This is a postprint of an article published in
Li, P., Li, J., Arikan, F., Ahlbrecht, W., Dieckmann, M., Menche, D.
> Stereoselective total synthesis of etnangien and etnangien methyl ester
Stereoselective Total Synthesis of Etnangien and Etnangien Methyl Ester

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Received ...

Stereoselective Synthesis of Etnangien

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ABSTRACT. A highly stereoselective joint total synthesis of the potent polyketide macrolide antibiotics etnangien and etnangien methyl ester was accomplished by a convergent strategy and proceeds in 23 steps (longest linear sequence). Notable synthetic features include a sequence of highly stereoselective substrate-controlled aldol reactions to set the characteristic assembly of methyl- and hydroxyl-bearing stereogenic centers of the propionate portions, an efficient diastereoselective Heck macrocyclization of a deliberately conformationally-biased precursor, and a late-stage introduction of the labile side chain by means of a high-yielding Stille coupling of protective-group free precursors. Along the way, an improved, reliable protocol for a Z-selective Stork-Zhao-Wittig olefination of aldehydes was developed and an effective protocol for a 1,3-syn reduction of sterically particularly hindered β-hydroxy ketones was devised. Within the synthetic campaign, a more detailed understanding of the intrinsic isomerisation pathways of these labile natural products was elaborated. The expedient and flexible strategy of the etnangiens should be amenable to designed analogues of these RNA-polymerase inhibitors, thus enabling further exploration of the promising biological potential of these macrolide antibiotics.

Introduction

The polyketide natural product etnangien (1, Figure 1) was originally isolated from the myxobacterium Sorangium cellulosum, strain So ce750 and later from So ce1045, by the groups of
Höfle and Reichenbach.\textsuperscript{1,2} Etnangien together with the more readily available methyl ester \textsuperscript{2,3} present highly potent antibiotics, with average IC\textsubscript{50} values in the submicromolar range, both \textit{in vitro} and \textit{in vivo}.\textsuperscript{1-3} They are effective against a broad panel of Gram-positive bacteria, especially those belonging to the actinomycetes.\textsuperscript{1} On a molecular level, they constitute inhibitors of RNA-polymerase. To date, the rifamycins are the sole class of clinically used RNA-polymerase inhibitors which qualifies RNA polymerase as one of the rare validated — but underexploited — targets for broad-spectrum antibacterial therapy.\textsuperscript{4} However, resistance to the rifamycins has been increasingly spreading, which renders the development of structurally novel inhibitors an important research goal. Importantly, the etnangiens appear to exhibit no cross-resistance to rifampicin.\textsuperscript{1,3} Furthermore, they also retain activity against retroviral DNA polymerase and show only low cytotoxicity against mammalian cell cultures, which adds with their attractiveness for further development. However, preclinical advancement is severely hampered by the notorious instability of etnangien (1), which has been associated to the polyene side chain.\textsuperscript{1,3}

The unique architecture of the etnangiens is characterized by a 22-membered macrolactone ring with two alkenes and a polyunsaturated side chain with seven \textit{E}-configured double bonds. In total, they contain twelve methyl and hydroxyl-bearing stereogenic centers. Although originally reported as a planar structure, the absolute and relative stereochemistry has been determined in our group in cooperation with the group of Rolf Müller by a combination of \textit{J}-based configurational analysis with molecular modeling, chemical derivatization and an innovative method based on gene-cluster analysis.\textsuperscript{3} First SAR data suggest that a free acid is not essential for biological activity and that it is possible to modify and stabilize the etnangien structure, yet still retain activity. Truncation of the side chain, however, leads to significant loss of activity, which suggests this region to be part of the pharmacophore region.\textsuperscript{5}

The important biological properties of etnangien together with its natural scarcity and unique and challenging structure render it an attractive synthetic target, to support further biological evaluation, as well as to enable more elaborate structure–activity relationship (SAR) studies. Recently, the first total
synthesis of etnangien was accomplished in our group,\textsuperscript{6} which also unambiguously confirmed our stereochemical assignment. Herein, we provide a full account of the development and execution of our synthetic strategy, which culminated in the first and joint total synthesis of etnangien (1) and its methyl ester (2).

