% yield) of compound **1.13** as a light brown solid. Melting point: 170 - 172°C; ¹H NMR δ 8.40 (d, *J* = 4.4

Hz, 1H), 7.33 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.58 – 6.49 (m, 2 H), 5.75 (broad s, 1H, NH), 5.56 (broad s, 1H, NH), 3.83 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.71 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 2.72 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H. CH₂CO), 2.61 (s, 3H, Me); ¹³C NMR δ 173.6, 159.8, 151.0, 145.2, 144.2, 142.8, 134.0, 132.1 (q, ² $J_{CF} = 32$ Hz, <u>C</u>-CF₃), 130.2, 126.3, 125.4, 124.6 124.1 (q, ¹ $J_{CF} = 268$ Hz, CF₃), 118.4, 118.2 (q, ³ $J_{CF} = 4$ Hz), 112.2 (q, ³ $J_{CF} = 4$ Hz), 93.7, 56.9 (OMe), 39.9 (CH₂), 35.7 (CH₂), 23.3 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 442.6 (M+Na)⁺, 420.4 (M+H)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.13** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by starting with 40 mg (0.095 mmol) of **1.13** and 11.2 mg (0.095 mmol) of succinic acid.

6-Methoxy-8-[(3-aminopropyl)amino]-4-methyl-5-(3-fluorophenyloxy)quinoline (1.14).



1.14

Compound **1.33** (17.0 mg, 0.035 mmol) in 6 mL 20 % hydrazine in ethanol's solution was heated to reflux overnight. After concentrating ethanol off, the residue was diluted with 10 % aqueous K₂CO₃ solution, extracted with dichloromethane 3 times, dried over K₂CO₃, concentrated and column chromatographed using a mixture of dichloromethane and methanol (4:1) as an eluent to give 7.5 mg (58% yield) of compound **1.14** as yellow solid. Melting point: 96 - 97 °C; ¹H NMR δ 8.38 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dt, *J* =8.0, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (td, *J* = 8.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.58 - 6.46 (m, 2H), 6.41 (bs, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.42 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 3.00 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 2.66 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 2.60 (s, 3H, Ar-Me), 2.17 (pent, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ 164.0 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 243 Hz), 161.3 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 10 Hz), 151.2, 144.9, 144.6, 142.9, 133.9, 130.5 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 10 Hz), 126.1, 125.2, 124.6, 111.0 (d, ⁴*J*_{CF} = 3 Hz), 108.3 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 22 Hz), 102.8 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 25 Hz), 93.2, 56.9 (OMe), 41.4 (CH₂N), 40.5 (CH₂N), 32.2 (CH₂), 23.1 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 356.2 (M+H)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.14** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by starting with 5 mg (0.014 mmol) of **1.14** and 1.6 mg (0.014 mmol) of succinic acid.



1.15

Prepared via the same procedure same as compound **1.11**. Starting from compound **1.34** (17.3 mg, 0.036 mmol) gave 7.2 mg (59% yield) of compound **1.15** as yellow solid. Melting point: 130 - 131 °C; ¹H NMR δ 8.33 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.49 (s, 1H), 6.30 (bs, 1H, NH), 4.35 (bs, 2H, NH₂), 3.81 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.42 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 3.10 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 2.60 (s, Ar-Me), 2.11 (pent, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 2H, CH₂); ¹³C NMR δ 159.8, 151.3, 144.9, 144.1, 143.3, 133.9, 129.7, 126.7, 125.0, 124.9, 121.4, 115.0, 93.9, 57.1 (OMe), 41.2 (CH₂N), 39.4 (CH₂N), 29.9 (CH₂), 23.4 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 338.1 (M+H)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.15** was prepared in the same way as compound **1.1** by starting with 5 mg (0.015 mmol) of **1.15** and 1.8 mg (0.015 mmol) of succinic acid.

6-Methoxy-8-[(3-aminopropyl)amino]-4-methylquinoline (1.16).



Prepared via the same procedure same as compound **1.11**. Starting with compound **1.35** (20 mg, 0.093 mmol) gave compound **1.16** 12.1 mg (56 %, yield) as yellow oil. ¹H NMR δ 8.41 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 6.42 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.32 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (bs, 1H, NH), 3.92 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.35 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 2.90 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H, CH₂N), 2.59 (s, 3H, Me), 1.92 (pent, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H, CH₂); ¹³C NMR δ 159.2, 146.6, 144.2, 142.9, 135.0, 129.7, 122.9, 96.3, 88.8, 55.4 (OMe), 41.3 (CH₂N), 40.4 (CH₂N), 33.0 (CH₂), 19.5 (Me); MS (electrospray), m/z 245.2 (M+H)⁺. Succinic salt of **1.16** was prepared in the same way as

compound **1.1** by starting with 10 mg (0.041 mmol) of **1.16** and 4.8 mg (0.040 mmol) of succinic acid.

Procedure for enzyme inhibition assays

PKC assays: Enzyme (PKC) was incubated with substrate (P-L-S-R-T-L-S-V-A-A-K, $c = 0.4 \mu g/\mu l$ in H₂O), the activator solution (1 mg/ml phosphatidylserine in water), substrate protection solution, and the test compounds (inhibitors) in the buffer solution (100 mM HEPES, 6.5 mM CaCl₂, 5 mM DTT, 50 mM MgCl₂, and 5 mM ATP) at 30 °C for 45 minutes. The system was warmed to 100 °C for 10 minutes to stop the enzyme reaction, and the reaction was loaded into the agarose gel placed in a horizontal gel electrophoresis chamber. The electrophoresis was carried out for 30 minutes at 100 V. The photograph of the gel was taken under UV by Kodak Gel Logic 1500 Digital Imaging System, and quantification of both phosphorylated and nonphosphorylated substrates were carried out by Imagequant 5.2 software (Molecular Dynamics/Amersham Biosciences).

GSK-3 β **assays**. Enzyme (GSK-3 β) was incubated with substrate, ATP, and the test compound for 40 minutes at room temperature. Then, an equal amount of ADP-GloTM Reagent was introduced into the reaction mixture and incubated at room temperature for 40 minutes. 10 µL of kinase detection reagent was added and incubated at room temperature for further 30 minutes. The luminescence of the mixture was measured using a Glo Max multi detection luminometer.

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Chapter 2 - Progress on total synthesis of (+)-Myriceric acid (A)

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Endotheline-1 peptide and bio-activity, isolation and structure characterization of (+)myriceric acid A

In 1988, a vasoconstrictor peptide was isolated from the culture supernatant of porcine endothelial cell (EC) by Yanasigawa *et al.*, which is now known as endothelin-1 (ET-1).¹ The structure of ET-1 was determined by the same group and shown in Figure 2.1.¹ ET-1 is 21-residue peptide which contains four cysteines. It has a fused bicyclic structure which is built up by two disulfide bridges (Cys1-Cys15 and Cys3-Cys11) and essential for ET-1's activity. Destruction of this bicyclic structure led the ET-1 to be inactive.²

Figure 2.1 : Structures of ET-1¹



The ET-1 preferring vasoconstrictory receptor, which is termed as ET_A receptor, was firstly identified by DNA-cloning and expression methodology from bovine lung.³ Bovine's ET_A receptor is found in vascular smooth muscle cells and contains 427 amino acids, and its molecular mass is about 48.5 kilodaltons.³ It is considered as the member of the superfamily of G-protein coupled receptors (GPCR) because of their high homology in the transmembrane domains.² Till now, no crystal structure of human ET_A receptor is reported.

Signal transduction for vascular constriction starts from the binding of ET-1 to ET_{A} on the membrane of vascular muscle cell.⁴ This binding could increase the formation of inositol triphosphate (IP₃) in the vascular muscle cell, and the elevated level of IP₃ could stimulate the sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) to release calcium into cytoplasm. The increased cytosolic concentration of free calcium eventually induces the vasoconstriction (Figure 2.2).^{4,5}





ET-1 is known as the most potent mammalian vasoconstrictor peptide (EC₅₀ = $4.0 \pm 2.2 \times 10^{-1}$ nM in porcine right proximal coronary artery assay) and characterized by its long lasting vasoconstriction effect and high difficulty in rinsing out from the system. ET-1 induced vasoconstriction is closely associated with calcium ion concentration; vasoconstriction could not occur in calcium-free environment or significantly reduced in the presence of calcium channel blocker.¹

Studies indicates that ET-1 and/or its receptors are involved in many cardiovascular diseases such as: heart failure, coronary vasospasm and hypertension.⁴ Applications of ET-1 receptor antagonists gave promising therapeutic effects on these diseases.^{2,4} For example, Bosentan, a non-selective ET-1 receptor antagonist, is in market for pulmonary hypertension (Figure 2.3).⁴ However, because of the strong side effects of these drugs, for example, the hepatotoxicity from Bosentan, the discovery of new ET-1 receptor antagonist with less toxicity and higher efficiency have been continued.

Figure 2.3 : Structure of Bosentan⁴



In 1996, Sakurawi, K. *et al.* found that the methanol extract of fresh *Myrica cerifera*'s twigs could prevent the ET-1-induced cytosolic free calcium concentration increase in rat aortic

smooth muscle A7r5 cells with IC_{50} of 35 µg/mL.⁶ Further purification gave a more active fraction ($IC_{50} = 0.11 \mu g/mL$).⁶ At last, a pure compound was obtained by semi-preparative reverse phase high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).⁶ This compound inhibits not only on ET-1 induced cytosolic calcium concentration increase ($IC_{50} = 0.0075 \mu g/mL$) but also specifically antagonized ET-1's binding to ET_A ($IC_{50} = 0.04 \mu g/mL$).⁶ This compound is now known as myriceric acid A.

The structure of myriceric acid A was proposed on the results from high resolution mass spectrometry, ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR.⁶ Myriceric acid A showes a mass of 632.3715, and its molecular formula is calculated as $C_{39}H_{52}O_7$. Results of NMR experiments indicates the existing of a trans-caffeoyl group and a triterpene moiety (Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4 : Structure of myriceric acid A⁶



Isolated myriceric acid A was methylated by diazomethane, and the caffeoyl acid ester was hydrolyzed off by sodium hydroxide to give ester alcohol **2.1**. Compound **2.1** was acetylated by acetic anhydride to form the diester **2.2** which is crystalline solid (Scheme 2.1).⁶

Scheme 2.1 : Synthesis of compound 2.2⁶



The crystal structure of **2.2** is resolved by X-ray analysis and shown in Figure 2.5. The absolute configuration of compound **2.2** was assigned according to the positive Cotton effect in

the circular dichroism (CD) experiment.^{6,7} This X-ray structure plus NMR experiments results confirmed the structure of myriceric acid A.

Figure 2.5 : Crystal structure of compound 2.5⁶



2.1.2 Semi-synthesis of myriceric acid A

The semi-synthesis of myriceric acid A was accomplished in 1997 by Konoike, T. *et al.*.⁸ This partial synthesis used oleanolic acid as the starting material via 14 steps to give final product myriceric acid A. The retro-synthetic analysis is shown in Scheme 2.2.⁸ As the authors mentioned in the article, direct acylation of 27-hydroxy group with caffeic acid could not be achieved with an acceptable yield; hence, final product myriceric acid A was prepared from compound **2.3** in alternative strategy. Compound **2.3** could be converted from compound **2.4**, and compound **2.4** was derived from oleanolic acid.

Scheme 2.2 : Retro-synthetic analysis of partial synthesis of myriceric acid A⁸



The semi-synthesis of myriceric acid started with the oxidation of the 3-hydroxy group in oleanolic acid (500 mg, \$309.00 form Sigma-Aldrich). Jones oxidation of oleanolic acid gave

compound **2.5**. Olefin functionality in **2.5** was epoxidized by ozone, and the epoxide ring was opened by the attack of carboxylate nearby to give lactone **2.6** in one pot. Compound **2.6** was treated with nitrosyl chloride to form the unstable nitrite **2.7**. Light irradiation of **2.7** gave desired product compound **2.8** via Barton reaction⁹ (Scheme 2.3).

Scheme 2.3 : Partial synthesis of myriceric acid A (Part 1)⁸



Ozone is a strong oxidizing reagent, and, in most cases, ozone reacts with olefin to form the trioxolane. The dissect of O-O bond in trioxolane yields the carbonyl compound to furnish the olefin cleavage. However, for olefin with strong steric hindrance, the epoxidation to the double bonds by ozone is preferred, and this is called "partial cleavage" of the olefin.¹⁰

The mechanism of Barton's reaction is described herein to explain the transformation from compound **2.7** into **2.8**.⁹ Under the light irrigation, nitrosol moiety could be decomposed to give oxygen radical and nitric oxide radical. The formed oxygen radical abstract the hydrogen to give the hydroxyl group and hydrocarbon radical. This hydrocarbon radical reacts with the nitrc oxide radical nearby to form new nitroso compound which could be epimerized to oxime.

