

CHEMISTRY

A EUROPEAN JOURNAL

Supporting Information

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**Versatile One-Pot Reductive Alkylation of Lactams/Amides via Amide Activation: Application to the Concise Syntheses of Bioactive Alkaloids
(±)-Bgugaine, (±)-Coniine, (+)-Preussin, and (–)-Cassine**

Kai-Jiong Xiao, Yu Wang, Ke-Yin Ye, and Pei-Qiang Huang*^[a]

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1. Experimental procedures and compound characterization S2~S5
2. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of new compounds and final compounds S6~S27

General.

Melting points were determined on a Yanaco MP-500 micro melting point apparatus and were uncorrected. Infrared spectra were measured with a Nicolet Avatar 360 FT-IR spectrometer using film KBr pellet techniques. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ on a Bruker 400 spectrometer with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. Chemical shifts are expressed in δ (ppm) units downfield from TMS. Mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker Dalton ESquire 3000 plus LC-MS apparatus. HRMS spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu LCMS-IT-TOF apparatus. Optical rotations were measured with a Perkin-Elmer 341 automatic polarimeter. Silica gel (300-400 mesh) was used for flash column chromatography (FC), eluting (unless otherwise stated) with ethyl acetate (EtOAc)/petroleum ether (PE) (60-90 °C) mixture. Diethyl ether and THF were distilled over sodium benzophenone ketyl under N₂. Dichloromethane was distilled over calcium hydride under N₂. All the Grignard reagents were diluted to 0.2-0.4 M and titrated immediately before use.¹

1-Benzyl-2-ethylpyrrolidine (11a).

Tf₂O (138 μl, 0.82 mmol) was added dropwise to a cooled (-78 °C) solution of lactam **9** (120 mg, 0.69 mmol) and 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylpyridine (169 mg, 0.82 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ and the resultant mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 45 min. A solution of ethylmagnesium bromide (0.39 M, 1.76 ml, 0.69 mmol) in Et₂O was added dropwise to the resultant mixture. The mixture was allowed to warm slowly to RT and stirred for 1 h. Then LiAlH₄ (38 mg, 2.06 mmol) was added in one portion. After stirring for 1 h, the reaction was quenched by careful addition of a 20% NaOH solution. After filtration, the filtrate was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/20) to afford pyrrolidine **11a** (106 mg, yield: 82%), and reduced product **13** (10 mg, yield: 9%). **11a**: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.93 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.35 (ddq, *J* = 13.3, 8.9, 7.5 Hz, 1H, CH₂CH₃), 1.50 (dddd, *J* = 12.4, 10.3, 7.8, 5.4 Hz, 1H, H-3), 1.58-1.84 (m, 2H, H-4), 1.78 (dq, *J* = 13.3, 7.5, 2.9 Hz, 1H, CH₂CH₃), 1.93 (dddd, *J* = 12.4, 9.4, 7.7, 6.1 Hz, 1H, H-3), 2.12 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 9.2 Hz, 1H, H-5), 2.29 (ddd, *J* = 16.8, 8.2, 3.3 Hz, 1H, H-5), 2.92 (ddd, *J* = 9.4, 7.8, 2.9 Hz, 1H, H-2), 3.18 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 4.04 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 7.21-7.35 ppm (m, 5H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.4, 21.8, 26.5, 29.8, 54.2, 58.5, 65.8, 126.8, 128.1 (2C), 129.0 (2C), 139.5 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3062, 3028, 2961, 2926, 2854, 1495, 1455, 1380, 1029, 747, 670 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 190 (M+H⁺, 100%); Anal. calcd for C₁₃H₁₉N: C, 82.48; H, 10.12; N, 7.40. Found: C, 82.57; H, 10.17; N, 7.37. **13**:² colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.75-1.82 (m, 4H, CH₂), 2.48-2.55 (m, 4H, NCH₂), 3.62 (s, 2H, PhCH₂), 7.21-7.35 ppm (m, 5H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 23.4, 54.1, 60.7, 126.9, 128.2 (2C), 128.9 (2C), 139.3 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3062, 3027, 2965, 2927, 2784, 2732, 1493, 1453, 1375, 1348, 1125, 738, 698 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 162 (M+H⁺, 100%);

1-Benzyl-2-butylpyrrolidine (11b).