\textbf{Figure 1.} The etnangiens: Potent macrolide antibiotics of myxobacterial origin.

\begin{center}
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{etnangien.png}
\end{center}

\textbf{Results and Discussion}

In a rationale to confirm the stereochemistry of the natural product as well as to enable access to simplified analogues lacking the labile polyene side chain for SAR-studies, we initiated our synthetic campaign with an effort to first target the macrocyclic core 3 of etnangien. As outlined in Scheme 1, the fully protected precursor 4 may be disconnected at the lactone bond and the (31,32)-diene-moiety, revealing two fragments 5 and 6 of similar complexity. For cyclization, various cross-coupling strategies to set the characteristic (Z,E)-diene may be envisioned, as an alternative to a more conventional\textsuperscript{7} macrolactonization strategy. While a terminal Z-vinyl iodide was planned for the southern
fragment 6, a terminal alkyne on the northern part 5 should serve as a flexible precursor to vinyl stannanes, boronates or alkenes, allowing for a very high degree of flexibility in our synthetic plan. In order to mimic the solution structure of the natural product, which is characterized by a hydrogen bond between OH-36 and OH-38, an acetonide protection group was chosen for these two hydroxyls, in a rationale to potentially facilitate macrocyclization. Acid 5 may be further disconnected by a 1,4-syn-aldol reaction to ethyl ketone 8 and Roche ester derived aldehyde 7, while the southern fragment 6, may likewise be derived by an aldol disconnection, here from methyl ketone 10 and aldehyde 9. Introduction of the presumably labile vinyl iodide would then be effected by means of a Stork-Zhao-Wittig olefination.

Scheme 1

As shown in Scheme 2, two main strategies for construction of the polypropionate C32-C42 fragment were evaluated. Both routes were based on a boron-mediated aldol reaction of lactate-derived methyl ketone 11 with aldehydes 12 and 13, which proceeded with high stereoselectivity and yield to give the anti-propionates 14 and 16, respectively. The derived TBS ether 15 was then further elaborated to ethyl ketone 8, by cleavage of the benzoyloxy group with samarium diiodide, while 17 was
transformed to aldehyde 18 by a two step-procedure involving reductive removal of the benzoate and subsequent diol cleavage. Best results in the pivotal 1,4-syn aldol coupling of ketone 8 with aldehyde 7 were obtained with a tin(II) triflate-mediated coupling following a slightly modified procedure of Paterson,10 to afford the desired β-hydroxy-ketone 20 in good stereoselectivity (dr 7:1) and yield. This procedure proved to be more robust and reliable also on large scale as compared to a likewise evaluated titanium mediated aldol coupling.11 The likewise tested alternative on an inverse aldol coupling of ethyl ketone 19 with aldehyde 18, proceeded with much lower yields and selectivities. Accordingly, this route was no longer pursued.
Unexpected difficulties were then encountered in the hydroxyl-directed 1,3-\textit{syn} reduction of 20. As shown in Scheme 2, a wide variety of commonly used reagents failed almost completely, resulting in either very low conversion and/or low degrees of selectivity, suggesting a very high degree of steric hindrance of propionate 20. Initially, useful levels of 1,3-\textit{syn} induction could only be obtained with Zn(BH\(_4\))\(_2\) as reducing agent. However, yields remained moderate and variable, particularly on large scale. After considerable optimization, a two step procedure was developed, which firstly involved chelation of \(\beta\)-hydroxy-ketone with (c-Hex)\(_2\)BCl (1.5 equiv) and NEt\(_3\) (1.5 equiv) at -30 °C in Et\(_2\)O and
subsequent reduction with LiBH₄, (1 equiv) at -78 °C, resulting in the formation of 21 with high yield and selectivity, allowing for a large scale access to this fragment.

As shown in Scheme 3, the diol 21 was then protected as the acetonide 22. At this stage the relative configuration of the stereohexad was rigorously confirmed by NMR methods. Selective cleavage of the primary TBS-ether with NaIO₄ using a procedure recently developed in our group and attachment of the tosylate by a method of Hünig and Hartung proceeded in good yields. For homologation to alkyne 24 by substitution of tosylate 23, the use of sodium acetylide proved beneficial as compared to the more conventional lithium salt, giving the desired alkyne 24 in useful yields (72%). The carboxylic acid was then introduced by deprotection of the PMB group with DDQ and two-step oxidation (3 steps, 71%). In total, the sequence to 5 proceeded in 12 steps from 11 and 12% yield and allowed access to multi-gram quantities of the key northern building block.