Scheme 2.4 : Barton's reaction mechanism



Reduction of oxime **2.8** with titanium trichloride gave imine **2.9**. This imine was highly stable because of the "shielding" effect given by the pentacyclic structure, and the hydrolyzation of this imine was furnished by sodium nitrite in acetic acid. The mechanism was probably via an hydroxyl-azoimine intermediate (-C=N=N-OH), and this azoimine hydrolyzed readily to give

aldehyde **2.11**. However, partial of the formed aldehyde **2.11** reacted with nearby hydoxy group to give acetal **2.10**. This acetal **2.10** was hydrolyzed under basic condition to regenerate aldehyde **2.11**. C3-carbonyl group in **2.11** was then protected with ethylene glycol to give acetal **2.12**, and acetylation of C12-hydroxy group in **2.12** was carried out with acetic anhydride in pyridine to give **2.13**. 12-13 Olefin regeneration and aldehyde reduction in **2.14** was achieved by lithium ammonia reductive elimination. The mechanism of this step was discussed in the paper. Authors indicated that the aldehyde functionality acted as "electron transporter" in this process. It initially obtained electrons from lithium and, then, transferred them to the 12-carbon to reduce the acetate off. The formed anion underwent elimination of the lactone, and the aldehyde was reduced then to give desired **2.14** (Scheme 2.5).⁸





It's worthy to note that the reactivity relationships between 27- position C-H and 12position C-H. The intramolecular reactions between these two positions are much easier to proceed because a six-member ring transition state is readily achieved to facilitate the reaction (Figure 2.6). Examples are Barton's reaction⁹ and the transformation of **2.14** from **2.13**. This interesting discovery could be applied into the total synthesis of myriceric acid A.

Figure 2.6 : Intramolecular six-member ring transition state



X, Y = H or substitute

Compound **2.14** was treated with 2 N HCl to give ketone **2.15**. The installation of 27position caffeic acid ester was furnished in three steps by starting with **2.15** via Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons (HWE) olefination reaction. Alcohol **2.15** was firstly treated with diethylphosphonoacetic acid and carbonyldiimidazole (CDI) to give the ester **2.3**. Ester **2.3** reacted with benzaldehyde **2.16** to give **2.17** readily. Deprotection of **2.17** with trifluoroacetic acid finally gave desired product myriceric acid A (Scheme 2.6).⁸

Scheme 2.6 : Partial synthesis of myriceric acid A (Part 3)⁸



2.1.3 Importance of total synthesis of myriceric acid A

The semi-synthesis of myriceric acid A was accomplished;⁸ however, so far, no total synthesis of myriceric acid A has been reported, and this work is still highly needed for the following reasons.

Firstly, total synthesis of myriceric acid A will led to the intermediates and/or compounds derived from it to assist the study of its structure-activity relationship (SAR). As mentioned above, myriceric acid A is a non-peptide ET-1-specific antagonist in the reported natural products, and it has great potential in the treatment of ET-1 and/or ET-1 receptor related diseases,

such as: heart failure and pulmonary hypertension³. Hence, the study of its SAR will not only provide information to disclose the therapeutic mechanism but also lead to the development of more potent drug candidates. Unlike total synthesis, the partial synthesis of myriceric acid A only gave compounds with very limited numbers and structural varieties which is not enough for SAR study; however, as depicted in Figure 2.7 below, many useful and interesting intermediates and novel compounds could be synthesized via the methodology for the total synthesis of myriceric acid A and used for the SAR study.





Secondly, total synthesis of myriceric acid A may provide a protocol to synthesize other triterpene-type natural products. As the largest group of the isolated compounds in the natural products, triterpene-type natural products are reported to have various novel biological properties, such as antioxidant, antibiotic, anticancer activities, *etc.*.¹¹ However, the applications of these compounds are limited because of their low availability from natural sources. Therefore, obtaining triterpene-type natural products via chemical method is one of possible solutions to solve this problem. The methods developed to construct the triterpene skeleton and modify the functionalities in the total synthesis of myriceric acid A could also be used to synthesis of other triterpene compounds directly or after modification. Hence, the protocol for synthesis of similar type of triterpene compounds can be developed based on the achievement of the total synthesis of myriceric acid A which started from

oleanolic acid could only be used to synthesize myriceric acid and only suitable for a limited number of triterpene compounds (Figure 2.8).¹¹





2.1.4 Progress made by Angelo Aguilar¹²

This project was initially carried out by a former graduate student, Dr. Angelo Aguilar, in Hua's laboratory.¹² His work will be briefly introduced in this section.

Initially, 2-methyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione was treated with ethyl vinyl ketone to give a Michael addition product **2.27** in a quantitative yield. Then enantio-selective intramolecular aldol condensation was carried out with ketone **2.27**, D-phenylalanine and D-camphorsulfonic acid (D-CSA) to give two ring enone-ketone (-)-**2.28** with 95%ee. Selective reduction of (-)-**2.28** with 0.25 eq. sodium borohydride gave alcohol (-)-**2.29** in high yield (Scheme 2.7).

Scheme 2.7 : Progress made by Aguilar (Part 1)¹²



Robinson annulation of alcohol (-)-2.29 with ethyl vinyl ketone was carried out by using sodium methoxide as base to give three ring compound (+)-2.30 in 68% yield. Optical rotation of the obtained (+)-2.30 was taken and compared with the value of enantiomerically pure compound, which indicated 48%ee of optical purity. Optically impure enone (+)-2.30 was reduced by lithium-liquid ammonia, the generated enolate was trapped by methyl iodide to give ketone (+)-2.31. Ketone (+)-2.31 was treated with ethylene glycol and pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (PPTS) to give the protected compound (-)-2.32. Alcohol (-)-2.32 was oxidized by 2-iodoxybenzoic acid (IBX) to give three ring ketone (-)-2.33 (Scheme 2.8).





To activate the carbonyl's α -H, ketone (-)-2.33 was treated lithium diisopropylamide (LDA) and diphenyldisulfide to yield sulfide (+)-2.34. Compound (+)-2.34 then underwent Michael addition reaction with methyl vinyl ketone to give (-)-2.35. Removal of the phenylsulfide in (-)-2.35 was achieved by the radical reduction reaction with azobisisobutyronitile (AIBN) and tributyltin hydride to form a mixture of (-)-2.36 and (-)-2.37. Intramolecular aldol condensation of (-)-2.37 furnished the ring formation to yield four ring compound 2.38. However, compound (-)-2.36 could not undergo the same aldol condensation to give tetracyclic compound. The reason might be the C8-methyl group blocks the enolate of methyl ketone attacking the carbonyl from the top face. Stirred with sodium methoxide in methanol, compound (-)-2.38 (Scheme 2.9).

Scheme 2.9 : Progress made by Aguilar (Part 3)¹²



Sodium nitrile was introduced to enone (-)-2.38 to give a Michael addition product (-)-2.39, then, enol silyl ether (-)-2.40 was obtained by treating ketone (-)-2.39 with *t*-butyldimethylsilyl triflate (TBS-OTf) and triethyl amine. The nitrile in (-)-2.40 was reduced to imine 2.41 with diisopropyl aluminum hydride (DIBAL-H). Removal of *t*-butyldimethylsilyl group in 2.41 with tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF) gave hemiaminal 2.42. Under acidic condition, hemiaminal 2.42 was hydrolyzed to give aldehyde ketone 2.43 (Scheme 2.10).

Scheme 2.10 : Progress made by Aguilar (Part 4)¹²



No further progress was made by Dr. Angelo Aguilar because of the available time, and this project was continued by me during my Ph.D period research. The progress I made will be introduced and discussed in the following sections.

2.2 Retro-synthetic analysis of myriceric acid A

To get a better understanding and more rational design of this project, retro-synthetic analysis was conducted and is descripted in this section.

Since the synthetic route from compound **2.14** to myriceric acid A have already been reported in the partial synthesis of myriceric acid A (Scheme 2.6)⁸, the target molecule of this project could be compound **2.14**. Compound **2.14** could be synthesized from compound **2.44** via several steps: deoxygenantion of the C16-carbonyl group to methylene, reduction of the C14-nitrile into alcohol, and the elimination to give 12-13 olefin. Compound **2.44** could be obtained from (+)-**2.45** after the 17-position β -keto-ester formation, 13-position allylic functionalization and Michael addition of enone. D, E rings in (+)-**2.45** could be constructed via an aldol condensation-Michael addition-aldol condensation sequence by using three ring compound (-)-**2.33** and novel keto-aldehyde **2.46** as the starting materials. Compound (-)-**2.33** could be formed

from (-)-**2.29** via A-ring formation, reductive methylation and functional group interconversion (FGI) steps. A new method was developed to solve the problem of getting low enantio-excess of the (-)-**2.33**, and this method will be discussed in the following section. Two ring compound (-)-**2.29** could be synthesized form 1,3-cyclohexanedione.





2.3 Preparation of starting materials for asymmetric synthesis of B, C-ring

Transformation from 2-methyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione to keto-alcohol (-)-2.29 was accomplished by following the Aguilar's procedure,¹² and this section introduces the preparation of the starting materials for synthesis of compound (-)-2.29 (Figure 2.10).





According to the literature,¹³ 1,3-cyclohexanedione was treated with iodomethane in aqueous NaOH solution at 65 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 day to yield the 2-methyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione in high yield (Scheme 2.11).

Scheme 2.11 : Synthesis of 2-methyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione



Another required starting material for synthesizing C ring, ethyl vinyl ketone, was prepared in 3 steps. This synthesis started with the protection of 3-pentanone with ethylene glycol, and the generated acetal was treated with bromine in one pot to give bromide 2.47.¹⁴ The elimination of bromide in 2.47 with sodium hydroxide in methanol generated alkene 2.48.¹⁵ Removal of the acetal group in 2.48 with catalytic amount of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (PTSA) gave pure ethyl vinyl ketone (Scheme 2.12).

Scheme 2.12 : Synthesis of ethyl vinyl ketone



With ethyl vinyl ketone and 2-methyl-1,3-cyclohexandione, the two ring enone alcohol (-)-2.29 was prepared utilizing the same method as Aguilar¹² did (Scheme 2.7). Mechanism for the asymmetric intramolecular cyclization to construct C-ring was discussed in Aguilar's dissertation as well.¹²

2.4 Asymmetric synthesis of A-ring and functionalization of A-B-C ring structure

A novel method for the asymmetric transformation from (-)-2.29 to (-)-2.33 was discovered and is discussed in this section (Figure 2.11).

Figure 2.11 : Transformation from (-)-2.29 to (-)-2.33



The traditional method for the synthesis of A ring from (-)-2.29 was originally reported by Honda, T. *et al.* in 1981¹⁶ and further investigated¹⁷ in 2003 by Honda, T, *et al.*. Starting with optically-pure (-)-2.29 could only afford an enantio-rich product (+)-2.30 (48%ee) with moderate yield (68%). To obtain the enantio-pure product, an enzyme resolution procedure is required.¹⁷ As the only reported method, it has been used by many chemist to prepare three-ring compound (+)-2.30 in their synthesis till now. A mechanism was proposed explain the difficulty in the formation of enantio-pure product (Scheme 2.13).¹⁷

Scheme 2.13 : Mechanistic explanation for the difficulty in preparation of enantiomerically pure (+)-2.30 by traditional method



Deprotonation of C8-H by sodium methoxide gave the thermodynamic enolate. Because of the steric effect of the C10-methyl group, ethyl vinyl ketone could only approach the enolate from its α -face to generate Michael addition product **2.49**. Intramolecular addol condensation of **2.49** catalyzed by sodium methoxide formed desired product (+)-**2.30** (blue route in Scheme 2.13). However, the deprotonation of 5-hydroxy group led to C-ring opening and gave the enolate-aldehyde intermediate **2.50**. Intramolecular aldol reaction of intermediate **2.50** could generate the opposite enantiomer (+)-**2.29** which followed the same reaction sequence to give (-)-**2.30**, the undesired enantio-isomer of (+)-**2.30**, which decreased the optical purity of the final product. Meanwhile, the kinetic deprotonation of C3-H in (-)-**2.29** gave the kinetic enolate, and this enolate could undergo Michael addition with ethyl vinyl ketone as well to give intermediate **2.51**. Cyclization and dehydration of **2.51** formed compound **2.52**, the structure isomer of (+)-**2.30**, which decreased the yield of desired product.

Considering the complexity of following steps of myriceric acid A's total synthesis, an enantio-pure tricyclic intermediate is desperately needed. With the traditional synthetic method, only enantio-rich tricyclic compound was obtained, and enzyme-resolution step was required to get the enantio-pure compound. However, to obtain large quantity of enantio-pure tricyclic compound, using enzyme resolution method become impossible if the cost, time, work inputs and the lose of the unwanted enantiomer were taken into account. Hence, an enantio-selective A-ring synthesis reaction is highly demanded. To develop such reaction, many attempts were made.

One way to prevent the C-ring opening is to block the formation of 5-alkoxide intermediate. Hence, the 5-hydroxy group in (-)-2.29 was protected by TBSCl in DMF with imidazole as base to give (-)-2.53 (Scheme 2.14). However, Honda, T.¹⁷ mentioned that the TBS group in (-)-2.53 was readily cleaved under sodium methoxide/methanol reflux condition. Consequently, other reaction pathways and conditions, instead of traditional Robinson annulation condition, should be considered.

