Published in final edited form as:
Org Lett. 2014 January 3; 16(1): 122–125. doi:10.1021/ol403110p.

An Efficient, Modular Approach for the Synthesis of (+)-Strictifolione and a Related Natural Product

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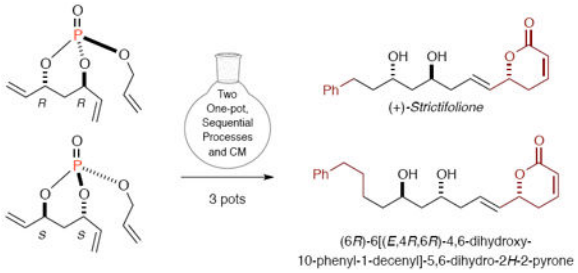
Abstract



An efficient, library amenable, “pot economical” total synthesis of (+)-strictifolione and the related natural product, (6*R*)-6[(*E*,4*R*,6*R*)-4,6-dihydroxy-10-phenyl-1-decenyl]-5,6-dihydro-2*H*-2-pyrone are reported. This modular approach takes advantage of two consecutive phosphate tether-mediated, one-pot, sequential protocols, followed by a final cross metathesis to deliver both antifungal natural products in a three-pot process from the respective enantiomeric (*R*,*R*)- and (*S*,*S*)-trienes with minimal purification. A salient feature of this route is that additional protecting groups are not required as a result of the orthogonal protecting- and leaving-group properties innate to phosphate triesters.

(+)-Strictifolione (**1**) was isolated and structurally characterized by Aimi and coworkers from the stem bark of *Cryptocaria stritifolia*, a member of the family Lauraceae that grows in the rainforests of west Kalimantan, Indonesia.[1] The structure of **1**, including the absolute configuration of the stereogenic centers, was also confirmed by Aimi and coworkers after accomplishing its first total synthesis, employing (*S*)-malic acid and (*S*)-glycidol in 18 steps.[2] A related compound (6*R*)-6[(*E*,4*R*,6*R*)-4,6-dihydroxy-10-phenyl-1-decenyl]-5,6-dihydro-2*H*-2-pyrone (**2**), was isolated by Hostettmann and coworkers in 2001 from the leaves and bark of *Ravensara crassifolia*, which is an endemic genus in Madagascar, along with another structurally similar compound (6*S*)-5,6-dihydro-6-[(2*R*)-2-hydroxy-6-phenylhexyl]-2*H*-pyran-2-one (**3**).[3] Krishna and coworkers accomplished the first total synthesis of **2** by iterative use of Jacobsen’s hydrolytic kinetic resolution with a longest

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Supporting Information Available Experimental details and spectroscopic data of new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

linear sequence (LLS) of 17 steps.[4] All three compounds (**1**–**3**) have been shown to possess antifungal activity[3].

Key structural features in **1** and **2** include, a Michael accepting 5,6-dihydro-α-pyrone moiety in the eastern subunit, a central 1,3-*anti* diol, and lipophilic substitution in the western subunit. It is generally believed that the unsaturated pyranone functional group can react with the nucleophilic warhead of a target enzyme, and thus attentuates its activity[5].

Among several synthetic methods for the construction of **1**,[6] notable streamlined efforts have recently been made. In 2003, Cossy and coworkers developed a concise and elegant synthetic pathway consisting of a longest linear sequence of 9-steps, starting from 3-phenyl-propionaldehyde, that utilized the dual use of enantioselective allyltitanation in conjunction with cross metathesis (CM).[6a] In 2010, Das and coworkers devised a comparable pathway with an LLS of 10-steps using Sharpless kinetic resolution and olefin cross-metathesis.[6g] In 2010, She and coworkers[6h] developed an efficient route employing a one-pot, double allylboration comprised of a pathway with a 7-step LLS using an Ipc_2BH-derived boryl-substituted allylborane, derived in two steps from propargyl bromide,[7] 3-butenal, derived in two steps from glyoxal, and a ketal- protected aldehyde.[8] Despite significant attributes of these syntheses,[6] the development of simple, efficient, scalable strategies that are library amenable for installation of key diversity elements in a divergent manner, is notably absent in the literature. In this regard, multi-reaction one-pot protocols have emerged as powerful synthetic strategies to achieve total/intermediate/analog synthesis, due to the ability to form multiple bonds and stereocenters, while invoking step, atom,[9,] green and pot economy,[10] thus saving time and resources. Herein, we disclose an efficient, modular approach for the total synthesis of both naturally occurring antifungal compounds **1** and **2**, highlighting the utility of two consecutive phosphate tether-mediated one-pot, sequential protocols, namely a one-pot, sequential, RCM/CM/chemo-selective hydrogenation protocol,[11] followed by a one-pot, sequential reductive allylic transposition/tether removal method and final CM with overall minimal purification. A critical feature of this strategy is modular installation of the western and eastern 5,6-dihydro-α-pyrone subunits via two facile CM reactions, thus opening future opportunities in library development.