Scheme 3

For further functionalization of alkyne 5, we firstly targeted E-vinyl stannane 26. Based on unfavorable precedents of direct E-selective hydrostannylation of terminal alkynes, a two step method was applied, which firstly involves generation of acetylenic bromide 25, by a silver nitrate mediated bromination, which proceeded in good yield. The derived bromoalkyne was then directly
hydrostannylated with \( \text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3/\text{PPh}_3/\text{Bu}_3\text{SnH} \) according to the published procedure.\(^{16}\) Although \( E \)-selection was almost complete (\( \text{dr} > 19:1 \)), the yield remained low (30–35\%) and not reproducible. The destannylated analogue was obtained as the main side product, possibly due to an unfavorable influence of the carboxylic acid group. Furthermore, model Stille coupling reactions of stannane \( 26 \) with simple vinyl iodides were not successful, under various catalytic conditions.

Consequently, we turned our attention to alternatives. Firstly, Lindlar hydrogenation of \( 5 \) was applied to give the terminal alkene \( 27 \). The reaction proceeded in good yields, based on careful monitoring of the conversion, to avoid overreduction to the alkane. Alternatively, hydroboration of the terminal alkyne was studied. Since in situ hydroboration with catechol borane and immediate Suzuki macrocyclization failed to afford the macrocyclic core (Scheme 6, vide infra), a potentially more robust and more easily-handable pinacol borane was used to target the presumably more stable\(^ {17} \) boronate \( 29 \). Firstly, the direct hydroboration of alkyne \( 5 \) was studied. Interestingly, to the best of our knowledge there appears to be no precedence of such a hydroboration with pinacol borane in the presence of a free carboxylic acid group. Recently, Shirakawa et al. have developed an efficient hydroboration method with pinacol borane in the presence of catalytic amounts of dicyclohexylborane.\(^ {18} \) Presumably, the reaction involves initial hydroboration by dicyclohexylborane, followed by an alkenyl B-to-B transfer to pinacolborane. In our case a slight modification of the original procedure was applied, due to the presence of a free acid group leading to rapid protonation of dicyclohexylborane. Accordingly, the substrate was first treated with 3.0 equiv of pinacol borane for 15 min at 0 \( ^\circ \text{C} \) to consume the acidic proton of the terminal carboxylic acid, followed by addition of dicyclohexylborane. However, only very low degrees of conversion could be observed for substrate \( 5 \) under conventional conditions and extended reaction times or elevated temperatures led to complex mixtures. Consequently, introduction of the boronate prior to the acid group formation was studied. Hydroboration of alkyne \( 24 \) with pinacolborane and removal of the PMB group with DDQ proceeded in good yields. Despite initial concerns of the known lability of boron compounds to oxidations,\(^ {19} \) oxidation of the derived primary alcohol with Dess-Martin periodinane proceeded smoothly to the corresponding aldehyde in good, albeit to a certain degree
variable yields (71% to 84%). The final oxidation to the desired acid 29, however, proved very capricious. Best results were obtained with the Pinnick protocol,\textsuperscript{20} giving the acid 29 in low and variable yields (20-47%), presumably due to oxidative decomposition pathways of the boronate.\textsuperscript{21}

Accordingly, a more efficient approach was required, which was finally devised by a cross metathesis\textsuperscript{22} of alkene 27 with commercially available vinyl boronate 28. After considerable optimization, it was found that preparatively useful yields (64%) may be obtained, with the first generation catalyst of Grubbs, involving high catalyst loading (30 mol %) and a large excess of 28 (20 equiv).