Scheme 2.14 : Preparation of (-)-2.53



In 1976, Fortunato and Ganem reported a cascade enone reductive-alkylation reaction. The enone was reduced by K-selectride firstly, and the formed enolate was trapped by alkyl halides to give the alkylated ketone (Scheme 2.15).¹⁸
Scheme 2.15 : Cascade K-selectride reductive-alkylation reaction of enone¹⁸



Based on Fortunato's strategy,¹⁸ compound (-)-2.53 was treated with K-selectride to reduce the enone moiety to regio-selectively generate the desired enolate 2.56, and ethyl vinyl ketone was introduced into the reaction mixture at once. However, at -78 °C or elevated temperatures, no Michael addition product 2.57 was formed, but only the reduced ketone 2.58 was detected and isolated (Scheme 2.16).

Scheme 2.16 : Cascade K-selectride enone reductive-Michael addition reaction of (-)-2.53



Another domino reductive-Michael addition reaction was reported by Cheung and Snapper with similar bicyclic compound **2.59**. Compound **2.59** firstly was reduced by lithium in liquid ammonia; then, α , β -unsaturated ketone **2.60** was introduced into the corresponded enolate slowly over 30 minutes to give enantio-selective Michael addition product **2.61** (Scheme 2.17). To prevent the polymerization of α , β -unsaturated ester, the reaction was protected from light.





Following the similar strategy, enone (-)-2.53 was reduced by lithium metal in liquid ammonia at -35° C to give desired enolate 2.56. After evaporation of ammonia and dilution of the residue with dry THF, ethyl vinyl ketone in diethyl ether was introduced to the resulted enolate 2.56 over 30 minutes with protection from light. Unfortunately, no desired Michael addition product was detected and isolated after the reaction. From the ¹H NMR of crude mixture, broad signals appeared at 3.0 - 2.0 ppm and 1.5 - 0.8 ppm indicating the formation of polymers of ethyl vinyl ketone.





Mukaiyama-type Michael addition reaction was also tried to be applied in the asymmetric synthesis of A-ring. The idea is depicted in the Scheme 2.19.

Scheme 2.19 : Mukaiyama-type Michael addition



Silyl enol ether **2.62** was prepared by reducing enone (-)-**2.29** with lithium/ liq. NH_3 , the enolate was trapped with trimethylsilylchloride (TMSCl) after evaporation of liq. NH_3 (Scheme 2.20). This reaction gave a mixture of desired silyl enol ether and a TMS protected compound **2.63**. Due to the instability of enol silyl ether, the mixture was directly used for the next step without purification.

Scheme 2.20 : Preparation of silyl enol ether 2.62



A mixture of **2.62** and **2.63** was mixed with ethyl vinyl ketone and treated with boron trifluoride etherate (BF₃ ether). Unfortunately, at -78 $^{\circ}$ C or elevated temperatures, no desired Michael addition product was detected. Under reaction conditions, TMS groups were hydrolyzed off to give back enone (-)-**2.29** and ketone (-)-**2.64** (Scheme 2.21).

Scheme 2.21 : Attempt on Mukaiyama type Michael addition



With compound (-)-2.64 in hand, traditional Robinson annulation reaction was carried out with ethyl vinyl ketone. With the reflux with sodium ethoxide in ethanol, no desired product was found. Starting material (-)-2.64 was recovered, and ethyl vinyl ketone's polymers were detected.

Scheme 2.22 : Attempt on Robinson annulation of (-)-2.64 with ethyl vinyl ketone



Acid catalyzed Michael addition was also tested with (-)-2.58 and ethyl vinyl ketone. It was supposed that under acidic conditions with heating, the ketone would be transferred into its enol form. The enol could attack ethyl vinyl ketone to give a Michael addition product. However, after heat the mixture of (-)-2.58 and ethyl vinyl ketone with catalytic amount of PTSA for 24 hours, reaction did not give any progress (Scheme 2.23).

Scheme 2.23 : Attempt on acid catalyzed Michael addition of (-)-2.58 with ethyl vinyl ketone



After summarizing these reaction outcomes, it becomes clear that the problem of the designed Michael addition is the reactivities of two reactants do not match. When the generated enolate **2.56** is complex with boron (from K-selectirde or BF₃.ether), it is unreactive towards Michael addition. When enolate **2.56** stays in its free form (from lithium reduction or generated *in-situ* by EtONa), it is "hard" and acted as base to promote the polymerization of ethyl vinyl ketone. Enol **2.66** was not reactive enough to undergo the Michael addition neither.





Since attempts on "tuning" the reactivity of Michael donors (enolate **2.56** or enol **2.66**) were all failed, the other solution for this problem was to "tune" the reactivity of Michael acceptor, ethyl vinyl ketone. If the self-polymerization of ethyl vinyl ketone could be slowed down or prevented in the presence of "hot" enolate **2.56**, the desired Michael addition would be preceded smoothly.

To prevent the polymerization of ethyl vinyl ketone, one solution is to use the alternative reagent: α -trimethylsilylvinyl ethyl ketone.²⁰ Trimethylsilyl group at α position of vinyl ketone blocked this enone's polymerization. The reason is probably the enolate derived from the Michael addition could be stabilized by overlapping of d-orbital of silicon to prevent the polymerization; also, the strong steric hindrance of this bulky siliyl moiety slows down the deprotonation process of enone by the enolate **2.56**. This silyl group could be readily hydrolyzed

off at base-catalyzed intramolecular aldol condensation step which would give the same Robinson annulation product as ethyl vinyl ketone.

Scheme 2.25 : TMS group slows down the deprotonation



One of its applications is the total synthesis of stachenone (Scheme 2.26).²¹

Scheme 2.26 : Application of α -trimethylsilyl vinyl ethyl ketone in asymmetric ring construction



The disadvantage of this method is this chemical, α -trimethylsilyl vinyl ethyl ketone, is not commercially available. Hence, it has to be prepared in the laboratory via a six-step synthesis from the commercially available 1,2-dibromoethane.

The elimination of 1,2-dibromoethane readily gave vinyl bromide (b.p: 16 °C), and the prepared vinyl bromide was introduced to magnesium to generate vinyl magnesium bromide reagent. Vinyl Grignard reagent reacted with TMSCl to give vinyl trimethyl silane which was directly distilled out from the reaction mixture (Scheme 2.27).²²

Scheme 2.27 : Synthesis of vinyl trimethyl silane²²



Vinyl trimethyl silane was treated with bromine at -78° C to give an bromine addition product, and this crude product underwent an elimination reaction with diethylamine to give α -trimethylsilyl vinyl bromide (**2.70**). Bromide **2.70** was used to prepare the corresponding Grignard reagent with magnesium, and the prepared α -trimethylvinyl magnesium bromide was treated with propanal to give allyl alcohol **2.71**. Oxidation of allyl alcohol with pyridinium dichromate (PDC)²³ gave α -trimethylsilyl vinyl ethyl ketone (Scheme 2.28).

Scheme 2.28 : Synthesis of α-trimethyl vinyl ethyl ketone



With α -trimethylsilyl vinyl ethyl ketone in hands, the reductive-Michael addition reaction was carried out. Same as before, the bicyclic enone (-)-2.53 was firstly reduced by lithium to regio-selectively form the enolate 2.56. After quenching the excess amount of lithium and evaporating off ammonia, enolate 2.56 was dissolved in dry diethyl ether. α -Trimethylsilyl vinyl ethyl ketone was introduced into the mixture at -78°C over 30 minutes with protection from light to finally give the desired stereo-selective Michael addition product. Annulation with KOH as base in MeOH resulted the enantio-pure tricyclic product (+)-2.72 (Scheme 2.29).





Compound (+)-2.72 underwent reductive-methylation reaction to give tricyclic compound (+)-2.73. The ketone (+)-2.73 was protected by ethylene glycol to form acetal (-)-2.74. Deprotection of TBS group in (-)-2.74 with TBAF generated alcohol (-)-2.32. At this stage, the optical rotation of obtained (-)-2.32 ($[\alpha]_D = -45^\circ$, c =0.1 in chloroform) was compared with the

reported value of the (-)-2.32 ($[\alpha]_D = -44^\circ$, c =0.1 in chloroform, 98%ee, measure by chiral HPLC),²⁴ and the enantio-purity of the obtained (-)-2.32 was calculated as 100%ee. Oxidation of alcohol (-)-2.32 with IBX finally gave acetal ketone (-)-2.33 (Scheme 2.30).

Scheme 2.30 : Synthesis of acetal ketone (-)-2.33



To sum up, the desired stereo-selective A-ring construction was finally achieved with the reductive-Michael addition-aldol condensation reaction by using α -trimethylsilyl vinyl ethyl ketone as the building block. Functionalization of the resulted tricyclic compound was proceeded smoothly to give the enantio-pure acetal ketone (-)-2.33 for further exploration on the total synthesis of myriceric acid A.

2.5 Synthesis of D, E-rings of myriceric acid A

In this section, the D, E rings construction from A, B, C-ring compound (-)-2.33 via a tandem aldol-Michael-aldol protocol is introduced and discussed (Figure 2.12).

Figure 2.12 : Transformation from (-)-2.33 to (+)-2.45



Since Aguliar¹² already successfully synthesized, functionalized and bio-evaluated the tetracyclic compound **2.38**, my goal is to synthesize pentacyclic compound (+)-**2.45** directly from compound (-)-**2.33**. To achieve this, two possible synthetic approaches could be used: (**a**) D-ring construction via inter-molecular Michael addition-intramolecular aldol condensation by

using tricyclic compound (-)-2.33 (or its derivatives) and monocyclic compound 2.75 which has all the structure features of E-ring; (b), D,E-rings construction via intra-molecular Michael addition-aldol condensation process by using compound (-)-2.76 which is derived from compound (-)-2.33 (Scheme 2.31).

Scheme 2.31 : Possible synthetic approaches for synthesis of (+)-2.45



Approach (a) was firstly attempted. The retro-synthetic analysis of (+)-2.45 via intermolecular Michael addition approach is depicted in Scheme 2.32. D-ring in (+)-2.45 could be synthesized via an intramolecular aldol condensation reaction from compound 2.77. E-ring would be connected with fused A, B, C rings via the intermolecular Michael addition from compound (-)-2.33 and enone 2.75.

Scheme 2.32 : Retro-synthetic analysis of (+)-2.45 in approach (a)



Compound **2.75** was prepared from isoprene and diethylamine via a reported 3-step synthesis.^{25, 26} Firstly, isoprene reacted with diethylamine and catalytic amount of *n*-butyllithium to give *N*,*N*,-diethylgeranylamine **2.78**, and the following oxidation of amine was accomplished by hydrogen peroxide to give the corresponding *N*-oxide intermediate, and cyclization reaction

of *N*-oxide was carried out to form the desired monocyclic enone **2.75** in moderate yield (Scheme 2.33).

Scheme 2.33 : Synthesis of compound 2.75



With compound 2.75 in hands, the synthesis of (+)-2.45 was tried. The basic idea was to use the enolate which derived from (-)-2.33 as the Michael donor to attack the enone 2.75 (Scheme 2.34).

Scheme 2.34 : Designed Michael Addition of 2.75 with (-)-2.33



Initially, enolate derived from compound (+)-2.34 was used as the Michael donor. With the phenylsulfide attached, the pKa of α -H of the ketone is lowered to 16; also, this phenylsulfide group is an electron-withdrawing group which could stabilize the formed enolate to enhance the rate of desired Michael addition reaction. However, after refluxing in THF with 2.75 and sodium methoxide for 24 hours, no desired product but only the starting materials were detected (Scheme 2.35). The reason might be the strong steric effects from the B-ring and C8-methyl group. The B-ring blocks the enone approaching from the bottom face of (+)-2.34, and the C8-methyl group prevents the enone aligning with the enolate from the top. As the result, the desired Michael addition reaction cannot proceed.

Scheme 2.35 : Michael addition of (+)-2.34 with 2.75



To reduce the steric hindrance, enolate directly derived from ketone (-)-2.33 was used as Michael donor to attack enone 2.75. With sodium methoxide as base, no reaction occurred even

the mixture was heated to reflux or to 120 $^{\circ}$ C (in a sealed tube) in methanol for 24 hours. Then, a stronger base, sodium *t*-butoxide, was employed for this reaction. However, after stirring in refluxed THF for 24 hours, ketone (-)-2.33 stayed unreacted. Enone 2.75 disappeared, and a new compound was detected by TLC. After isolation, the new compound 2.80 is determined as the self-Robinson annulation product of 2.75 (Scheme 2.36).