Retrosynthetic analysis reveals that both natural products **1** and **2** can be readily derived from key diol-containing intermediates **4** and **9**, respectively, via CM with vinyl lactone **5** (Scheme 1). The pivotal diol **4** in turn can be synthesized from phosphate **6**, employing a regioselective Pd(0)-catalyzed reductive allylic transposition and phosphate tether removal under reductive conditions. The phenyl substituted bicyclic phosphate **6** can be achieved from triene (*R*,*R*)-**7** via a one-pot, sequential RCM/CM/"H_2" with *cis*-stilbene as the CM partner, followed by chemoselective hydrogenation employing diimide reduction conditions with *o*-nitrobenzenesulfonyl hydrazine (*o*-NBSH).[11,12] Triene (*R*,*R*)-**7** is readily prepared in 2-steps via sequential tripodal coupling of the C_2-symmetric *anti*-diene diol (*R*,*R*)-**8**[13] and allyl alcohol with $POCl_3$ or in one step utilizing phosphoramidite chemistry.[13c] Similarly, phosphate **10** can be synthesized following the same sequence of RCM/CM/"H_2" starting with enantiomeric triene (*S*,*S*)-**7** which is obtained from 1,3-*anti*-diene diol (*S*,*S*)-**8** and employing phenyl-but-3-ene as the cross coupling partner. Vinyl lactone **5** can be readily-

derived (5 LLS) from diene **11** and TIPS-protected propargyl aldehyde **12** using Jacobsen hetero Diels-Alder chemistry[14].

Following the previously reported optimized conditions for RCM/CM/"H_2",[11] triene (*R*,*R*)-**7** was first subjected to RCM reaction with the second generation Hoveyda–Grubbs catalyst (HG-II) **14**[15] (6 mol %) in CH_2Cl_2 (0.007 M), and upon completion, solvent was evaporated and the cross metathesis partner *cis*-stilbene in DCE was introduced with continued heating for 2 h (Scehme 2). It should be noted that cross metathesis with styrene was not productive in comparison to *cis*-stilbene due to deleterious homodimerization of styrene, a type I olefin.[16] Subsequent chemo-selective diimide reduction by simple addition of *o*-NBSH into the reaction mixture provided the phenylsubstituted phosphate **6** in 52% overall yield, representing an 81% average yield/reaction in the one-pot, sequential protocol.

We next developed a one-pot Pd-catalyzed, reductive allylic transposition[17] and tether removal protocol. In this regard, allylic transposition [$Pd(OAc)_2$, $HCOONH_4$, PPh_3][18] on phosphate **6** generated the requisite terminal olefin that was followed by *in situ* tether removal by consecutive addition of dimethyl sulfate (Me_2SO_4) (reflux 3 h) and $LiAlH_4$ (0 °C), followed by facile Feiser workup,[19] to furnish diol **4** as a single diastereomer in 65% overall yield (87% average yield/reaction)[20].

With the advanced fragment **4** in hand, the total synthesis of **1** was accomplished via CM of diol alkene **4** and the readily-prepared vinyl lactone **5**, *vide infra* (Scheme 2), in the presence of the HG-II catalyst in CH_2Cl_2 in 77% yield and with excellent *E*-selectivity. The spectral data (H^1, C^{13}, IR, HRMS) and optical rotation of **1** were in complete agreement with those reported in the literature.[2] Overall, the three-pot process afforded **1** in 26% yield from triene (*R*,*R*)-**7**.

Since diol **4** was obtained in high purity without chromatography, the protocol outlined in Scheme 2 was further optimized to employ simple cannulation after the aforementioned Feiser workup (i.e. before CM). Thus, after reduction with $LiAlH_4$, and Fieser workup, the resulting THF solution was transfered via cannula, concentrated and subjected to CM with vinyl lactone **5** in CH_2Cl_2 to afford **1** in 26% overall yield (72% average yield/reaction, Scheme 3).