Following the same procedure as for compound **11a**, the reductive alkylation of lactam **9** (120 mg, 0.69 mmol) with *n*-butylmagnesium bromide gave, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/30), pyrrolidine **11b** (118 mg, yield: 79%), and reduced product **13** (11 mg, yield: 10%). **11b**: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.91 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.24-1.40 (m, 5H), 1.49 (dddd, *J* = 12.4, 10.3, 7.7, 5.4 Hz, 1H, H-3), 1.58-1.78 (m, 3H), 1.93 (dddd, *J* = 12.4, 9.4, 7.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H, H-3), 2.09 (dd, *J* = 16.8, 9.1 Hz, 1H, H-5), 2.31 (ddd, *J* = 16.8, 8.0, 3.1 Hz, 1H, H-5), 2.91 (ddd, *J* = 9.4, 7.7, 2.5 Hz, 1H, H-2), 3.16 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 4.05 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 7.20-7.25 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.27-7.35 ppm (m, 1H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 21.9, 23.1, 28.6, 30.4, 33.8, 54.2, 58.6, 64.4, 126.7, 128.1 (2C), 129.1 (2C), 139.6 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3062, 3027, 2958, 2928, 2858, 2785, 1494, 1453, 1375, 1117, 736, 698 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 218 (M+H⁺, 100%); Anal. calcd for C₁₅H₂₃N: C, 82.89; H, 10.67; N, 6.44. Found: C, 83.27; H, 10.79; N, 6.61.

1, 2-Dibenzylpyrrolidine (11c).

Following the same procedure as for compound **11a**, the reductive alkylation of lactam **9** (120 mg, 0.69 mmol) with benzylmagnesium bromide gave, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/40), pyrrolidine **11c** (119 mg, yield: 69%), and reduced product **13** (21 mg, yield: 19%). **11c**: colorless oil; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3061, 3026, 2963, 2873, 2787, 1494, 1452, 1122, 735, 698 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.52-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.65-1.78 (m, 2H), 2.17 (dd, *J* = 16.5, 9.0 Hz, 1H, H-5), 2.54 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 9.2 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 2.65 (ddd, *J* = 16.5, 7.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H, H-5), 2.94 (ddd, *J* = 9.5, 7.3, 2.2 Hz, 1H, H-2), 3.07 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 3.28 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂N), 4.10 (d, *J* = 12.9 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂N), 7.16-7.38 ppm (m, 10H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.9, 30.4, 41.0, 54.3, 58.9, 65.7, 125.9, 126.8, 128.2 (4C), 128.9 (2C), 129.2 (2C), 139.6, 140.0 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3062, 3027, 2958, 2928, 2858, 2785, 1494, 1453, 1375, 1117, 736, 698 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 252 (M+H⁺, 100%); Anal. calcd for C₁₈H₂₁N: C, 86.01; H, 8.42; N, 5.57. Found: C, 85.81; H, 8.64; N, 5.48.

1-Benzyl-2-phenylpyrrolidine (11d).

Following the same procedure as for compound **11a**, the reductive alkylation of lactam **9** (120 mg, 0.69 mmol) with phenylmagnesium bromide gave, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/20), pyrrolidine **11d**³ (94 mg, yield: 58%), and reduced product **13** (29 mg, yield: 26%). **11d**: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.70-1.94 (m, 3H), 2.14-2.24 (m, 2H), 3.04 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 3.10 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.9, 1.7 Hz, 1H, H-5), 3.37 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 7.9 Hz, 1H, H-5), 3.85 (d, *J* = 13.1 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 7.18-7.49 ppm (m, 10H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.4, 35.2, 53.3, 58.1, 69.6, 126.7, 127.0, 127.6 (2C), 128.1 (2C), 128.4 (2C), 128.7 (2C), 139.7, 143.9 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3061, 3027, 2966, 2873, 2788, 1494, 1453, 1373, 1116, 757, 699 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 238 (M+H⁺, 100%).