Scheme 2.36 : Michael Addition of 2.75 with (-)-2.33 with MeONa and t-BuONa



In the attempted reactions, the enolate **2.79** was generated *in-situ*. pKa of α -H of ketone is around 25 and pKa of hydroxyl in alcohol of around 16; so, the enolate **2.79** is highly reactive towards alcohol and easily protonated from the hydroxyl group to give back the ketone (Scheme 2.37). Therefore, the real concentration of enolate is very low, and, considering that enone **2.75** was not that reactive as vinyl ketones, the desired Michael addition would proceed extremely slow. Meanwhile, from the reaction outcome of the *t*-BuONa reaction, it could be tell that the base has a greater chance to deprotonate the α -H of enone to give self-Robinson annulation product. It is understandable. Although both the α -H of enone **2.75** and ketone (-)-**2.33** have similar pKa, the enone **2.75**'s α -H has less steric hindrance than the ketone (-)-**2.33**, which makes the attack by the base much easier.





Since the reactions with *in-situ* generated enloates by alkoxides were all unsuccessful, other pathways were to use pure enolate for the Michael addition. The desired enolate could be readily obtained by treating ketone (-)-2.33 with LDA. To this enolate in THF was added the enone 2.75. Unfortunately, at -78 °C, 25 °C and 70 °C, no desired Michael addition occurred, and all the starting material were recovered (Scheme 2.38).

Scheme 2.38 : Michael addition with LDA-generated enolate



Mukaiyama-type Michael addition²⁷ was also examined for the synthesis of **2.77**. The advantage of this reaction was that the Lewis acid's chelation with enone could increase its activity as Michael acceptor to promote the Michael addition. The silyl enol ether (-)-**2.81** was readily prepared with ketone (-)-**2.33** in quantitative yield.

Scheme 2.39 : Synthesis of (-)-2.81



Initially, this type of Michael addition was tried with a weak Lewis acid: lithium ion. The 1,4-addition reaction of silyl enol ether to α , β -unsaturated ketone in the medium of lithium perchlorate and nitromethane (LPNM) was reported (Scheme 2.40).²⁸ The authors stated that

Lewis acidity of lithium ion increases in nitromethane because of its poor coordination with the solvent. With large excessed acidity-increased lithium ion, the Michael addition is catalyzed to give the 1,4-addition product.

Scheme 2.40 : Michael addition of silvl enol ether to α,β -unsaturated ketone in LPNM²⁸



However, the application of this reaction for the synthesis of **2.77** did not give any positive result. After prolong heating, enol silyl ether decomposed to give back the ketone (-)-**2.33**, and **2.75** was also recovered.





Stronger Lewis acid, BF_3 etherate, was used to try on this reaction as well. However, this reaction also failed and only provided the hydrolyzed product (-)-2.33 and unreacted 2.75 (Scheme 2.42).

Scheme 2.42 : Mukaiyama-type Michael addition for synthesis of 2.77



Enamine chemistry²⁹ was also attempted for synthesis of **2.77** (Scheme 2.43). However, the preparation of enamine **2.85** turned out to be difficult. In the presence of 4 Å molecular sieve

and catalytic amount of PTSA, ketone (-)-2.33 and pyrrolidine remianed unchange in refluxed toluene for 24 hours.





To sum up, all attempts on the intermolecular Michael addition strategies did not give any positive results. The reason might be the strong steric hindrances which were given by the C8-methyl group and B-ring of (-)-2.33 and gem-dimethyl groups of 2.75. C8-Methyl group of enolate 2.79 blocks the enone 2.75 approaching from the top side. When enone 2.75 approaches the enolate from its bottom, the B-ring of (-)-2.33 blocks the two reactants to align in the right position; meanwhile, the gem-dimethyl groups on the enone 2.75 also increase the difficulty for the enolate approach and alignment (Figure 2.13).

Figure 2.13 : Steric hindrance from 8-methyl group of enolate 2.79 and gem-dimethyl groups of 2.75



The other possible reason for the failures of intermolecular Michael addition strategies was the competition reaction: acid-base reaction. The enolate would act as the base instead of nucleophile to deprotonate the α -H of enone, which could destruct both the Michael donor and acceptor and slow down the desired Michael addition (Scheme 2.44).

Scheme 2.44 : Acid base reaction between the enolate and enone



One way to overcome the strong steric effect is to go through the intramolecular approach to furnish the construction of pentacyclic structure, which is the above mentioned approach (**b**).

The retro-synthetic analysis of compound (+)-2.45 via the approach (b) is depicted in Scheme 2.45. Similar as the intermolecular Michael addition approach, D-ring of (+)-2.45 could be built up via an intramolecular aldol condensation reaction from compound 2.77; however, the E-ring would be constructed via the intramolecular Michael addition from enone-ketone (-)-2.76 which would be synthesized from (-)-2.33 and ketone-aldehyde 2.46 via intermolecular aldol condensation.





The synthesis of (+)-2.45 via approach (b) started from the preparation of novel ketone aldehyde 2.46. The retro-synthetic analysis of ketone aldehyde 2.46 is depicted in Scheme 2.46. The aldehyde functionality in 2.46 could be derived from the olefin in compound 2.86 via oxidative cleavage reaction. Olefin ketone 2.86 would be prepared from methyl vinyl ketone with dialkyl cuprous reagent via a 1,4-addition. The dialkyl cuprous reagent would be prepared from aldehyde 2.89 via few steps through functional group interconversions.

Scheme 2.46 : Retro-synthetic analysis of 2.46



Aldehyde **2.89** was synthesized from a known procedure in excellent yield (Scheme 2.47).³⁰ This synthesis used allyl alcohol and isobutryaldehyde as the starting materials. The reaction went through a hemiacetal formation-dehydration-Claisen rearrangement sequence to give desired aldehyde **2.89**.

Scheme 2.47 : Synthesis of 2.89³⁰



The olefin aldehyde **2.89** was readily reduced by sodium borohydride in methanol and 5% aq. sodium hydroxide mixture to give olefin alcohol **2.88** with quantitative yield. Bromination of **2.88** firstly tried with triphenylphosphine and tetrabromomethane. The reaction went smoothly to give desired bromide **2.87**; however, the purification of the product turned out to be difficult. Byproduct bromoform which was formed in the reaction has similar boiling point and polarity as the product and could not be separated. Hence, the alternative bromination method was utilized. Olefin bromide **2.87** was successfully prepared with bromine and triphenylphosphine in DMF and purified by distillation in moderate isolation yield (Scheme 2.48).³¹

Scheme 2.48 : Synthesis of 2.87



With the bromide **2.87** in hands, the next step was to prepare the cuprate reagent. The first attempt was to use *t*-BuLi to generate the organolithium reagent **2.90** for synthesizing cuprate compound.³² Bromide **2.87** was treated with *t*-BuLi and the reaction was monitored by

¹H NMR. After prolong time stirring in THF at various temperatures, the bromide still stayed unchanged.





Since the cuprate reagent can also be prepared from Grignard reagent, the back-up strategy is to make the corresponding Grignard reagent from bromide **2.87**. However, the ordinary method for the Grignard reagent formation did not work in this case. With iodine or dibromoethane, the reaction was not initiated.

All the failures of the reactions lie on the high stability of bromide **2.87** which may be given by the gem-dimethyl groups. These gem-dimethyl groups in **2.87** shields the bromide against the approach of the metal (Figure 2.14).

Figure 2.14 : Steric effect from the gem-dimethyl group



To solve this problem, one of the possible methods was to use the activated magnesium³³ to prepare the Grignard reagent. A procedure was published by Bonnemann, H. *et al.* in 1983 for preparing the activated magnesium.³³ Magnesium was stirred with catalytic amount of anthracene and 0.1 eq. of methyl iodide in THF for 14 hours to form highly active magnesium (Scheme 2.50). The process might start with the formation of methylmagnesium iodide which could clean the surface of the metal. Then, anthracene could form the complex with magnesium and THF. This is an equilibrium process, and the complex could decompose to give free magnesium atom and anthracene. This regenerated magnesium is "solvated" in the solvent (THF) and highly reactive. Therefore, after prolong time stirring, metal turnings are smaller in size than before, and magnesium "mud" appeares at the bottom of the flask.

Scheme 2.50 : Catalytic cycle for the formation of activated magnesium³³



With the activated magnesium, Grignard reagent of bromide **2.87** was prepared successfully. The Grignard reagent was introduced to cuprous iodide dimethylsulfide complex³² to give the dialkyl cuprate reagent. The 1,4-addition of methyl vinyl ketone was furnished with this organocuprate reagent to give desired product **2.86** (Scheme 2.51).

Scheme 2.51 : Synthesis of 2.86



However, the reaction yields varied from 5% - 35% when reaction scales varied. The reason was explored. For the different qualities of magnesium turnings, it was found that methyl iodide was sometimes needed more than 0.1 eq. to initiate the formation of magnesium*. The generated methyl Grignard reagent remained in the reaction mixture and reacted with cuprous iodide to give dimethyl cuprate which would also undergo a 1,4-addition to methyl vinyl ketone as well (Scheme 2.52).

Scheme 2.52 : Formation of the byproduct 2.91



Replacement of methyl iodide with dibromoethane solved this problem. Dibromoethane had the same function as methyl iodide and reacted with magnesium gave the ethylene and magnesium bromide which would not affect the subsequent reaction. The reaction yield became repeatable at 40% (Scheme 2.53).



Transformation from olefin ketone **2.86** to ketone aldehyde **2.46** was initially carried out by using ozone oxidation conditions. However, this reaction did not give any desired product but only decomposed compounds. The alternative condition was the osmium tetraoxide (OsO_4) and sodium periodate ($NaIO_4$) olefin oxidative cleavage reaction.³⁴ OsO_4 could oxidize olefin into 1,2-diol, and the diol is cleaved and oxidized by $NaIO_4$ to give desired aldehyde ketone **2.46**.

Scheme 2.54 : Synthesis of 2.46



The synthesis of (-)-2.76 was continued with both starting materials ready in hands. Mukaiyama aldol reaction³⁵ was carried out with enol silyl ether (-)-2.81 and aldehyde ketone 2.46 in DCM with BF₃ ether as the Lewis acid, and alcohol 2.92 was obtained as a mixture of diastereomers. Since two carbonyl groups existed in compound 2.46, 2.0 eq. of BF₃ ether was required to finish the reaction; otherwise, the yield of reaction would drop to half (Scheme 2.55). Scheme 2.55 : Synthesis of 2.92



Treatment of **2.92** with methylsulfonyl chloride (MsCl) and triethylamine in diethyl ether gave the corrosponding mesylate. Elimination of the mesylate with 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU) generated the desired enone ketone (-)-**2.76** in good yield (Scheme 2.56).



The geometry of the enone in (-)-2.76 was confirmed by 1 H NMR, NOESY and X-ray analysis to be the E-geometry.

Figure 2.15 : A single crystal structure of (-)-2.76



Interestingly, only the *E*-isomer of enone was formed in the elimination reaction. The reason might be the strong steric hindrance between the carbonyl and gem-dimethyl groups in the *Z*-isomer made it difficult to form (Figure 2.16).

Figure 2.16 : Steric hindrance between carbonyl and gem-dimethyl in (Z)-isomer of 2.76



Since the enone was successfully prepared, the constructions for D,E-rings were continued. The idea was to use a base to generate the desired enolate **2.93**, and the enolate **2.93** would undergo intramolecular Michael addition to the enone to give **2.77**. In the presence of a

catalytic amount of base, intramolecular aldol condensation of **2.77** proceeded to give pentacyclic compound (+)-**2.45**.



Scheme 2.57 : Designed annulation for D, E-ring synthesis

Compound (-)-2.76 was heated with sodium ethoxide in high-diluted concentration (0.005 M) in ethanol for 14 hours to generate two new compounds with different polarities in TLC. The results of ¹H NMR and mass spectra indicated that both of them are the annulation products of compound (-)-2.76 having different stereochemistry at C13, C17 and C18.

Scheme 2.58 : Annulation reaction of (-)-2.76



To explain the observation of this reaction and determine the structures of the obtained products were quite challenging.

This domino Michel addition aldol condensation reaction of (-)-2.76 could generate three new stereo-centers which were at carbon13, 17 and 18 positions; hence, a total number of 8 possible isomers could be formed; but the reaction only gave two of them. The interpretation for this reaction outcome needed to be explored. As mentioned in Scheme 2.9,¹² D-ring could be cyclized only when the C13-H is in axial, and this may work the same in the designed domino

reaction. If this hydrogen was in equatorial and the large substitution stayed in axial, there will be great steric hindrance against the C8-methyl group. Under thermodynamic condition, the C13-H would stay in the axial position to give more stable conformation.¹² For C18-H, it is the least acidic proton among the three, and the conformation of C18-H cannot be changed once E-ring is cyclized. C17-H is the most acidic proton in the final product and could be epimerized easily in ethanol in the presence of sodium ethoxide, and, under thermodynamic conditions, C17-H would stay in the conformation of C18-H, C17-H would only stay in one conformation which made the whole system had lowest conformational energy. Therefore, for one possible conformation of C18-H, C17-H would only stay in one conformation which gives the lowest conformational energy of the whole structure. To sum up, under the reaction conditions, C13-H has to stayed in axial to furnish the annulation of C17-H relies on the conformation of C18-H. Hence, only two isomers were generated under the reaction conditions.