The aforementioned vinyl lactone **5** was readily synthesized utilizing Jacobsen hetero-Diels-Alder chemistry as outlined in Scheme 4. The isopropyl acetal alkyne **17** was obtained following the Jacobsen protocol employing hetero Diels-Alder catalyst **13**.[14] Subsequent Lindlar hydrogenation with Pd-$CaCO_3$, in the presence of freshly distilled quinoline in EtOAc under H_2, afforded olefin **18** in 80% yield on gram-scale (Scheme 4). The required vinyl lactone **5** was obtained in good yield via direct oxidation of the isopropyl acetal olefin **18** with PCC in CH_2Cl_2 in the presence of AcOH.

We next highlighted this approach in the synthesis of the natural product (6*R*)-6[(*E*,4*R*, 6*R*)-4,6-dihydroxy-10-phenyl-1-decenyl]-5,6-dihydro-2*H*-2-pyrone (**2**) using the enantiomeric triene (*S*,*S*)-**7** and CM partners **19** and **5** as outlined in Scheme 5. The synthesis of **2** was achieved following a similar sequence starting with the enantiomericlly pure diene

diol (*S*,*S*)-**8**. After completing the RCM reaction with triene (*S*,*S*)-**7**, CM was carried out with phenyl-but-1-ene (**19**) with subsequent diimide reduction affording phosphate **10** in 54% overall yield in the one-pot, three reaction protocol. Subsequent Pd-catalyzed reductive allylic transposition [$Pd(OAc)_2$, HCOOH, PPh_3 and Cs_2CO_3], followed by tether removal utilizing consecutive additions of Me_2SO_4, and $LiAlH_4$, and final Feiser workup[19] furnished diol **9**, which was transferred via cannula into a new flask and subjected to CM in CH_2Cl_2 with vinyl lactone **5** to furnish the natural product **2** in 28% overall yield (73% average yield/reaction) and excellent *E*-selectivity. Overall, the three-pot process afforded **2** in 15% yield from triene (*S*,*S*)-**8**.

In conclusion, we have reported synthetic routes to the antifungal natural products **1** and **2** employing a three-pot process from the readily-prepared trienes (*R*,*R*)-**7** and (*S*,*S*)-**7**, respectively. Taken collectively, the orthogonal protecting- and leaving group ability of the phosphate triester tether streamlined the synthesis of **1** and **2**. We anticipate that our modular approach can be further exploited for the synthesis of an array of analogues to explore SAR within **1** and **2**.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

This investigation was generously supported by funds provided by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIH R01 GM077309). The authors thank Dr. Justin Douglas and Sarah Neuenswander (KU) for assistance with NMR measurements and Dr. Todd Williams (KU) for HRMS analysis. The authors also thank the University of Kansas and the State of Kansas for support of our program. The authors also thank Materia, Inc. for supplying metathesis catalyst and helpful suggestions.

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18. Use of $H(Bu_3P)BF_4$ provided the branch olefin in 1:3 b:l ratio, while use of PPh_3 provided mainly the terminal olefin.
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20. It should be noted that use of Me_2SO_4 facilitated the methylation in the presence of Pd which allowed us to operate using a one-pot sequence, whereas previous use of TMS-diazomethane did not.