1-Benzyl-2-ethylpiperidine (12a)

Following the same procedure as for compound **11a**, the reductive alkylation of lactam **10** (130 mg, 0.69 mmol) with ethylmagnesium bromide gave, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/20), piperidine **12a** (100 mg, yield: 72%), and reduced product **14** (19 mg, yield: 16%). **12a**: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.92 (dd, *J* = 7.5, 7.5 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.26-1.34 (m, 1H), 1.38-1.52 (m, 3H), 1.58-1.72 (m, 4H), 2.02 (ddd, *J* = 11.9, 9.7, 4.0 Hz, 1H, H-6), 2.21 (ddd, *J* = 11.9, 7.1, 3.0 Hz, 1H, H-6), 2.75 (ddd, *J* = 11.6, 4.1, 4.1 Hz, 1H, H-2), 3.21 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 3.99 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 7.20-7.35 ppm (m, 5H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.6, 23.8, 24.4, 25.3, 29.7, 51.9, 57.6, 61.9, 126.6, 128.1 (2C), 128.9 (2C), 139.9 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3062, 3028, 2931, 2875, 1496, 1453, 1384, 1029, 742, 700 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 204 (M+H⁺, 100%); Anal. calcd for C₁₄H₂₁N: C, 82.70; H, 10.41; N, 6.89. Found: C, 83.01; H, 10.44; N, 6.89. **14**:² colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.38-1.46 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.53-1.60 (m, 4H, CH₂), 2.33-2.41 (m, 4H, NCH₂), 3.46 (s, 2H, PhCH₂), 7.20-7.33 ppm (m, 5H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 24.4, 26.0, 54.5, 63.9, 126.8, 128.0 (2C), 129.2 (2C), 138.6 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3058, 3030, 2934, 2853, 2793, 2755, 1453, 1442, 1347, 1113, 735, 698 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 176 (M+H⁺, 100%);

1-Benzyl-2-propylpiperidine (12b).

Following the same procedure as for compound **11a**, the reductive alkylation of lactam **10** (130 mg, 0.69 mmol) with *n*-propylmagnesium bromide gave, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/20), piperidine **12b** (101 mg, yield: 68%), and reduced product **14** (24 mg, yield: 20%). **12b**: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.26-1.70 (m, 10H), 2.02 (ddd, *J* = 11.9, 8.9, 4.4 Hz, 1H, H-6), 2.28 (ddd, *J* = 11.5, 7.3, 3.0 Hz, 1H, H-6), 2.73 (ddd, *J* = 11.7, 4.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H, H-2), 3.22 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 3.97 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 7.19-7.35 ppm (m, 5H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.6, 18.8, 23.7, 25.1, 30.3, 34.1, 51.7, 57.5, 60.6, 126.6, 128.1 (2C), 128.9 (2C), 139.9 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3062, 3025, 2961, 2928, 2853, 1493, 1451, 1140, 732, 698 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 218 (M+H⁺, 100%); Anal. calcd for C₁₅H₂₃N: C, 82.89; H, 10.67; N, 6.44. Found: C, 82.89; H, 10.35; N, 6.47.

1,2-Dibenzylpiperidine (12c).