The next issue was to determine the exact structures of the obtained isomers. Assuming most of the fused six member rings were in chair conformation to maintain the lowest energy of the system, two structures could be constructed and shown in Figure 2.17. One isomer had 13-H(a), 17-H(a) and 18-H(e) conformation, and the other had 13-H(a), 17-H(e) and 18 (a). In myriceric acid A, the 18-H is in axial position; hence, only one isomer [13-H(a), 17-H(e) and 18 (a)] is useful for the continued synthesis of myriceric acid A.





To assign the structures of each isomer was also difficult. NMR methods, such as ¹H NMR, COSY, NOESY, do not work on this case because the peak of 18-H is merged with other protons' signals. Luckily, single crystals of the more polar isomer were obtained. A successful X-ray analysis was carried out and gave the crystal structure of the more polar isomer (Figure 2.18).

Figure 2.18 : Crystal structure of more polar (+)-2.45 from X-ray analysis showing it to be the desired isomer



The structure of (+)-2.45 which is same as the proposed structure 2 in Figure 2.17 is confirmed as the desired product, and the structure 1 should belong to less polar compound (-)-2.94, the undesired isomer.

Since the structures of the obtained products are all assigned, the detailed mechanisms of the formations of these products are investigated to explain the preference of the formation of undesired (-)-2.94. When the α -H of side-chain ketone is abstracted, two types of enolates, *Z*- and *E*- enolates, could be formed. *Z*-enolate would prefer to approach the enone from its β -face (top) because of the less steric hindrance to give undesired product (-)-2.94; while the *E*-enolate has difficulty in approaching from the β -face because of the steric hindrance between the methyl group of the enolate and C8-methyl group on the C-ring. Therefore, *E*-enolate could only approach the enone from its α -face (bottom side) to give desired pentacyclic product (+)-2.45. For the methyl ketone in (-)-2.76, the *Z*-enolate was slightly favored to be formed because it has less steric hindrance comparing with *E*-enolate; hence, more undesired annulation product is formed.





In summary, attempts on the construction of pentacyclic compound (+)-2.45 via intermolecular Michael addition strategies were not successful. To overcome the problem, ketone aldehyde 2.46 was prepared and used to synthesize the desired compound (-)-2.76 as the starting material for the intramolecular Michael addition-aldol condensation reaction which finally gave the desired pentacyclic compound. The mechanism of this reaction was investigated as well.

2.6 Functionalization of D-ring

In this section, the progress on the functionalization of D-ring in compound (+)-2.45 to finish the total synthesis of myriceric acid A is introduced and discussed (Scheme 2.60).





The strategy for the transformation the compound (+)-2.45 into final target compound 2.14 is rationally designed. Firstly, advantages of using compound (+)-2.45 to prepare target

molecule **2.14** are fully explored. The enone moiety in compound (+)-**2.45** activates all the necessary position to facilitate the introductions of required functional groups. As the α -H of enone, C17-H is the mostly activated to introduce carboxylic group via enolate (kinetic) chemistry; C13-H is the γ -H of enone which could be functionalized to furnish the formation of olefin double bond by either enolate chemistry or allyl system chemistry; Michael addition on this enone moiety could accomplish the installation of the hydroxyl methylene groups at C14 via few steps. Secondly, the sequence of installations of the functional groups is considered. Since the C17-H is the most acidic proton and could be selectively deprotonated, the installation of carboxylic group should be given the first priority. Functionalization of C13-H requires the existence of enone; so, the second priority should be given to the manipulation of C13-H to alkene. Michael addition of enone could be given the third priority. A few steps of functional group inter-conversion would give the desired compound **2.14**. To sum up, the designed reaction sequence is depicted in Scheme 2.61.





Following the proposed strategy, the C17-carboxylic group was firstly introduced.

Mander and Sethi reported a method for the regio-selective synthesis of β -ketoester from lithium enolate by using alkyl cyanoformate.³⁶





The undesired pentacyclic compound (-)-2.94 was firstly used for the model study. LDA was used as the base to deprotonated the α -H of the enone in compound (-)-2.94, and hexamethylphosphoramide (HMPA) was added to increase the activity of enolate by chelating with lithium. Ethyl cyanoformate was finally introduced to give the compound (+)-2.101 in moderate yield (Scheme 2.63).

Scheme 2.63 : Model study of the synthesis of β-ketoester with (-)-2.94



The exact structure of compound (+)-2.101 was confirmed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and X-ray analysis of its single crystal (Figure 2.19).





The X-ray analysis result of (+)-2.101 confirmed our postulation about the structure of compound (-)-2.94: the conformation of C13-H is in axial and the conformation of C18-H is in equatorial. The conformation of C17-H in (-)-2.94 could not be determined since it was no-longer exist in (+)-2.101; however, the real conformation of C17-H in (-)-2.94 is not important because it is destroyed in the deprotonation step eventually.

In compound (-)-2.101, the C17-ethyl ester group stays in axial which is the *cis*conformation of the C18-H. This conformation indicates that the ethyl cyanoformate approaches the enolate from the less hindered side which in this structure is the same side as C18-H. In other words, via this reaction, the conformation of formed ethyl ester depends on the conformation of C18-H. Therefore, if the C18-H is pointing up, the ester would also pointing up which is the desired conformation of C17-ester group.

Since this reaction condition worked well in the model study, compound (+)-2.45 was then treated with LDA, HMPA and ethyl cyanoformate under this condition in THF. However, the reaction outcome was unexpected. Before quenching the reaction with NH_4Cl , TLC showed no (+)-2.45 left but a new less polar spot; however, after the work up, only (+)-2.45 was detected on the TLC (Scheme 2.64).

Scheme 2.64 : Synthesis of β -ketoester with (+)-2.45 in THF



The unsuccessful application of cyanoformate in synthesis of β -ketoester from a steric hindered enolate was also reported by Mander and Sethi in 1990.³⁷ It was mentioned that O-alkylation is favored to give undesired enol carbonate ester when THF is used as solvent for this type of reaction. This enol carbonate ester is not stable and readily hydrolyzed under acidic condition. The solution for this problem is to use diethyl ether instead of THF as the solvent for the reaction (Scheme 2.65).





The reason might be the reactivity differences of the cyanoformate in different solvents. Comparing with diethyl ether, THF is a better coordinating solvent because of its cyclic structure, and cyanoformate is more "solvated" in THF, which made it a "harder" electrophile (Figure 2.20). When enolate orients in a hindered environment, the "hard" electrophile has a better chance to attack the oxygen because it is a "hard" nucleophile and easy to approach as well.

Figure 2.20 : More "solvated" cyanoformate in THF



Although the exact reason of the failed synthesis of desired β -ketoester is not confirmed as the formation of enol carbonate, this revised procedure was tried. Compound (+)-2.45 was then treated with LDA, HMPA and ethyl cyanoformate in diethyl ether. Fortunately, the desired compound (-)-2.106 was obtained in a good yield (Scheme 2.66).

Scheme 2.66 : Synthesis of β -ketoester (-)-2.106



The formation of β -ketoester in (-)-2.106 was confirmed by ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and mass spectrums. However, the exact stereochemistry is still not clear. Compound (-)-2.106 is oil, therefore the single crystal could not be obtained for X-ray analysis. Considering the formate would approach from the less hindered side of the enolate, it is highly possible that the ester in (-)-2.106 is in *cis* position of C18-H which is the desired conformation.

The functionalization of (-)-2.106 is carried out; however, because of the time limit, there is still no progress been made.

2.7 Conclusion

The total synthesis of myriceric acid A was continued with a revised synthetic strategy. The traditional method for synthesizing the tricyclic compound could not afford enantio-pure product; therefore, a new method was developed to stereo-selectively generate the tricyclic compound. The new method started with the TBS protected bicyclic compound (-)-2.53 and α -trimethylsilylvinyl ethyl ketone via a reductive-Michael addition-silyl hydrolyzation-aldol condensation reaction sequence to give the enantio-pure tricyclic compound (+)-2.72 in a good yield. After protection of carbonyl group, deprotection of TBS group and oxidation of the alcohol, tricyclic intermediate (-)-2.33 was synthesized.

With the enantio-pure tricyclic intermediate ready, the synthesis of pentacyclic intermediate was explored. Initial attempts on the intermolecular Michael addition strategy were not successful because of the steric effect. The intramolecular reaction was designed and used as the alternative method. Ketone aldehyde **2.46** was synthesized over five steps and coupled to the tricyclic compound (-)-**2.81** via Mukaiyama type of aldol condensation reaction. The desired enone-ketone was prepared for the designed intramolecular Michael addition aldol condensation reaction. The desired pentacyclic compound (+)-**2.45** was prepared eventually via the protocol, and the structure was confirmed by X-ray analysis.

Functionalization of the obtained pentacyclic intermediate was started with installation of the 17-carboxylic group. After several attempts, the successful procedure was developed, and the desired pentacyclic carboxyl ester was synthesized in a good yield. Further functionalization of the pentacyclic structure will be pursued.

2.7 Experimental Section

General procedure: Melting points were measured on Thomas Hoover capillary melting point apparatus. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were obtained at 400 MHz for ¹H and 100 MHz for ¹³C in deuteriochloroform and reported in ppm, unless otherwise indicated. Solvents and some reagents were dried over CaH₂ (DCM, pyridine, Et₃N, DMF, diisopropylamine, trimethylsilyl chloride), sodium/benzophenone (THF, ether), magnesium (MeOH, EtOH) and lithium aluminum hydride (toluene, benzene) and distilled under argon. All other reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. Reactions were performed under agron unless otherwise indicated.

2-Methyl-1,3-cyclohexandione.



1,3-Cyclohexandione (15.0 g, 0.13 mol) was dissolved in 5N NaOH aqueous solution (26 mL, 0.13 mol). The resulted red-brown solution was cooled to 0°C over an ice-water bath. To it at 0°C was added iodomethane (37.0 g, 0.26 mol) slowly. This mixture was heat to 65°C with vigorous stirring for 24 hours and cooled to 25 °C. The white solid was collected by filtration, powderized and washed with 300 mL of hexane and 50 mL of cold water to give white solid as the desired product (13.44 g, 84 % yield) which was sufficiently pure used in the following step. This is a commercial available chemical. The ¹H NMR is provided herein for reference, and the chemical shifts are identical to that of reported.¹³ ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*6) δ 10.28 (bs, 1H, enol-OH), 2.28 (m, 4H), 1.81 (m, 2H), 1.53 (s, 3H, -CH₃).

2-(1-Bromoethyl)-2-ethyl-1,3-dioxolane (2.47).^{14,15}



3-Pentanone (86.0 g, 1.0 mol), ethylene glycol (70.0 g, 1.1 mol) and PTSA (20 mg, 0.12 mmol) in 100 mL hexane were heated to reflux with Dean-Stark to remove water for 48 hours. To the resulting light brown color solution was added 500 mL of ethylene glycol. This mixture was cooled to 35° C, and bromine (140 g, 0.75 mol) was added dropwisely via a dropping funnel to maintain the reaction temperature below 40 °C. The stirring continued for 15 minutes after the addition of bromine, and the reaction mixture was directly extracted with hexanes (200mL×3). Na₂CO₃ (20.0 g) was added to the combined hexane extract, stirred with for 10 minutes, and filtrated off. The hexane was removed over rotavapor, and the product was distilled under vacuum (1~2 torr., b.p.: 49 – 53 °C) to give a colorless liquid 48 g (35% yield). ¹H NMR δ 4.16 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, BrC-<u>H</u>), 4.09 – 4.03 (m, 4H), 1.99 (m, 1H), 1.79 (m, 1H), 1.68 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H).

2-Ethyl-2-vinyl-1,3-dioxolane (2.48).¹⁵



Compound **2.47** (48.0 g, 0.23 mol) was mixed with sodium hydroxide (32.2 g, 0.8 mol) in 70 mL MeOH under argon. This mixture was heated to reflux for 24 hours. To the cooled reaction mixture was added 150 mL of water and extracted with ether (200 mL×2). The combined organic layer was washed with water (200 mL×2), brine and dired over MgSO₄. The ether was removed under vacuum to give 26.1 g of desired product **2.48** (90% yield). ¹H NMR δ 5.73 (dd, *J* = 17.2, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (dd, *J* = 16, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 3.97 – 3.87 (m, 4H), 1.73 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H).

Ethyl vinyl ketone.¹⁴



Compound **2.48** (26.1 g, 0.20 mol), PTSA (0.2 g, 0.01 mmol) was stirred in 30 mL water at 25 °C under argon for 10 hours. The organic layer was separated and dried over Na₂SO₄ to give 15.2 g of pure ethyl vinyl ketone (90% yield). This is a commercial available chemical. The ¹H NMR is provided here for reference and is identical to that of the commercial mateiral. ¹H NMR δ 6.36 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (dd, *J* = 10.4, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (q, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H).