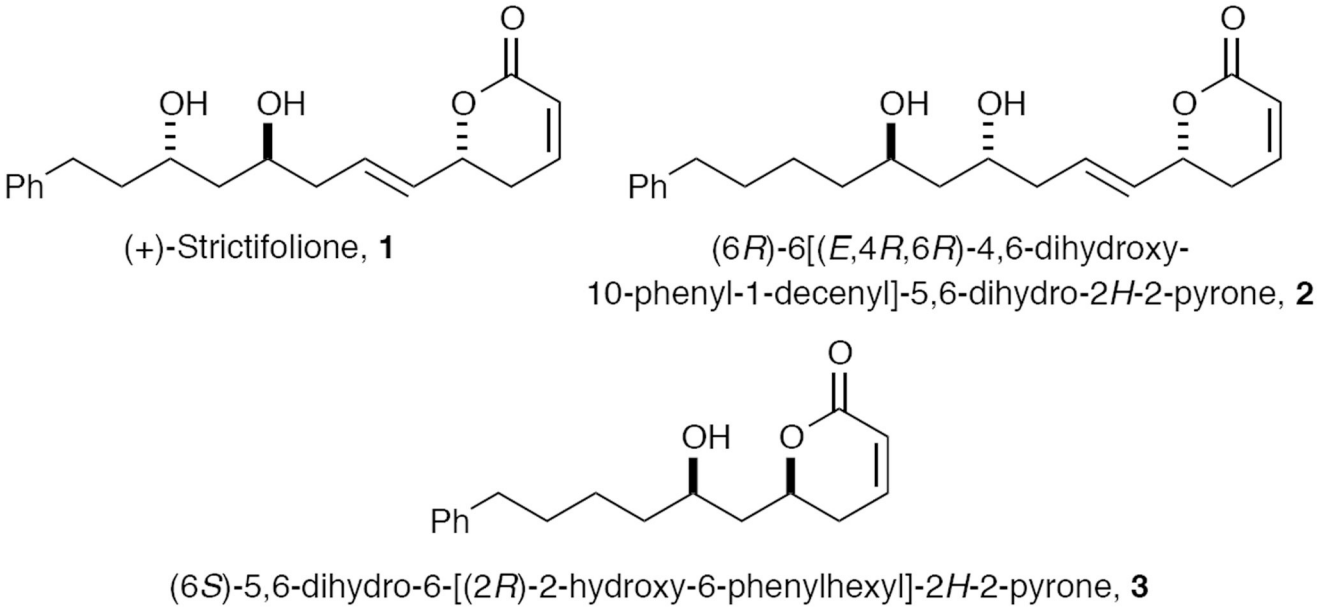
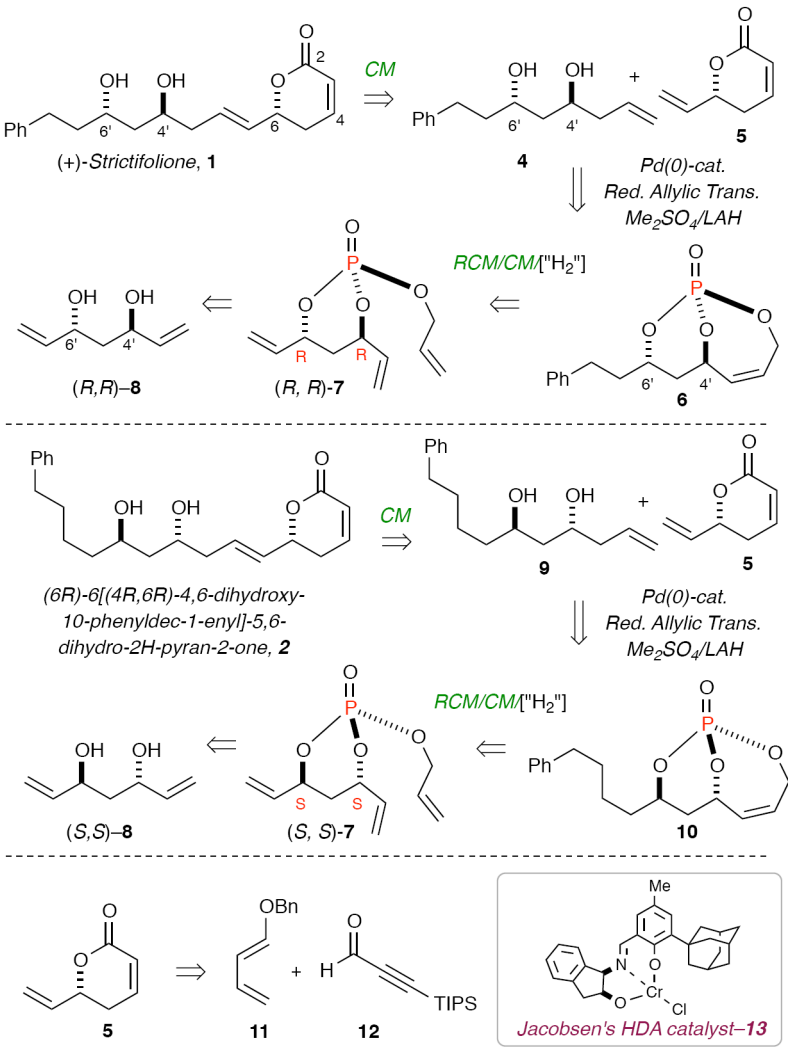