As in Scheme 4, our synthetic approach for the southern fragment 6 was based on an asymmetric allylation of 1,5-pentanediol-derived aldehyde 30,\textsuperscript{23,24,25} which was initially studied using Brown’s methodology.\textsuperscript{26} However, even under low reaction temperatures (-100 °C), the enantioselectivity, as determined by advanced Mosher esters analysis,\textsuperscript{27} remained low (<80% ee). In conjunction with the tedious isolation procedure due to coelution of the reagent-derived byproducts during column chromatography, we turned our attention to Leighton’s reagent 31.\textsuperscript{28,29} Gratifyingly, a solution of aldehyde 30 and (S,S)-31 afforded at -10 °C the homoallylic alcohol 32 in high enantioselectivity (92% ee), albeit moderate yields (62%), presumably due to gradual decomposition of the material under the Lewis acidic conditions over the required prolonged reaction times (48 h). Isolation of the allylation product 32 was straightforward by chromatography and the reaction proved well-scalable, without deterioration of efficiency. The corresponding methyl ether 33 was then prepared with NaH/MeI. Initial attempts to directly homologate the corresponding C24-aldehyde of alkene 33, readily obtained by deprotection of the primary TBS group (HF/CH\textsubscript{3}CN) and subsequent oxidation using Swern conditions by aldol coupling\textsuperscript{30} with methyl ketone 10\textsuperscript{31} resulted however in only low yields (< 10%), presumably due to practical difficulties associated with the high volatility of the aldehyde.
Accordingly, the corresponding Bz-protected aldehyde 9 was prepared in good yields (81%) from 32, by methylation, ozonolysis with reductive workup, Bz-protection, subsequent TBS deprotection and DMP oxidation of intermediate alcohol 34. Notably, it was found that Bz protection and TBS deprotection could be done in one-pot fashion, i.e. after disappearance of the starting material, as monitored by TLC analysis, 40% aqueous HF was directly added dropwise to the reaction mixture. The Dess-Martin oxidation of alcohol 34 proceeded straightforward in the presence of sodium bicarbonate, giving aldehyde 9 essentially in quantitative yield after flash chromatography.
For the pivotal aldol coupling, we followed a slightly modified procedure of Paterson,\textsuperscript{32} which involved conversion of the methyl ketone into the corresponding enol borinate with (+)-Ipc$_2$BCl and triethylamine (TEA). \textit{In situ} reaction with aldehyde 9 afforded the desired 1,4-\textit{syn} aldol product 35 in 75\% yield and high stereoselectivity (dr > 19:1).\textsuperscript{33}

For construction of the C-22 stereocenter by means of a 1,3-\textit{anti} reduction of β-hydroxy ketone 35, the Evans protocol \textsuperscript{34} using tetramethylammonium triacetoxyborohydride [Me$_4$NBH(OAc)$_3$] in acetonitrile and anhydrous acetic acid (1:1 v/v) was efficiently applied, proceeding with excellent diastereoselectivity (dr > 19:1) and yield (99\%) at -40 °C (20 h).

For further advancement towards the etnangien macrocycle, a differentiation of the two hydroxyl groups of diol 36 was required. We anticipated that the steric environments might be sufficiently different to allow for selective protection of the less hindered 24-OH. However, treatment with 1.2 equivalent of TBSOTf at -78 °C for 1 h gave almost exclusively the bisprotected product (64\% isolated yield), suggesting little steric bias towards selective monoprotection. No product formation was observed when substrate 36 was pre-treated with organotin reagents,\textsuperscript{35} \textit{i.e.} Bu$_2$SnCl$_2$\textsuperscript{36} or Bu$_2$SnO\textsuperscript{37} (entries 2, 3), presumably because both complexed hydroxyl groups were not reactive enough. In both cases, only decomposition was observed. Finally, use of TBSCI / Imidazole / DMAP in DMF proved relatively effective (entry 4). At 0 °C to room temperature a certain degree of regioselection was observed, giving the desired TBS ether 37 as the main product (47\%), together with 32\% reisolated starting material and 10\% bis-protected diol. The diol could easily be recycled. At this stage the configuration of the stereocenter at C-22 was confirmed by Mosher ester analysis, which also confirmed the regioselective protection at C-24.

As shown in Scheme 5, protection of the remaining free hydroxyl at C-22 proceeded smoothly with triethylsilyl triflate in the presence of 2,6-lutidine. Subsequent treatment of the derived TES ether\textsuperscript{38} with potassium carbonate in methanol removed the benzyol group cleanly. The good but not excellent overall yield (77\%, two steps) may be attributed to partial removal of the labile TES group in the Bz
deprotection step. The primary alcohol 39 was then oxidized by Dess-Martin periodinane in the presence of sodium bicarbonate to aldehyde 40 uneventfully.