Following the same procedure as for compound **11a**, the reductive alkylation of lactam **10** (130 mg, 0.69 mmol) with benzylmagnesium bromide gave, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/40), piperidine **12c** (113 mg, yield: 62%), and reduced product **14** (27 mg, yield: 23%). **12c**: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.24-1.36 (m, 2H), 1.48-1.56 (m, 3H), 1.58-1.66 (m, 1H), 2.22 (ddd, *J* = 11.9, 6.0, 5.9 Hz, 1H, H-6), 2.60 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, PhCH₂), 2.64-2.69 (m, 1H, H-6), 2.77 (ddd, *J* = 10.9, 5.0, 5.9 Hz, 1H, H-2), 3.17 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 3.49 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂N), 4.05 (d, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂N), 7.16-7.38 ppm (m, 10H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 22.4, 25.4, 29.3, 36.4, 50.9, 58.5, 61.7, 125.7, 126.7, 128.1 (2C), 128.2 (2C), 128.8 (2C), 129.3 (2C), 139.7, 140.5 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3061, 3025, 2930, 2855, 2791, 1494, 1452, 1129, 732, 698 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 266 (M+H⁺, 100%); Anal. calcd for C₁₉H₂₃N: C, 85.99; H, 8.74; N, 5.28. Found: C, 86.16; H, 8.94; N, 5.32.

N,N-Dibenzylbutan-2-amine (16a).

Following the same procedure as for compound **11a**, the reductive alkylation of amide **15a** (164 mg, 0.69 mmol) with ethylmagnesium bromide gave, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/80), amine **16a** (135 mg, yield: 78%), and reduced product **17a** (20 mg, yield: 13%). **16a**: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.89 (dd, *J* = 7.3, 7.3 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.00 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.29 (dq, *J* = 14.6, 7.3, 6.8 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 1.63 (dq, *J* = 14.6, 7.3, 7.0 Hz, 1H, CH₂), 2.60 (ddq, *J* = 7.0, 6.8, 6.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.42 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 2H, PhCH₂), 3.69 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 2H, PhCH₂), 7.17-7.41 ppm (m, 10H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.7, 13.1, 26.6, 29.7, 53.2, 54.3, 126.5 (2C), 128.1 (4C), 128.6 (4C), 140.9 (2C) ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3062, 3026, 2961, 2928, 2873, 2798, 1494, 1453, 1162, 743, 697 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 254 (M+H⁺, 100%); Anal. calcd for C₁₈H₂₃N: C, 85.32; H, 9.15; N, 5.53. Found: C, 85.04; H, 9.44; N, 5.50. **17a**:² colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.06 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 2.49 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 3.56 (s, 4H, PhCH₂), 7.18-7.40 ppm (m, 10H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.9, 47.1, 57.7, 126.7 (2C), 128.1 (4C), 128.7 (4C), 140.0 (2C) ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3084, 3062, 3027, 2968, 2932, 2795, 1493, 1453, 1364, 1130, 1028, 745, 731, 698 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 226 (M+H⁺, 100%);

N,N-Dibenzyl-3-methylbutan-2-amine (16b).

Following the same procedure as for compound **11a**, the reductive alkylation of *i*-propylmagnesium bromide to lactam **15a**⁴ (239 mg, 1.00 mmol) gave, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/100), amine **16b** (194 mg, yield: 73%), and reduced product **17a** (14 mg, yield: 9%). **16b**: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.81 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 0.99 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.01 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.70 (qqd, *J* = 6.9, 6.9, 6.5 Hz, 1H, CHCH₃), 2.24 (qd, *J* = 9.9, 6.5 Hz, 1H, NCH), 3.31 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 2H, PhCH₂), 3.77 (d, *J* = 13.8 Hz, 2H, PhCH₂), 7.16-7.40 ppm (m, 10H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.6, 20.6, 21.1, 29.7, 31.7, 53.7, 59.0, 126.6 (2C), 128.1 (4C),

128.8 (4C), 140.8 (2C) ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3062, 3027, 2959, 2926, 2872, 1494, 1453, 1113, 745, 697 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 268 (M+H⁺, 100%).