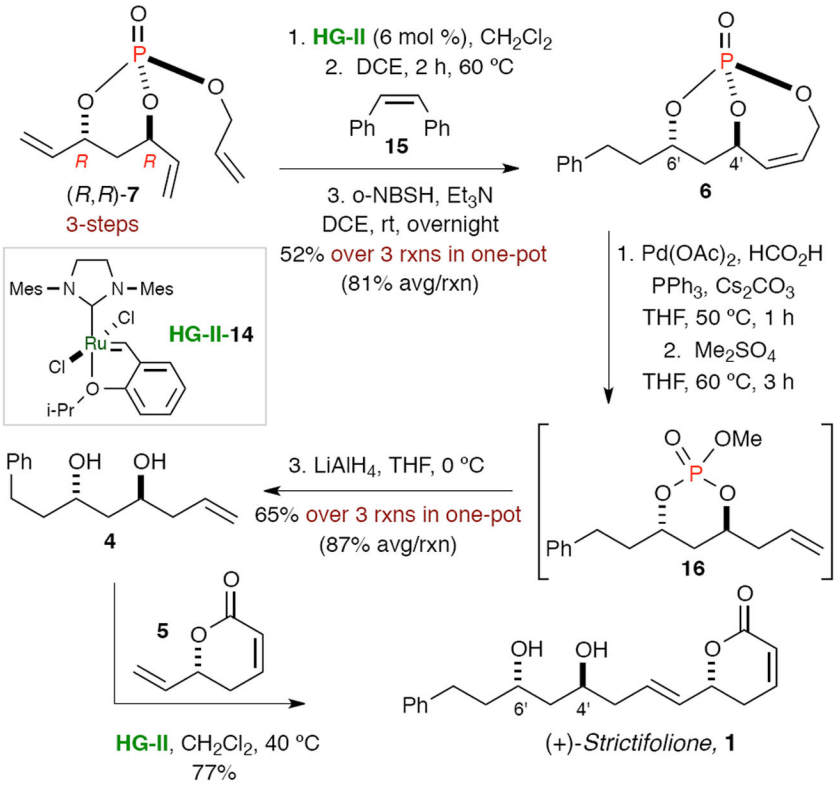