For introduction of the required Z-vinyl iodide, a Stork-Zhao-Wittig olefination39 was envisioned. The required phosphonium reagent [Ph3PCH2I]+I- was prepared by a modified procedure,40 which involved heating a solution of triphenylphosphine and methylene iodide in dry toluene to 50 °C and stirring at this temperature for 96 h in the dark. After washing with diethyl ether and drying under vacuum, the desired phosphonium salt was obtained in 56% yield. Importantly, following these conditions, 1H-NMR and 13C-NMR analysis indicated the presence of a single compound and not mixtures as claimed in the literature.39 The olefination step was then conducted under “salt-free” conditions.41 Accordingly, the required phosphor ylide was firstly prepared by deprotonation of the phosphonium salt with KHMDS. After standing for 30 min, the yellow supernatant solution of the “salt-free” ylide was cannulated into the other flask containing the aldehyde. The reaction was complete within 30 min at -78 °C and produced the desired vinyl iodide 41 in excellent selectivity (Z/E = 50:1), however only moderate yield (52%). After considerable experimentation, an improved protocol was applied (compare discussions Scheme 8, vide infra), giving the desired iodide in 83% yield and Z/E = 19:1 selectivity. Finally, selective deprotection of the TES protecting group in the presence of a less hindered but more bulky
TBS group, was best achieved by catalytic amount of PPTS (0.25 equiv) in ethanol giving alcohol 6 in 85% yield. In total, the southern fragment 6 was prepared in 7.4% overall yield (9.8% with recycling once diol 36 during the regioselective protection step) and 12 steps from 12 in the longest linear sequence from aldehyde 30.

As shown in Scheme 6, two main strategies were then pursued for advancing to the macrocyclic core of etnangien. Initial attempts relying on a Stille coupling of 26 resulted in only low and not reproducible yields on model compounds, giving mainly destannylated product, possibly due to the presence of the free carboxylate. Attempts were then directed towards an esterification, hydroboration and Suzuki macrocyclization approach. Thus, under standard Yamaguchi esterification condition (2,4,6-trichlorobenzoyl chloride, TEA and DMAP in toluene), ester 42 was prepared from 5 and 6 in 73% yield. Subsequently, an in situ procedure for hydroboration and Suzuki macrocyclization without intermediate isolation of the boronate was evaluated. Accordingly, after complete hydroboration of alkyne 42 with catechol borane (10.0 equiv) in the presence of catalytic amount of dicyclohexylborane (0.2 equiv), the crude product was directly submitted to catalytic amounts of Pd(PPh₃)₄ and a slight excess of TlOEt. However, only complex product mixtures could be obtained. The successful strategy finally involved an intermolecular esterification between alkene 27 and alcohol 6, followed by a Heck macrocyclization. Again, the Yamaguchi protocol was effectively employed, giving ester 43 in 81% yield. For complete conversion and ease of separation, it proved beneficial to use a slight excess of acid 27 (1.2 equiv), which was easily recovered after the reaction. Subsequently, the Heck macrocyclization reaction could be effected under slightly modified Jeffery condition, involving a degassed mixture (3.9 mM) of the substrate, tetrabutylammonium chloride (3.0 equiv), anhydrous potassium carbonate (8.0 equiv) and palladium acetate (1.2 equiv) in DMF at 60 °C, giving the desired macrolactone in 47% yield, with complete E-selectivity. Presumably, this remarkable diastereoselectivity may be caused by a favored conformation controlled by the rigid acetonide protection group. For further elaboration of 4, removal of the protecting groups was studied. In agreement with more elaborate experiments (vide infra, Scheme 17), the TBS groups were completely removed by a freshly prepared DMF solution of
TBAF (2.0 M) and acetic acid (0.2 M) at 0 °C. The expected product 44 could be isolated by preparative normal phase HPLC in 35% together with the contracted analogue 45 in 53% yield.

Scheme 6

In summary, the synthesis of 44 was accomplished in 16 steps from ketone 11 with 1.4% overall yield. A sequence of highly stereoselective aldol reactions was developed to set the characteristic sequence of hydroxyl- and methyl-bearing stereogenic centers with high degrees of efficiency and convergence while a Heck macrocyclization was effectively used for closing the macrocyclic core. Importantly, at this stage, the close similarity of the NMR data of 44 and the corresponding etnangien
acetonide\textsuperscript{3} allowed to confirm the relative stereochemistry of the macrocyclic core of the natural product.