***N,N*-Dibenzyl-1-phenylpropan-1-amine (16c).**

Following the same procedure as for compound **11a**, the reductive alkylation of lactam **15b** (301 mg, 1.00 mmol) with ethylmagnesium bromide gave, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/100), amine **16c**⁵ (255 mg, 81%), and reduced product **17b** (29 mg, yield: 10%). **16c**: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.91 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.79 (ddq, J = 14.6, 7.5, 7.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CH₃), 2.07 (ddq, J = 14.6, 7.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H, CH₂CH₃), 3.15 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 2H, PhCH₂), 3.58 (dd, J = 7.5, 7.4 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.81 (d, J = 13.9 Hz, 2H, PhCH₂), 7.19-7.41 ppm (m, 15H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 11.7, 24.2, 53.7 (2C), 63.8, 126.7 (2C), 126.9, 127.9 (2C), 128.2 (4C), 128.7 (4C), 129.0 (2C), 139.0, 140.5 (2C) ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3083, 3061, 3026, 2962, 2930, 2802, 1493, 1453, 1125, 743, 698 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 316 (M+H⁺, 100%). **17b**:² white solid; mp 87-88 °C (EtOAc/PE); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.55 (s, 6H, CH₂), 7.18-7.42 ppm (m, 15H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 58.0 (3C), 126.9 (3C), 128.3 (6C), 128.8 (6C), 139.7 (3C) ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3062, 3028, 2925, 2881, 2837, 2802, 1493, 1452, 1366, 1247, 1122, 745, 699 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 288 (M+H⁺, 100%).

(±)-1-Methyl-2-tetradecylpyrrolidine ((±)-bbugaine) (2).

Following the same procedure as for compound **11a**, the reductive alkylation of lactam **18** (68 mg, 0.69 mmol) with tetradecylmagnesium bromide gave, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/MeOH= 20/1), (±)-bbugaine **2**⁶ (145 mg, yield: 75%) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.20-1.36 (m, 25H), 1.38-1.48 (m, 1H), 1.60-1.82 (m, 3H), 1.87-2.01 (m, 2H), 2.12 (dd, J = 17.7, 9.4 Hz, 1H, H-5), 2.31 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 3.07 ppm (ddd, J = 9.5, 7.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H, H-2); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 21.8, 22.7, 26.7, 29.3, 29.6, 29.6, 29.7, 30.0, 30.8, 31.9, 33.8, 40.4, 57.4, 66.5 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2924, 2854, 2797, 1465, 1280, 1225, 1162 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 282 (M+H⁺, 100%); HRESIMS calcd for [C₈H₁₇N+H]⁺: 282.3155; found: 282.3166.

(±)-2-Propylpiperidine hydrochloride ((±)-coniine hydrochloride) (3).

Compound **12c** (61 mg, 0.28 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (3 mL) and then 10% Pd/C was added (30 mg). The mixture was stirred under H₂ (1 atm) for 1 h, after which concentrated HCl (0.1 mL, 16.7 mmol) was added. After stirring for 48 h, the solution was filtered through a pad of celite, and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was crystallized from MeOH/Et₂O to afford (±)-coniine hydrochloride salt **3**⁷ (39 mg, yield: 85%) as a white solid. Mp 212-213 °C (MeOH/Et₂O); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.95 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.36-1.52 (m, 3H), 1.58-2.04 (m, 7H), 2.75-2.88 (m, 1H), 2.89-3.02 (m, 1H), 3.38-3.52 (m, 1H), 9.16 (br s, 1H), 9.44 ppm (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.7, 18.6, 22.2, 22.4, 28.2, 35.4, 44.8, 57.2 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3404, 2953, 2933, 2814, 2709, 1453, 1310 cm^{-1} ; MS m/z (ESI) 128 (M-Cl⁺, 100%); HRESIMS calcd for [C₈H₁₇N-Cl]⁺: 128.1434; found: 128.1433.

Total synthesis of (+)-preussin (4)

(2*S*,3*S*,5*R*)-1-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-2-benzyl-3-(benzyloxy)-5-nonylpyrrolidine (21).