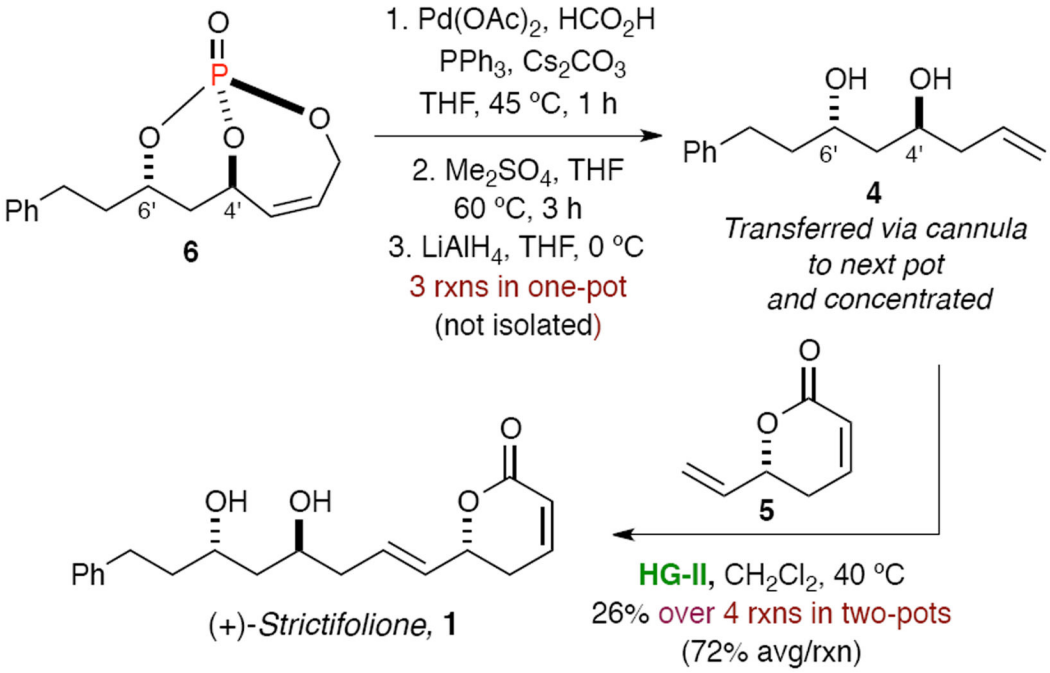
Figure 1. Natural products 1-3



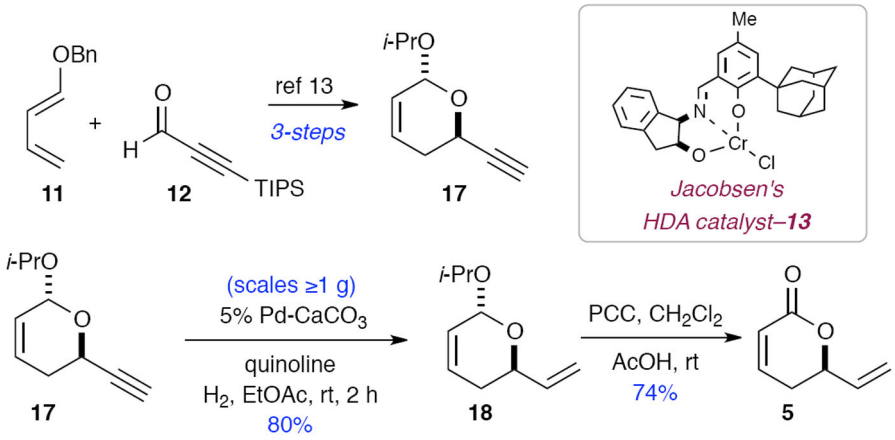
Scheme 1. Retrosynthetic analysis of natural products 1 and 2



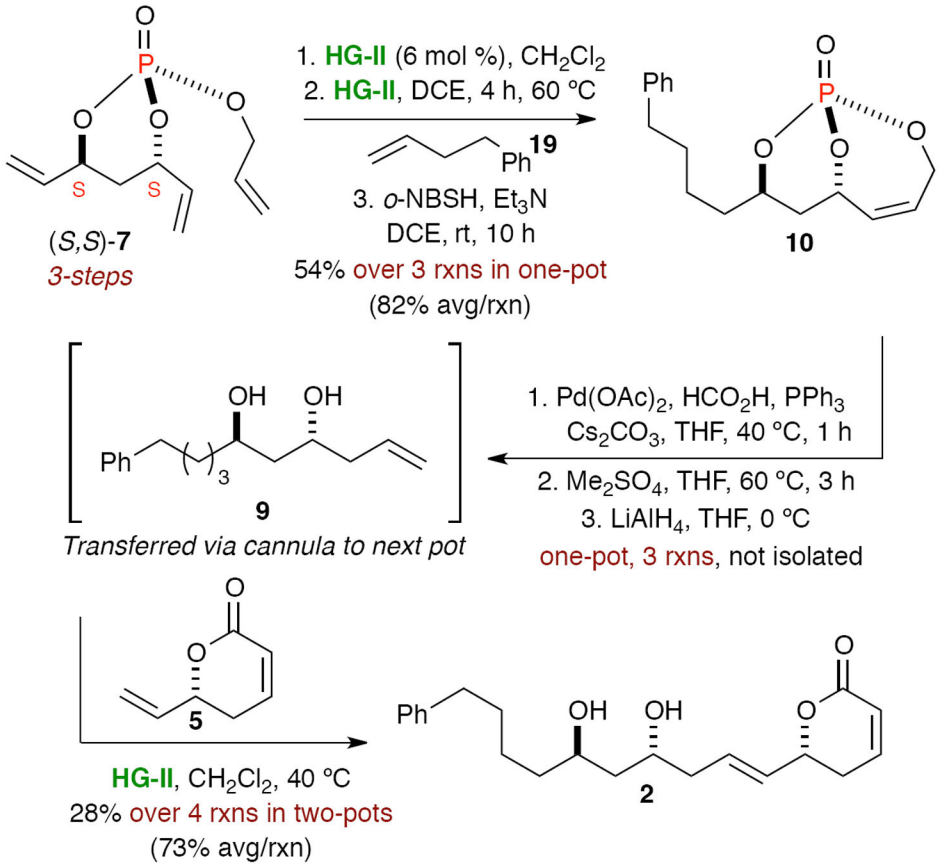
Scheme 2. Consecutive one-pot, sequential protocols, and CM



Scheme 3. One-pot, Pd-catalyzed reductive allylic transposition, tether removal protocol and CM



Scheme 4. Synthesis of vinyl lactone 5



Scheme 5. Consecutive one-pot, sequential protocols and CM