With these findings in hand, a synthetic strategy towards the authentic natural product was devised. As shown in Scheme 7, critical disconnections in the macrocyclic part were chosen in an analogous fashion to the model system, \textit{i.e.} an ester formation and a cross coupling to forge the diene system. However, in contrast to the model system, the side chain was dissected in the middle of the conjugate hexaene subunit in a rationale to set the labile hexaene-system at a late stage of the synthesis. Accordingly, a base free Stille coupling\textsuperscript{45} was envisioned for a late stage attachment of the side chain, revealing the trienyl stannane building block 47 (C1-C13 fragment). The macrocycle would be disconnected into the same northern fragment 27 (C32-C42) and a homologated southern fragment 48 (C15-C31), in a rationale to increase the overall convergence. Furthermore, it was hoped that the more elaborate macrocycle 46 might be less prone to isomerisation processes, which have not been reported for the authentic natural products.\textsuperscript{1} Compound 48 was planned to arise from an aldol connection along the C23-C24 bond. Notably, a 3,4-dimethoxybenzyl(DMB)-protection group was chosen for the 20-OH to allow for useful levels of a favorable 1,5-\textit{anti} induction.\textsuperscript{46} Based on the observed stability of vinyl iodide 6, introduction of the vinyl iodide portion was planned before the aldol coupling to render the strategy more convergent, which revealed the coupling partners 49 and 50.

Scheme 7
As shown in Scheme 8, the synthesis of vinyl iodide fragment 49 involved the same intermediate 33 as used before (see Scheme 4). However, in contrast to the route above, a revised synthetic plan based on a Jacobsen hydrolytic kinetic resolution (HKR) of epoxide 52\textsuperscript{47} was implemented, due to the high expense of the chiral reagent 31 and the requirements for even larger amounts of 33. Accordingly, the chiral epoxide was obtained in two steps from readily available TBS ether 51 following a published procedure,\textsuperscript{47a} which proved well-scalable. Regioselective ring opening, methylation and ozonolysis of 33 gave aldehyde 53 in essentially quantitative yield. Stork-Zhao-Wittig olefination was first tested under the “salt-free” condition, as evaluated above (see Scheme 5).\textsuperscript{32} However, in contrast to the observations with substrate 40, here a mixture of the expected Z-vinyl iodide 55 (25% yield), together with the geminal diiodide 54 was obtained which could only be separated by normal phase preparative HPLC.
A similar observation has only been reported by the group of Bestmann.\textsuperscript{48} To explain the generation of the unwanted diiodide, they suggested an iodine-hydrogen exchange process, as shown in Scheme 9. According to their model, the normal ylide 56 and the undeprotonated salt 57 might exchange a hydrogen and iodide, leading to an iodine-free ylide 58 and a new salt (59) with two covalently attached geminal iodine atoms (i.e. H to I exchange). The resulting two species may then further undergo proton transfer, leading to phosphor ylide 62, resulting in the formation of the geminal diiodide 64.
In order to understand the side reaction and ultimately improve the reaction outcome, a possible mechanism of this exchange process may be proposed as shown in Scheme 9 (right part). Accordingly, the salt 57 might be attacked by ylide 56 in a nucleophilic-substitution fashion to give a heterodimerized salt (60) as an intermediate. A second substitution, now by an iodide, might then lead to C-C bond cleavage forming the neutral ylide 58. Possibly, such an I-H exchange process might be useful for the synthesis of 1,1-diiodoalkenes in a HWE variant. However, to the best of our knowledge, a detailed study and mechanistic explanation for this process appear not to have been reported.

Based on this proposal, the I-H exchange is initiated by two species, 56 and 57, which are present in the deprotonation stage. We hypothesized that if there is little undeprotonated salt 57 present, formation of the diiodide side product should be avoided. As the deprotonation process with strong bases such as NaHMDS should be a rapid process, slow addition of the salt to a solution of the base would be critical to ensure the all-over excessive presence of NaHMDS. On the other hand, excess of base might be detrimental to the following reaction with the aldehyde 63. Accordingly, exactly a 1:1 molar ratio of the phosphonium salt and the base was considered to be ideal.