Following the same procedure as for compound **11a**, the reductive alkylation of lactam **19**⁸ (200 mg, 0.50 mmol) with *n*-nonylmagnesium bromide gave, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/5), pyrrolidine **21** (181 mg, yield: 71%) (*cis/trans* = 7.2/1, determined by HPLC) as a colorless oil. [α]_D²⁰ +30.2 (*c* = 1.0, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.89 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH₂CH₃), 1.20-1.36 (m, 15H), 1.59 (ddd, J = 13.3, 6.8, 3.7 Hz, 1H, H-4), 1.62-1.68 (m, 1H), 1.97 (ddd, J = 13.3, 7.8, 6.6 Hz, 1H, H-4), 2.62 (dddd, J = 10.1, 6.6, 3.7, 3.3 Hz, 1H, H-5), 2.82 (dd, J = 12.6, 4.3 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 2.90 (dd, J = 9.2, 4.3 Hz, 1H, H-2), 3.00 (dd, J = 12.6, 9.2 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 3.62 (dd, J = 9.7, 5.4 Hz, 1H, H-3), 3.77 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H, NCH₂), 3.79 (d, J = 14.4 Hz, 1H, NCH₂), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 4.21 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H, OCH₂), 4.42 (d, J = 11.7 Hz, 1H, OCH₂), 6.84 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.12-7.34 ppm (m, 12H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 22.7, 26.4, 29.3, 29.5, 29.6, 29.9, 31.9, 35.0, 35.1, 35.6, 55.1, 55.2, 61.6, 68.7, 70.8, 77.6, 113.4 (2C), 125.5, 127.3, 127.8 (2C), 128.0 (2C), 128.2 (2C), 129.5 (3C), 130.5 (2C), 138.6, 140.6, 158.5 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3062, 3028, 2925, 2853, 1511, 1453, 1247, 1099, 1037, 735, 698 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 514 (M+H⁺, 100); HRESIMS calcd for [C₃₅H₄₇NO₂+H]⁺: 514.3685; found: 514.3698.

***tert*-Butyl (2*S*,3*S*,5*R*)-2-benzyl-3-(benzyloxy)-5-nonylpyrrolidine-1-carboxylate (22).**

A suspension of **21** (65 mg, 0.13 mmol), 20% Pd(OH)₂/C (30 mg), and Boc₂O (0.09 mL, 0.38 mmol) in EtOH (4 mL) was stirred under an atmosphere of H₂ for 48 h. After the catalyst was filtered off, the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/5) to afford **22** (43 mg, yield: 84%) as a colorless oil. [α]_D²⁰ -64.9 (*c* = 1.0, CH₂Cl₂) {lit.⁹ [α]_D²⁰ -2.6 (*c* = 1.0, CH₂Cl₂)}; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.89 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.20-1.48 (m, 25H), 1.67 (dt, J = 12.7, 7.4 Hz, 1H, CHCH₂), 1.88-1.98 (m, 1H), 2.02-2.12 (m, 1H), 2.22-2.32 (m, 1H), 2.92-3.00 (m, 1H), 3.66-3.76 (m, 1H), 4.13 (dd, J = 13.5, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (dd, J = 13.9, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 7.16-7.21 (m, 1H, Ar-H), 7.26-7.32 ppm (m, 4H, Ar-H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.1, 22.6, 26.5, 28.3 (3C), 29.3, 29.5, 29.6, 29.7, 36.0, 36.9, 37.5, 56.4, 62.5, 71.3, 79.2, 125.9, 128.3 (2C), 129.5 (2C), 139.6, 154.9 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3439, 3028, 2957, 2925, 2855, 1691, 1663, 1454, 1399, 1173, 1123, 1078, 745, 699 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 404 (M+H⁺, 100%). HRESIMS calcd for [C₂₅H₄₁NO₃+H]⁺: 404.3165; found: 404.3176.

(2*S*,3*S*,5*R*)-2-Benzyl-1-methyl-5-nonylpyrrolidin-3-ol, (+)-preussin (4).