(-)-(4*aR*,5*R*)-5-(*tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy*)-1,4*a*-dimethyl-4,4*a*,5,6,7,8*hexahydronaphthalen-2*(3*H*)-*one* [(-)-2.53]. (*JL*-11-057)



To (-)-2.29 (400 mg, 2.06 mmol) and imidazole (272 mg, 4.0 mmol) in 15 mL dry DMF under argon at 25 °C was added TBSCl (467 mg, 3.1 mmol) at once. Then this mixture was stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was diluted with 50 mL aq. NH_4Cl and extracted with

ethyl acetate (50 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, dried over MgSO₄. Ethyl acetate was concentrated off by rota-vapor, the residue was loaded on silica gel column which was eluted firstly with 200 mL hexane and 150 mL the mixture of hexane and ether (5:1) to recover (-)-2.29 (105 mg) and give (-)-2.53 (430 mg, 90% yield, calculated based on recovered (-)-2.29) as colorless oil. (-)-2.53 became a white solid after stored in the fridge overnight. [α]₂₄= -106°, (c = 0.345 g in 100 mL chloroform); ¹H-NMR: δ 3.35 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 2.42 - 2.38 (m, 2H), 2.09 - 2.00 (m, 2H), 1.88-1.81 (m, 1H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 1.71 - 1.62 (m, 3H), 1.36 - 1.24 (m, 1H), 1.14 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s 9H), 0.04 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 199.4, 161.5, 129.9, 79.2, 42.7, 34.2, 33.9, 30.7, 27.3, 26.1 (3 carbons, *t*-Bu), 22.9, 18.3, 16.2, 11.5, -3.7, -4.7.

Vinyl bromide.



KOH (90 g, 1.5 mol), 600 mL Ethanol were added to a three-neck flask which was equipped with distillation apparatus [Long Vigreux column (30 cm), distillation head, long condenser (circulating ice-cold water), distillation adaptor and collection flask which was cooled by dry-ice]. To this mixture was added 1,2-dibromoethane (100 mL, 1.2 mol) over 1 hour via a syringe pump at 40 °C under argon. Vinylbromide was distilled out (b.p. = 16 °C) at 60 °C under argon. The crude product was redistilled over CaSO₄ to give dry vinyl bromide 61 g (48% yield). Obtained vinyl bromide should stor at -78°C all the time.

Vinyl trimethylsilane.



To a mixture of magnesium (10 g, 0.42 mol, from Strem Chemical Co.) and catalytic amount of iodine in 300 mL THF was slowly added vinyl bromide (30 g, 0.28 mol). Reaction was initiated by adding about 1 mL of vinyl bromide and heated to reflux by heat gun. After the initiation, the rest of bromide was cannulated into the reaction slowly to maintain a gentle reflux

of THF. After the adding of vinyl bromide, the mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 20 mins and heated to reflux for 2 hours to result a brown color solution. The mixture was cooled to 25 °C, and distilled TMSCI (30 g, 0.28 mol) in 30 mL THF was added slowly. The mixture was stirred for 2 hours at 25 °C, and the product was directly distilled out from the reaction mixture as the azeotrope of THF. This clear distillate was washed with water several times to get rid of THF, and the residue was dried over Na₂SO₄ to give vinyltrimethylsilane (21 g, 75% yield) as a colorless liquid. This is a commercial available chemical. The ¹H NMR is provided here for reference, and the chemical shifts are identical to that of reported.²² ¹H-NMR: δ 6.16 (dd, *J* = 20, 16 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (dd, *J* = 16, 4 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (dd, *J* = 20, 4 Hz, 1H), 0.08 (s, 9H).

α -Trimethylsilyl vinyl bromide (2.70).²²



To a stirred solution of vinyltrimethylsilane (36 g, 0.36 mol), at -78°C, in 50 mL pentane was added bromine (57.6 g, 0.36 mol) dropwisely under argon. The resulted orange color mixture was stirred at -78 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 hour, diluted with water and extracted with ether (150 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with aq. $Na_2S_2O_5$ (to remove any excess amount of bromine), aq. NaHCO₃, and brine, and dried over MgSO₄. The diethyl ether was concentrated by rota-vapor with a cool water bath (<40 °C) to give dibromide product. To this dibromide compound was added diethylamine (53 g, 0.72 mol) at 25 °C, and this mixture was stirred for 14 hours. The resulted white diethylamine salt was filtrated off. To the clear filtrate was added additional amount of diethylamine (26 g, 0.36 mol). The reaction was kept stirring for 10 hours and monitored by NMR. When no dibromide compound was detected, the diethylamine salt was filtrate off, and the clear solution was diluted with 300 mL ether. This solution was gently washed with 1 N HCl several times until the pH is neutral, water, brine and dried over MgSO₄. The ether was distilled out at 1 atm to give crude product. Distillation of this crude product (1 atm, b.p.: 165 °C) finally gave pure 2.70 (42 g, 66% yield) as colorless liquid. ¹H-NMR: δ 6.28 $(d, J = 1.6 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 6.19 (d, J = 1.6 \text{Hz}, 1\text{H}), 0.02 (s, 9\text{H}); {}^{13}\text{C-NMR} 139.2, 129.6, -2.2 (3 \text{ carbons}, 120.6), -2.2 (3 \text{ carbons}, 12$ Me₃Si).

2-(Trimethylsilyl)pent-1-en-3-ol (2.71).²²



To a mixture of magnesium (1.4 g, 56 mmol) in 50 mL dry THF was added 0.2 mL of 1,2-dibromoethane, and the mixture was heated to reflux for 3 minutes. Bromide **2.70** (5.0 g, 28 mmol) was added dropwisely. The reaction was initiated by heating with heat gun, and the bromide was slowly added into the mixture it to maintain a gentle reflux. The mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 30 minutes, heated to reflux for 1.5 hours and then cooled to -10 °C. Distilled propyl aldehyde (2.4 g, 42 mmol) in 10 mL THF was added slowly. Reaction mixture was warmed to 25 °C after the addition, stirred for 2 hours and quenched by aq. NH₄Cl. The product was extracted out with ether (60 mL×3). Combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, dried over MgSO₄. Ether was distilled off at 1 atm, and the crude product was purified on silica gel column by using a mixture of hexane and ether (4:1) as eluent to give **2.71** (3.89 g, 86% yield) as colorless liquid. ¹H-NMR: δ 5.77 (s, 1H), 5.42 (s, 1H), 4.20 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.66 – 1.48 (m, 3H, merged with a broad -OH), 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.13 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR 156.3, 124.2, 77.9, 30.2, 10.3, -0.4 (3 carbons, Me₃Si).

α -Trimethylsilyl vinyl ethyl ketone



To the mixture of PDC (7.7g, 36 mmol) in 50 mL DCM was added 2-(trimethylsilyl) pent-1-en-3-ol (**2.71**) (3.8 g, 24 mmol) in 50 mL of DCM slowly at 0 °C. The mixture was warmed up to 25 °C and stirred for 14 hours. The resulted brown solid was filtrated off through a short silica gel pad, and the silica gel was washed with 20 mL DCM. The combined DCM was distilled off at 1 atm, and the crude product was purified on silica gel column with a mixture of ether and hexane (1:4) was eluent to give desired product 2.28 g (61 % yield) as yellow liquid.

¹H-NMR: δ 6.45 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.08 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.16 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR 207.2, 154.1, 135.1, 31.8, 8.3, -1.2 (3 carbons, Me₃Si).

(+)-(4aR,8R,8aR)-8-(tert-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-1,4a,8a-trimethyl-4,4a,4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-decahydrophenanthren-2(3H)-one [(+)-2.72].(JL-12-059)



To liquid NH₃ (40 mL) at -78 °C was added lithium (56 mg, 8.1 mmol). After stirring for 30 minutes at this temperature, a solution of (4aR,5R)-5-(t-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-1,4adimethyl-4,4a,5,6,7,8-hexahydronaphthalen-2(3H)-one [(-)-2.53] (1.0 g, 3.2 mmol) and t-butanol (179 mg, 2.56 mmol) in 10 mL dry ether was injected. Then this mixture was refluxed at -35 °C for 2 hours. A few drops of isoprene (freshly distilled over sodium) were injected to quench the excess amount of lithium. Liquid NH_3 was evaporated off at room temperature, and the residue was connected to the high vacuum at 40°C for 10 minutes. The resulting white residue was dissolved in 40 mL dry ether again, cooled to -78°C and protected from light by covering with a black cloth. α-Trimethylsilylvinyl ethyl ketone (0.75 g, 4.8 mmol) in 10 mL dry ether was added into this mixture over 30 minutes by syringe pump. The reaction mixture was warmed up to -40 °C and allow the temperature gradually warmed up to -10 °C over 2 hours with stirring. NH₄Cl aq. was added into this mixture, and extracted with ethyl acetate (60 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer was washed with water, and concentrated off under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved with 100 mL methanol and 20 mL 6% KOH aq., and this mixture was heated to reflux for 2 hours. Acetic acid was added to neutralize excess amount of base, and the methanol was evaporated under a rotary evaporator. The residue was diluted with aq. NH₄Cl, extracted with ethyl acetate (60 mL \times 3). Combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, dried over MgSO₄. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using a mixture of hexane and diethyl ether (3:1) to give desired product 680 mg (58% yield) as colorless oil. $[\alpha]_{27} = +45.2^{\circ}$, (c = 0.25 in chloroform); ¹H-NMR: $(CDCl_3) \delta 3.06 (dd, J = 11.2, 4.8 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 2.67 (dt, J = 11.6, J)$ 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.49 – 2.31 (m, 2H), 2.23 (td, J = 12.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.04 - 1.97 (m, 2H), 1.79 (s,

3H), 1.78 – 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.59 – 1.11 (m, 6H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.11 – 1.02 (m, 2H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.02 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 6H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 199.2, 164.6, 128.4, 81.1, 55.6, 40.0, 39.4, 38.2, 36.5, 33.5, 31.1, 26.1 (3 carbons, *t*-Bu), 24.6, 24.5, 20.6, 18.6, 18.3, 12.5, 11.3, -3.7, -4.6.

(+)-(4aR,8R,8aR)-8-(tert-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-1,1,4a,8a-tetramethyldecahydrophenanthren-2(1H,3H,4bH)-one [(+)-2.73].(JL-12-087)



To liquid NH₃ (20 mL) at -78 °C was added lithium (30 mg, 4.3 mmol). After stirring for 30 minutes at this temperature, (+)-**2.72** (400 mg, 1.1 mmol) in 2 mL dry THF was added slowly. Then the mixture was refluxed at -35 °C for 2 hours and cooled to -78 °C degree. Dry THF (35 mL) was injected and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 10 minutes. Methyl iodide (1.4 mL, 22 mmol, 20 eq.) was added into the bottom part of the reaction by a long needle. After stirring at -78 °C for 30 minutes, another batch of methyl iodide (1.4 mL, 22 mmol, 20 eq.) was added. This mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature slowly over 14 hours and diluted with NH₄Cl aq., and extracted with ethyl acetate (40 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, and dried over MgSO₄. The organic layer was concentrated and purified by column chromatography using a mixture of hexane and diethyl ether (10:1) to give desired product 265 mg (65% yield) of (+)-**2.73** as colorless solid. [α]₂₇= +8.2°, (c = 0.25 in chloroform); ¹H-NMR: (CDCl₃) δ 3.06 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.56 – 2.38 (m, 2H), 1.96 - 1.90 (m, 2H), 1.78 - 1.69 (m, 1H), 1.55 - 1.17 (m, 11H), 1.08 (s, 3H), 1.04 (s, 3H), 0.94 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.03 (6H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 218.2, 81.5, 56.7, 55.4, 47.7, 40.4, 39.6, 39.5, 37.0, 34.4, 31.3, 26.8, 26.1 (3 carbons, *t*-Bu), 24.8, 21.3, 20.7, 19.6, 18.3, 16.4, 13.2, -3.7, -4.5.

(-)-(4a'R,8'R,8a'R)-1',1',4a',8a'-8-t-Butyldimethylsilyoxy-tetramethyldodecahydro-1'H-spiro[1,3]dioxolane-2,2'-phenanthren[(-)-2.74].



(4a*R*,8*R*,8a*R*)-8-(*tert*-Butyldimethylsilyloxy)-1,1,4a,8a-tetramethyl dodecahydro phenanthren -2 (1H)-one (+)-**2.73** (2.0 g, 5.25 mmol), PTSA (50 mg, 0.3 mmol) and ethylene glycol (3.25 g, 52 mmol) were refluxed in benzene with a Dean-Stark apparatus to remove water for 2 hours. The solution was cooled to room temperature, diluted with aq. NaHCO₃, and extracted with ether (50 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, and dried over MgSO₄. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using a mixture of hexane and ethyl acetate (5:1) to give desired product 2.1 g (95% yield) as a colorless solid. $[\alpha]_{27}$ = - 49°, (c = 0.23 in chloroform); ¹H-NMR: δ 3.97 – 3.87 (m, 4H), 3.05 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.88 – 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.73 – 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.60 (ddd, *J* = 13.2, 7.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.52 – 1.32 (m, 6H), 1.29 – 1.10 (m, 5H), 1.04 – 0.95 (m, 1H), 0.93 (s, 3H), 0.87 (s, 12 H), 0.86 (s, 3H), 0.84 (s, 3H), 0.00 (s, 6H) ; ¹³C-NMR δ 113.6, 81.7, 65.09, 65.07, 57.2, 54.0, 42.4, 40.4, 40.3, 37.3, 37.1, 31.4, 27.1, 26.2 (3 carbons, *t*-Bu), 24.8, 23.1, 20.3, 20.1, 18.4, 18.3, 16.4, 13.6, -3.7, -4.6.