Conventionally, the phosphonium salt is added to the reaction flask before addition of the base, presumably due to the insolubility of the salt in most solvents and due to ease of conduction. Surprisingly, however, in many cases, I-H exchanges appear not to have been observed. One possible explanation could be that normally the base is rapidly added to the suspension of the salt and the deprotonation processes is much faster than the I-H exchange process. In our case, however, we could not add large amount of the base in a few seconds, due to reasons of reproducibility and scalability, whereas prolonging exposal of the salt 57 to ylide 56 might lead to unfavorable I-H exchange processes.

Based on these thoughts, we adopted the following procedure for our preparation of the Z-vinyl iodide. In the absence of light, a suspension of a fine powder of the phosphonium iodide (1.5 equiv) in anhydrous HMPA was slowly added to a solution of NaHMDS (1.5 equiv) in dry THF at 10-15 °C.
After 1 min, the mixture was cooled to -78 °C and a solution of the aldehyde (1.0 equiv) in THF was added dropwise. After 20 min at -78 °C, the reaction was stopped and a usual aqueous workup procedure produced the Z-vinyl iodide. Following this procedure, the Z-vinyl iodide was reproducibly obtained in good yield (70-77%) and high Z/E selectivity (15:1 to 27:1), without any observable formation of the vinyl diiodide (see Table, Scheme 8). Notably, when the insoluble salt was added in solid form batch wise and in otherwise identical condition, small amount of the diiodide was still formed (Z-55/E-55/diiodide 54 = 10:1.0:1.3), presumably as the adding rate could not be rigorously controlled under these conditions.

Subsequently, the primary TBS protecting group was removed with catalytic amount of 10-camphorsulfonic acid (0.3 equiv) in methanol, giving the derived alcohol in essentially quantitative yields. The subsequent oxidation was most effectively performed with the Parikh-Doering procedure.51

As shown in Scheme 10, construction of the desired methyl ketone 50 was initiated by a previously described Wittig reaction of commercial aldehyde 65 with ylide 66.52 In our hands, however, the reported procedure in toluene resulted in only moderate degrees of conversion and yields. In contrast, it was observed that the reaction proceeds much faster in DCM, resulting in higher degrees of conversion and yields. Optimum results were obtained with 1.0 equivalents of the Wittig reagent and 3.0 equivalents of the aldehyde at room temperature, giving the desired aldehyde 67 in 80% yield. The homologated compound 68 was observed as the main side product.53
With 67 in hand, a series of functional group operations, involving reduction of the aldehyde, TBS protection of the derived primary alcohol, DIBAL reduction of the ester and MnO₂ oxidation of the derived allylic alcohol gave aldehyde 69 in high yield (82%) over these four steps, as shown in Scheme 11. Unexpectedly, the subsequent Abiko-Masamune aldol reaction with propionate 70 proceeded in only moderate selectivity and yield (76%, dr > 5:1). Also, conversion of aldol adduct 71 to Weinreb amide 74 using our previously developed method with a slight excess of i-PrMgCl and O,N-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride was accompanied with variable degrees of elimination and protection of the newly generated hydroxyl of 71 as a DMB-ether failed to provide the desired ether 73.

Scheme 11
Due to these unsatisfactory results, we turned our attention to a Paterson anti-aldol reaction with lactate-derived ethyl ketone 11,9 which proceeded with excellent selectivity and yield (97%, dr > 20:1). However, again DMB protection of the generated hydroxyketone 72 proved capricious. Despite considerable experimentation, yields remained low. Best results were obtained with PPTS giving 75 with 37% yield. Also, subsequent addition of MeLi to the ketone functionality with concomitant benzoyl cleavage provided the desired 1,2-diol 76 also only in low yield (22%). Finally, conversion to the desired methyl ketone 50 by oxidative cleavage with NaIO4 in THF/H2O also proved difficult to control, giving variable degrees of methyl ketones 50 and 77.56