To a solution of **22** (38 mg, 0.094 mmol) in dry THF (4 mL) was added LiAlH₄ (36 mg, 0.94 mmol) in one portion. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 4 h. After being diluted with 4 mL of Et₂O, filtration and removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the crude was purified by FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/2) to give preussin **4** (28 mg, yield: 93%) as a colorless oil. [α]_D²⁰ +22.3 (c 1.0, CHCl₃) {lit.¹⁰ [α]_D²⁰ +22.0 (c = 1.0, CHCl₃) for the natural product}; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.16-1.37 (m, 15H), 1.42 (ddd, *J* = 13.5, 6.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H-4), 1.66-1.78 (m, 1H), 1.97 (br s, 1H, OH), 2.12 (dddd, *J* = 11.9, 6.4, 6.2, 2.8 Hz, 1H, H-5), 2.18 (ddd, *J* = 13.5, 9.2, 6.4 Hz, 1H, H-4), 2.27 (ddd, *J* = 9.7, 5.0, 3.8 Hz, 1H, H-2), 2.34 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 2.84 (dd, *J* = 13.1, 4.9 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 2.89 (dd, *J* = 13.1, 9.7 Hz, 1H, PhCH₂), 3.76-3.85 (m, 1H, H-3), 7.14-7.32 ppm (m, 5H, Ar-H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 14.1, 22.6, 26.3, 29.3, 29.5, 29.6, 29.9, 31.9, 33.7, 34.9, 38.6, 39.3, 65.8, 70.5, 73.6, 126.0, 128.3 (2C), 129.3 (2C), 139.4 ppm. IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3428, 2958, 2924, 2853, 1488, 1455, 1241, 1170, 1024, 820, 734, 698 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 318 (M+H⁺, 100). HRESIMS calcd for [C₂₁H₃₅NO+H]⁺: 318.2797; found: 318.2805.

Total synthesis of (–)-cassine (**5**).

(5*R*,6*S*)-1-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-5-(benzyloxy)-6-methylpiperidin-2-one (**20**).

Following the reported method,¹¹ compound **20** was prepared, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/2), as a colorless oil. [α]_D²⁰ +52.3 (c = 1.0, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.21 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.88-2.02 (m, 2H, H-4), 2.46 (ddd, *J* = 18.2, 9.4, 8.2 Hz, 1H, H-3), 2.61 (ddd, *J* = 18.2, 7.3, 3.7 Hz, 1H, H-3), 3.54 (m, 1H, H-5), 3.60 (qd, *J* = 6.6, 4.6 Hz, 1H, H-6), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.86 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H, NCH₂), 4.42 (d, *J* = 11.8 Hz, 1H, OCH₂), 4.46 (d, *J* = 11.8 Hz, 1H, OCH₂), 5.25 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H, NCH₂), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.20-7.32 ppm (m, 5H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.3, 21.9, 29.1, 47.1, 52.4, 55.1, 70.6, 74.0, 113.9 (2C), 127.4 (2C), 127.6, 128.3 (2C), 129.1 (2C), 129.4, 137.7, 158.8, 168.9 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3063, 3031, 2966, 2929, 2864, 1659, 1513, 1455, 1248, 1100, 1032, 738, 699 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 340 (M+H⁺, 100%).

(2*R*,3*R*,6*S*)-1-(4-Methoxybenzyl)-3-(benzyloxy)-2-methyl-6-(10-(2-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)decyl)piperidine (**24a**).