(-)-(4a'R,8'R,8a'R)-1',1',4a',8a'-Tetramethyldodecahydro-1'H-spiro[[1,3]dioxolane-2,2'-phenanthren] -8'-ol [(-)-2.32].(JL-14-044)



27 mL of 1.0 M tetrabutylamnium fluoride in THF was diluted with 20 mL dry THF. This solution was pre-dried by 3Å molecular sieves and transferred into *tert*-butyldimethyl((4a'R,8'R,8a'R)-1',1',4a',8a'-tetramethyldodecahydro-1'H-spiro[[1,3] dioxolane - 2,2'- phenanthrene]-8'-yloxy)silane [(-)-2.74] (2.0 g, 4.6 mmol) in 30 mL dry THF. The resulting
solution was stirred at 60 °C under argon for 14 hours, diluted with NH₄Cl aq., and extracted with ethyl acetate (50 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated off under vacuum, and the crude product was purified on silica gel column with a mixture of ether and hexane (1:1) as eluent to give 1.4 g of pure (+)-**2.32** (95% yield) as white solid. [α]₂₅= - 45°, (c = 0.1 in chloroform; *lit*²⁴: [α]₂₅= - 44°, c = 0.1, 98 %ee); ¹H NMR δ 3.99 – 3.86 (m, 4 H), 3.13 (ddd, *J* = 11.4, 8.4, 4.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.90 – 1.74 (m, 2 H), 1.73 – 1.08 (m, 15 H), 0.93 (s, 3 H), 0.88 (s, 6 H), 0.85 (s, 3 H); ¹³C-NMR (CDCl3) δ ppm 113.5, 81.4, 65.1, 56.8, 53.8, 42.4, 39.8, 39.4, 37.2, 37.0, 30.4, 27.1, 26.1, 24.8, 23.2, 20.2, 20.1, 18.3, 16.5, 13.3.

(-)-(4a'S,8a'R)-1',1',4a',8a'-Tetramethyldecahydro-1'H-spiro[[1,3]dioxolane-2,2'phenanthren]-8'(3'H)-one [(-)-2.33].(JL-14-045)



To the (-)-2.32 (240 mg, 0.75 mmol) in 5 mL DMSO was added IBX (208 mg, 0.89 mmol) at 25 °C under argon. This solution was stirred for 14 hours. The white participate was filtrated off. The filtrate was diluted with aq. NaHCO₃, and extracted with ether (60 mL×3). Combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, and dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under vacuum, and the crude product was purified on silica gel column with a mixture of hexane, DCM, ether (5:3:1) as eluent to give 220 mg of pure (-)-2.33 (95% yield) as white solid. $[\alpha]_{25}$ = -27°, (c = 0.27 in chloroform, 100%ee; *lit*.²⁴: $[\alpha]_{25}$ = - 26°, c = 0.14, 98 %ee); ¹H NMR δ 3.98 – 3.86 (m, 4 H), 2.54 (td, *J* = 14.0, 6.9 Hz, 1 H), 2.18 (dm, 1 H), 2.08 – 2.01 (m, 1 H), 1.82 (td, *J* = 13.9, 4.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.75 – 1.35 (m, 10 H), 1.26 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 2.1 Hz, 1 H), 1.18 (dd, *J* = 11.8, 3.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.14 (s, 3 H), 0.98 (s, 3 H), 0.94 (s, 3 H), 0.84 (s, 3 H); ¹³C-NMR δ 215.9, 113.2, 65.1, 65.1, 57.6, 53.2, 49.4, 42.4, 38.3, 37.9, 37.1, 34.7, 27.0, 26.4, 23.1, 20.3, 20.07, 20.04, 18.0, 16.8.



Isoprene Diethylamine

Isoprene was distilled over sodium; and diethylamine was distilled over CaH₂ before use.

To a dry sealed tube was added isoprene (20 mL, 0.20 mol) and diethylamine (6 mL, 0.04 mol) at 0 °C under argon. To this solution was added 1.6 M n-BuLi (2.5 mL) to result a light yellow color solution. The tube was capped tightly and heated to 65 °C 12 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and 15 mL of water was added to quench the reaction. The mixture was extracted by ether (20 mL \times 2), and the combined organic layer was dried over MgSO₄. The ether was concentrated under vacuum, and the crude product was purified by vacuum distillation (b.p: 90 – 95 °C, 3 torr.) to give pure amine 5.65 g (75% yield) as colorless oil. ¹H NMR δ 5.24 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 3.04 (dd, J = 7.2, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 2.49 (q, J = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 2.04 (d, J = 6.03.2 Hz, 4H, 1.71 - 1.60 (m, 9H), 1.01 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 6H).

1-(4,4-dimethylcyclohex-1-enyl)ethanone (2.75).²⁶



A 50 % of hydrogen peroxide aqueous solution was added to compound 2.78 (1.05 g, 5 mmol) in 10 mL methanol at 25 °C. This solution was stirred for 48 hours. Then PtO₂ (3 mg) was added to the reaction solution and stirred for 2 hours to destroy the excess amount of hydrogen peroxide. Removal of the methanol to give desired N-oxide. The N-oxide residue was diluted with 500 mL H₂O. To this diluted solution was added 10 mL of 50 % H₂SO₄, and the mixture was heated to 100 °C for 24 hours and cooled to 0 °C with ice bath. To the resulted light brown solution was added 10 g of NaOH in 20 mL water. This mixture was heated to 100 °C for 24 hours and cooled to 25 °C. The excess amount of NaOH was neutralized with 10 % HCl, and the product was extracted with ether (100 mL \times 3). The combined organic layer washed with water, brine, dried over MgSO₄, and distilled at 1atm to remove ether, and the crude product was purified on silica gel column with a mixture of hexane and ether (1:1) as eluent to give 340 mg of pure **2.75** (45 % yield) as colorless oil with pleasant ordor. ¹H NMR δ 6.82 (m, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H, -CH₃), 2.26 – 2.24 (m, 2H), 2.05 – 2.03 (m, 2H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 0.8 (s, 6H).

(-)-Trimethyl((4a'R,8a'R)-1',1',4a',8a'-tetramethyl-3',4',4a',4b',5',6',8a',9',10',10a'decahydro-1'H-spiro[[1,3]dioxolane-2,2'-phenanthrene]-8'-yloxy)silane [(-)-2.81].



Trimethylsilyl chloride (TMSCl) was distilled twice over CaH_2 , and to the distilled TMSCl was added distilled Et_3N (volume ratio: TMSCl : $Et_3N = 7$: 1). The mixture was centrifuged for 2 minutes, and the clear supernatant was used for the reaction.

To the solution of diisopropylamine (0.05 mL, 0.35 mmol) in 1.5 mL dry THF was added 1.6 M *n*-BuLi (0.21 mL, 0.33 mmol) at -78 °C under argon. The solution was stirred for 30 minutes and transfered into compound (-)-2.33 (100 mg, 0.33 mmol) in 2 mL THF at -78 °C under argon. The mixture was warmed up to 25 °C, stirred for 2 hours and cooled to -78 °C. To it was added TMSCl (0.136 mL, 1 mmol), and the mixture stirred at -78 °C for 30 minutes. The reaction was diluted with 5% aqueous NH₄OH solution, extracted with ether (20 mL×3). The combined organic layer washed with water, brine and dried over Na₂SO₄. The combined ether was distilled under vacuum, and the crude product was chromatographed on silica gel column with a mixture of hexane, DCM and ether (5:3:1) as eluent to give 110 mg of pure (-)-2.81 (98 % yield) as white solid. [α]₂₅= - 32°, (c = 0.55 in chloroform); ¹H NMR δ 4.50 – 4.87 (m, 1H), 3.98 – 3.87 (m, 4H), 2.06 – 1.78 (m, 4H), 1.67 – 1.11 (m, 10H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 3H), 0.83 (s, 3H), 0.15 (s, 9H); ¹³C-NMR δ 159.0, 113.6, 100.0, 65.1 (2 carbons, acetal), 55.9, 53.8, 42.5, 39.6, 37.1 (2 carbons, gem-dimethyl), 36.9, 27.1, 24.9, 23.1, 20.9, 20.0, 18.5, 17.9, 16.7, 0.6 (3 carbons. TMS).



Allyl alcohol (21.7g, 0.375 mol), isobutyraldehyde (40.5 g, 0.56 mol) and *p*-toluenesulfonic acid(0.125g, 6.5 mmol) in mesitylene (70 mL)was heated at 220 °C by heating mental for 48 hours with Dean-Stark apparatus and a long Vigreux column (30 cm). The product was distilled at 1 atm to give 40 g (90 % yield) as colorless liquid. (The product was distilled out as the azeotrope of mesitylene which can be separated at next step); ¹H NMR δ 9.50 (s, 1H), 5.77 – 5.67 (m, 1H), 5.11 – 5.06 (m, 2H), 2.23 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.07 (s, 6H).

2,2-Dimethylpent-4-en-1-ol (2.88).



The sodium borohydride (4.8 g, 0.132 mol) in 60 mL 0.2 M NaOH aq. solution was added slowly in to a solution of aldehyde **2.89** (40 g, 0.35 mol) inMeOH (400 mL) over 30 minutes. It was stirred at 25 °C for 10 hours. The MeOH was distilled off, and the residue was diluted with NH₄Cl aq., extracted with ether (100 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, and dried over MgSO₄. The ether was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by column chromatography with pure hexane and the mixture of hexane ether (1:1) to give pure product as colorless oil (38 g, 90% yield); ¹H NMR δ 5.94 – 5.82 (m, 1H), 5.07 – 5.04 (m, 2H), 3.34 (s, 2H), 2.03 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 0.89 (s, 6H).



Bromine (7.7 g, 48.8 mmol) was added to triphenylphsophine (12 g, 45.9mmol) in 30 mL DMF (dried over 3 Å molecular sieve), and the mixture was stirred for 30 minutes. To it, a solution of alcohol **2.88** (5.0 g, 43.8 mmol) in 30 mL DMF was added slowly. The resulting black solution was heated to 130 °C for 2 hours, cooled to 25 °C and diluted with 70 mL water. The mixture was extracted with pentane (60 mL×10), and the combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, and dried with MgSO₄. The pentane was distilled off at 1 atm, and the product was distilled from this residue at 180 °C to give a colorless liquid with pleasant odor (4.5 g, 65 % yield).¹H NMR δ 5.83 – 5.72 (m, 1H), 5.12 – 5.07 (m, 2H), 3.28 (s, 2H), 2.11 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.02 (s, 6H).

6,6-Dimethylnon-8-en-2-one (2.86).



[Activation of magnesium: If the magnesium is not new purchased, it should be activiated by the following procedure: the metal was washed with 1 N HCl several times until a shiny surface appeared, then washed with distilled water several times to remove excess acid; the washed magnesium could be transferred into a Hirsh funnel (without filtering paper) and wash with water, THF and dried under high vacuum for 1 hour with heating to give activiated magnesium]

To a mixture of magnesium (7.0 g, 227 mmol), anthracene (1.0 g, 5.6 mmol) in 100 mL of dry THF under argon was added 1,2-dibromoethane (0.5 mL, 5.7 mmol), and this mixture was heated to reflux with heat gun for 5 minutes. After cooling to 25 °C, the mixture stirred for 14 hours to give green-orange color mixture (a green color normally showed up after stirring for 1 hour).

To this green-orange mixture was added bromide **2.87** (8.0 g, 45.5 mmol) to form the Grignard reagent. Firstly, about 1 g of bromide was added into the mixture, the mixture was heated up to reflux with heat gun. The rest of bromide was injected slowly to maintain a gentle reflux of the THF. The mixture was stirred at 25 $^{\circ}$ C for 30 minutes after the addition of the bromide, heated to reflux for 2 hours and cooled to 25 $^{\circ}$ C to give a black color solution.