Following the same procedure as for compound **11a**, the reductive alkylation of lactam **20** (350 mg, 1.03 mmol) with Grignard reagent **23** gave, after FC (eluent: EtOAc/PE= 1/5), *cis*-diastereomer **24a** (274 mg, yield: 48%) and *trans*-diastereomer **24b** (78 mg, yield: 14%) (combined yield 62%, *cis/trans* = 3.5/1). **24a**: colorless oil. [α]_D²⁰ +6.0 (c = 1.0, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.09 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CHCH₃), 1.15-1.43 (m, 20H), 1.50-1.70 (m, 6H), 1.76-1.87 (m, 1H), 2.50-2.60 (m, 1H, H-6), 3.04-3.12 (m, 1H, H-2), 3.45-3.52 (m, 1H, H-3), 3.74 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H, NCH₂), 3.79 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.84 (d, *J* = 14.8 Hz, 1H, NCH₂), 3.88-3.97 (m, 4H, OCH₂CH₂), 4.44 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H, OCH₂), 4.52 (d, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H, OCH₂), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.20-7.32 ppm (m, 7H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.4, 23.4, 23.7, 24.1, 25.6, 27.9, 29.5, 29.6, 29.6, 29.8, 29.9, 31.4, 39.2, 53.6, 55.2, 55.8, 58.3, 64.6, 70.3, 110.2, 113.4 (2C), 127.3, 127.5 (2C), 128.2 (2C), 129.3 (2C), 133.0, 139.1, 158.3 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2980, 2929, 2853, 1510, 1463, 1375, 1247, 1098, 1039, 735, 698 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 552 (M+H⁺, 100%); HRESIMS calcd for [C₃₅H₅₃NO₄+H]⁺: 552.4053; found: 552.4068. **24b**: colorless oil; [α]_D²⁰ -8.6 (c = 1.0, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.99 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CHCH₃), 1.17-1.42 (m, 21H), 1.46-1.56 (m, 1H), 1.58-1.72 (m, 4H), 1.75-1.83 (m, 1H), 2.66-2.74 (m, 1H, H-6), 3.14 (qd, *J* = 11.4, 6.7 Hz, 1H, H-2), 3.48 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H, NCH₂), 3.54 (dt, *J* = 10.7, 4.5 Hz, 1H, H-3), 3.77 (d, *J* = 13.9 Hz, 1H, NCH₂), 3.81 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.88-3.97 (m, 4H, OCH₂CH₂), 4.39 (s, 2H, OCH₂), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.20-7.34 ppm (m, 7H, Ar-H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 6.8, 23.7, 24.1, 25.3, 25.5, 28.1, 29.5, 29.6, 29.6, 29.9, 30.0, 33.2, 39.2, 51.1, 52.6, 55.2, 64.6, 69.9, 75.8, 110.2, 113.5 (2C), 127.2, 127.4 (2C), 128.2 (2C), 129.2 (2C), 133.0, 139.0, 158.3 ppm; MS (ESI) *m/z* 552 (M+H⁺, 100%).

(2*S*,5*R*,6*R*)-12-(5-Hydroxy-6-methylpiperidin-2-yl)-dodecan-2-one, (–)-cassine (**5**).

A suspension of **24a** (30 mg, 0.05 mmol) and 20% Pd(OH)₂/C (15 mg) in EtOH (4 mL) was stirred under an atmosphere of H₂ for 48h. To the resulting solution was added a few drops of conc. HCl. After being stirred for 12 h, the mixture was filtrated and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in 2 mL of H₂O, washed with Et₂O (3 × 2 mL), basified with a 10% NaOH solution to reach pH 10 and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 2 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated to afford (–)-cassine (**5**) (14 mg, yield: 88%) as a white solid. M.p. 56-57 °C (EtOH) [lit.¹² mp 57-58 °C]; [α]_D²⁰ - 1.2 (c = 0.5, EtOH); [α]_D²⁰ - 15.4 (c = 0.5, CHCl₃) {lit.¹² [α]_D²⁰ - 0.6 (c = 8.0, EtOH)}; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.11 (d, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3H, CHCH₃), 1.24-1.35 (m, 16H), 1.44-1.65 (m, 5H), 1.86-1.93 (m, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H, COCH₃), 2.42 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H, COCH₂), 2.54 (dddd, *J* = 2.5, 5.6, 5.8, 11.4 Hz, 1H, H-6), 2.76 (qd, *J* = 6.5, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-2), 3.55 ppm (br s, 1H, H-3); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 18.6, 23.8, 25.8, 26.1, 29.2, 29.4, 29.4, 29.5, 29.5, 29.7, 29.8, 32.0, 37.0, 43.8, 55.8, 57.2, 68.0, 209.4 ppm; IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 3404, 2926, 2853, 1716, 1463, 1365, 1175, 1146, 1071, 720 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 298 (M+H⁺, 100%); HRESIMS calcd for [C₁₈H₃₅NO₂+H]⁺: 298.2746; found: 298.2754.

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