To a three neck flask equipped with low temperature thermometer were added cuprous iodide dimethyl sulfide complex $(CuIMe_2S)^{31}$ (5.75 g, 27.8 mmol), 15 mL dimethlsulfide, and 20 mL of dry ether under argon. The mixture was cooled to -40 °C, and the prepared Grignard reagent was cannulated into this mixture slowly to maintain the temperature below -30 °C. The mixture was stirred for 40 minutes to let temperature rise to -20 °C. This mixture was cooled to -40 °C, and methyl vinyl ketone (1.4 g, 26.1 mmol) in 3 mL ether was added. The mixture stirred for 2 hours to allow the temperature raise to 10 °C. To it, 200 mL mixture of NH₄Cl aq. and NH₄OH aq. (4:1) was added into the reaction, and the mixture stirred for 1 minute. The crude product was extracted with ether (50 mL × 4). The combined organic layer was washed with 10 % aqueous NH₄OH two times, water, brine and dried over MgSO₄. The ether and THF was distilled out at 1 atm., and the residue was purified by column using a mixture of hexane ether (15:1) as eluent to give pure product as a yellow oil (1.6 g, 40% yield); ¹H NMR chromatography with δ 5.84 – 5.73 (m, 1H), 5.01 – 4.94 (m, 2H), 2.38 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.94 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.58 – 1.49 (m, 2H), 1.16 – 1.12 (m, 2H), 0.85 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR δ 209.4, 135.8, 116.9, 46.5, 44.7, 41.5, 33.3, 30.1, 27.1 (2 carbons, gem-dimethyl), 18.7.

3,3-Dimethyl-7-oxooctanal (2.46).





To compound **2.86** (1.0 g, 6.0 mmol) in 30 mL dioxane and 6 mL H₂O was added OsO₄ (12 mg, 0.06 mmol) at 25 °C. The mixture was stirred for 40 minutes to give a dark brown solution. To this solution, sodium perioddate (2.5 g, 12 mmol) was added slowly over 20 minutes. The mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 4 hours, diluted with water, and extracted with ether (40 mL×4). The combined organic layer washed with water, brine, and dried over MgSO₄. Ether and most of the dioxane were distilled off at 1 atm., and the crude product was purified by column chromatography with the mixture of hexane ether (1:1) to give pure product as yellow oil (0.52 g, 56% yield). ¹H NMR δ 9.83 (t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.27 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 2H),

2.13 (s, 3H), 1.61 – 1.53 (m, 2H), 1.32 – 1.27 (m, 2H), 1.05 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR δ 208.9, 203.8, 54.8, 44.2, 42.2, 33.7, 30.0, 27.6 (2 carbons, gem-dimethyl), 18.5.

(-)-(4a'S,8a'R,E)-7'-(3,3-dimethyl-7-oxooctylidene)-1',1',4a',8a'-Tetramethyldecahydro-1'H-spiro[[1,3]dioxolane-2,2'-phenanthren]-8'(3'H)-one [(-)-2.76].



To a solution of compound (-)-2.81 (0.50 g, 1.1 mmol) and ketone aldehyde 2.46 (0.23 g, 1.3 mmol) in 25 mL distilled DCM at -78 °C under argon was added BF₃.ether (0.34 mL, 2.7 mmol). This mixture stirred at -78 °C for 2 hours and stored in dry-ice for 10 hours. To it (at -78 °C) was added 5 mL saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution to quench the reaction. The mixture was diluted with water, and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, and dried over MgSO₄. Ethyl acetate was evaporated off under vacuum, and the residue was column chromatographed on the silica gel column to recover the compound (-)-2.33 (30 mg, 9% revovery) and get desired aldol product 2.92 [430 mg, 92 % yield, calculated based on the recovery of ketone (-)-2.33].

To a solution of compound **2.92** (430 mg, 0.91 mmol) and Et₃N (1.3 mL, 8.1 mmol) in 30 mL distilled ether was added MsCl (342mg, 3 mmol) at 0 °C under argon. The mixture was stirred for 14 hours, quenched with 5 % aqueous NH₄Cl, and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with 10 % aqueous NaHCO₃, water, brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in 20 mL of a mixture of DCM and toluene (1:1). To it was added DBU (276 mg, 1.82 mmol) at 25 °C. This mixture was stirred for 15 hours, diluted with aqueous NH₄Cl, and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL×3). The combined organic layer washed with water, brine, and dried over MgSO₄. Ethyl acetate was evaporated off under vacuum, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using a mixture of hexane, DCM and ether (5:3:1) as eluent to give pure product as a white solid (0.35 g, 83% yield, two steps). [α]₂₅= - 32.5°, (c = 0.385 in chloroform); ¹H

NMR δ 6.39 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.99 – 3.85 (m, 4H), 2.77 (d, J = 15.6, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 2.39 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.12 – 1.62 (m, 9H), 1.58 – 1.16 (m, 10H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 0.95 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 6H), 0.85 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 209.4, 208.0, 137.1, 135.2, 113.2 (2 carbons, acetal), 65.12, 65.11, 54.2, 53.1, 47.8, 44.6, 42.4, 41.7, 39.9, 38.0, 36.9, 35.9, 34.4, 30.2, 27.23, 27.19, 27.0, 26.8, 23.1, 20.1, 19.1, 18.7, 18.3, 16.7.

(+)-(6a'R,8a'R,12a'S,12b'R,14b'R)-4',4',6a',11',11',14b'-Hexamethyl-4', 4a', 5', 6', 6a', 8a', 9', 10', 11',12',12a',12b',13',14',14a',14b'-hexadecahydro-1'Hspiro[[1,3]dioxolane-2,3'-picen]-8'(2'H)-one [(+)-2.45]; (-)-(6a'R,8a'S,12a'R,12b'R,14b'R)-4',4',6a',11',11',14b'-hexamethyl-4',4a',5',6',6a',8a',9',10',11',12',12a',12b',13',14',14a',14b'-hexadecahydro-1'H-spiro [[1,3]dioxolane-2,3'-picen]-8'(2'H)-one [(-)-2.94].



A solution of sodium methoxide was prepared as followed: sodium (11mg, 0.46 mmol) was added into 5 mL distilled ethanol at 25 $^{\circ}$ C under argon. The mixture was stirred until all the metal dissolved.

To compound (-)-2.76 (110 mg, 0.23 mmol) in 40 mL distilled ethanol, above sodium ethoxide solution was cannulated. This mixture was stirred at 55 °C under argon for 14 hours. 1 Drop of acetic acid was added into the yellow solution to quench the excess amount of base. Ethanol was evaporated off under vacuum; the residue was diluted with water, and extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL×3). The combined organic layer washed with water, brine, dried over MgSO₄, concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using a mixture of hexane, DCM and ether (7.5:3:1) as eluent to give pure (-)-2.45 (35 mg, 30 % yield) as white solid and (-)-2.94 (45 mg, 40 %) as white solid. (-)-2.94 (Less polar compound, undesired product): $[\alpha]_{25}$ = -34.0, (c = 0.15 in chloroform); ¹H NMR δ 5.81 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 3.98 – 3.87 (m, 4H), 2.33 – 2.25 (m, 1H), 2.17 – 2.09 (m 1H), 2.02 (ddd, *J* = 15.6, 8.4, 4.4 Hz,

1H), 1.87 - 1.57 (m, 5H), 1.52 - 1.29 (m, 9H), 1.26 - 1.09 (m, 6H), 1.09 (s, 3H), 0.94 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 6H), 0.86 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR δ 202.9, 174.7, 119.5, 113.2 (2 carbons, acetal), 65.1, 56.7, 53.3, 48.5, 44.4, 42.3, 41.2, 41.1, 40.5, 38.8, 38.1, 37.9, 37.0, 33.4, 32.8, 30.6, 27.1, 24.8, 23.1, 23.0, 21.5, 20.4, 20.1, 18.7, 16.6; (+)-**2.45** (More polar compound, desired product): $[\alpha]_{25}$ = + 222.5°, (c = 0.19 in chloroform); ¹H NMR δ 5.75 (s, 1H), 4.02 – 3.84 (m, 4H), 2.37 (ddd, *J* = 13.2, 9.2, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.09 – 1.61 (m, 6 H), 1.58 – 1.17 (m, 12 H), 1.14 – 0.98 (m, 4H), 1.13 (s, 3H), 0.94 (s, 9H), 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.84 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 202.7, 176.6, 118.1, 113.1 (2 carbons, acetal), 65.08, 65.02, 59.7, 53.7, 44.0, 43.2, 42.3, 41.9, 39.3, 38.38, 38.35, 37.9, 37.1, 36.7, 33.5, 30.6, 28.0, 27.0, 24.2, 23.1, 22.0, 20.7, 20.1, 18.6, 16.2; the single srystal was grown from a mixture of diethyl ether and hexane (1:1) for X-ray analysis.

(+)-(6a'R,8a'S,12a'R,12b'R,14b'R)-Ethyl 4',4',6a',11',11',14b'-hexamethyl-8'-oxo-2',4',4a',5',6', 6a', 8',8a',9',10',11',12',12a',12b',13',14',14a',14b'-octadecahydro-1'Hspiro[[1,3]dioxolane-2,3'-picene]-8a'-carboxylate [(+)-2.101].



[LDA was prepared followed the same procedure of (-)-2.81 and titrated before using. The procedure for the titration is: to the solution of diphenylacetic acid (9.3 mg, 0.043 mmol) in 1 mL dry THF [or ether for (-)-2.105]. When a light yellow was shown and last for 10 seconds, the titration was stopped, the volume of LDA solution was recorded and used to calculate the concentration.]

To (-)-2.94 (173 mg, 0.38 mmol) in 2 mL THF was added freshly made LDA (0.57mmol) in 1 mL THF. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 hour. To it, HMPA (102 mg, 0.57 mmol) was injected, and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 15 minutes, and ethyl cyanoformate (75 mg, 0.76 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 30 minutes, diluted with aq. NH₄Cl solution, and extracted with ethyl acetate (20 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, dried over MgSO₄. Ethyl acetate was evaporated off under vacuum,

and the crude product was purified by column chromatography using a mixture of hexane, DCM and ether (7.5:3:1) as eluent to give 90 mg (45 % yield) of pure (+)-**2.101** as white solid. $[\alpha]_{25}$ = + 91.3°, (c = 0.425 in chloroform); ¹H NMR δ 5.79 (s, 1H), 4.16 – 4.06 (m, 2H), 3.95 – 3.84 (m, 4H), 2.54 (dd, *J* = 12.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (ddd, *J* = 13.6, 7.2, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.80 (td, *J* = 13.6, 3.2 Hz, 2H), 1.71 – 1.57 (m, 5H), 1.51 – 1.28 (m, 6H), 1.24 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.18 – 1.10 (m, 5H), 1.08 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 3H). 0.94 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 3H), 0.85 (s, 3H), 0.83 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 197.2, 174.6, 172.3, 117.8, 113.2 (2 carbons, acetal), 65.2, 61.4, 58.6, 55.6, 53.6, 43.6, 42.9, 42.4, 41.4, 39.5, 38.3, 38.1, 37.1, 34.96, 34.95, 32.9, 30.6, 27.5, 27.1, 24.6, 23.2, 22.0, 21.3, 20.2, 18.7, 16.4, 14.3; the single srystal was grown from a mixture of diethyl ether and hexane (1:1) for X-ray analysis.

(-)-(6a'R,8a'R,12a'S,12b'R,14b'R)-ethyl 4',4',6a',11',11',14b'-hexamethyl-8'-oxo-2',4',4a',5',6', 6a', 8', 8a', 9',10',11',12',12a',12b',13',14',14a',14b'-octadecahydro-1'Hspiro[[1,3] dioxolane - 2, 3 '- picene]-8a'-carboxylate [(-)-2.106].





(-)-2.106 (assumed structure)

To (+)-2.45 (40 mg, 0.088 mmol) in 1 mL distilled diethyl ether was added freshly prepared LDA (0.12mmol) in 1 mL diethyl ether. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 hour. To it, HMPA (24 mg, 0.12 mmol) was added, and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 15 minutes. Ethyl cyanoformate (18 mg, 0.17 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 30 minutes, diluted with aq. NH₄Cl solution, and extracted with ethyl acetate (10 mL×3). The combined organic layer was washed with water, brine, and dried over MgSO₄. Ethyl acetate was evaporated off under vacuum, the crude product was purified by column chromatography with the mixture of hexane, DCM and ether (6:3:1) to give 30 mg (65 % yield) of pure (-)-2.106 as white solid. $[\alpha]_{25}$ = -62.8°, (c = 0.20 in chloroform); ¹H NMR δ 5.88 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.16 – 4.05 (m, 2H), 3.96 – 3.86 (m, 4H), 2.89 – 2.82 (m, 1H), 2.59 (dt, *J* = 14.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (dt, *J* = 13.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 1.90 – 1.78 (m, 2H), 1.74 – 1.60 (m, 4H), 1.50 – 1.40 (m, 5H), 1.33 – 1.23

(m, 8H), 1.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 6H), 0.91 (s, 3H), 0.85 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR δ 197.1, 173.3, 172.4, 120.4, 113.4 (2 carbons, acetal), 65.2, 61.4, 58.3, 57.0, 53.2, 42.4, 42.3, 38.7, 38.2, 37.9, 37.1, 36.1, 35.6, 34.7, 33.4, 31.0, 30.4, 27.13, 27.05, 24.8, 23.8, 23.0, 20.5, 20.0, 18.6, 16.8, 14.4.

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