On the basis of these unsatisfactory results, an alternative protective group strategy had to be implemented. For convenience, a TBS group was chosen, despite expected unfavorable effects on the envisioned 1,5-anti induction in the subsequent aldol coupling with aldehyde 49. As shown in Scheme
TBS protection of aldol product 72 was best carried out with TBSOTf in the presence of proton-sponge, while alternative bases (2,6-lutidine, 2,4,6- collidine, 2,3,5-collidin, 2,4-di-t-butyl pyridine) resulted in lower yields and were accompanied with various degrees of elimination. Presumably, the increased steric hindrance of the base suppresses these unwanted side reactions. For conversion of 78 to the desired methyl ketone 82, it proved beneficial to firstly remove the benzoate reductively (LiBH₄), followed by oxidative cleavage of the derived diol 80, which was best carried out with Pb(OAc)₄ in toluene to avoid removal of the allylic TBS ether, as observed before (see Scheme 11). Aldehyde 81 was then converted in two steps and high yields (94%) to the desired methyl ketone 82, by addition of MeLi and oxidation of the derived alcohol. This strategy proved to be superior to a likewise tested alternative of direct addition of methyl lithium to benzoate 78, leading to extensive decomposition, presumably by direct nucleophilic attack to the electron rich allylic TBS ethers. In summary, ketone 82 was prepared in 11 steps and 47% yield.

Gratifyingly, the pivotal coupling of ketone 82 with aldehyde 48, proceeded with high stereoselectivity and yield following an Ipc-boron mediated aldol reaction (76%, dr > 14:1). As shown
in Scheme 13, optimum conditions involved enolization of methyl ketone with (+)-DIPCl and Et$_3$N in Et$_2$O at 0 °C, which was allowed to react with aldehyde 48 at -78 °C for 1 h and then at -20 °C for 14 h. Subsequent 1,3-anti reduction of the aldol product was straightforward following the procedure as established above, giving 84 in high yield (92%) and stereoselectivity (dr > 19:1). In agreement with the results for the model compound, selective protection of diol 84 was optimal with TBSCl/imidazole in dichloromethane, giving the desired monoprotected TBS ether 85 in 77% yield. The slightly improved result as compared to the previous substrate might be attributed to the increased steric hindrance around the C22 hydroxyl group.

As shown in Scheme 14, efforts to advance to the elaborated macrocyclic core 87 of etnangien were initiated by a Suzuki coupling strategy. Since hydroboration with catechol borane and immediate Suzuki macrocyclization failed to afford the macrocyclic core before (compare Scheme 6), we turned our attention to first implement the cross coupling. However, coupling of vinyl iodide 85 with 29 proceeded in only low yield (21%), giving seco-acid 86, which was further carried on to the macrocycle uneventfully under standard Yamaguchi esterification condition in 51% yield.
As an alternative, a ring closing metathesis (RCM) of precursor 89 was evaluated. Initially, the required terminal diene subunit was synthesized by C2-homologation of iodide 85 by Stille coupling with commercially available tributyl vinylstannane giving diene 91 in high yield (64%). Surprisingly, however, upon storage even at 0 °C, this (Z)-diene gradually isomerized to a mixture of (E)- and (Z)-isomers, presumably because of the presence of trace of palladium species even after column purification. Therefore, diene 91 had to be used immediately for the next transformation. However, esterification with 27 was unexpectedly inefficient under Yamaguchi conditions. Possibly, traces of residual palladium species led again to decomposition during solvent evaporation after chromatography, mainly by scrambling of olefin geometry. Consequently, the esterification was conducted prior to Stille homologation. Accordingly, Yamaguchi coupling of alcohol 85 and acid 27 produced the ester in good yield (97%). At this stage, Stille coupling with vinyl stannane 90 was straightforward (rt, 40 min, 82%).
The corresponding diene product 89 was then immediately used for RCM reactions, in order to prevent decomposition processes due to any residual palladium species. However, as shown in Table 2, reaction conditions could not be optimized to allow for an effective access to the desired macrolactone 87. Main side product proved to be the contracted 20-membered ring. Furthermore, a mixture of 89 and the smaller congener could not be resolved by various chromatographic methods.

In a parallel fashion, Heck macrocyclization of alkene 88, readily available from 85 and 27 by esterification, was studied. Accordingly, ester 88 was subjected to various Heck condition to close the 22-membered ring, as shown in Table 1. After some optimizations, it was found that the reagent combination Pd(OAc)$_2$/Bu$_4$NCl/K$_2$CO$_3$/DMF (70 °C, 50 min) provided the desired macrocycle 87 in high yield (70%), as the only isolable product with exclusively C32-C33 $E$-configuration.

With the fully protected macrocyclic core in hand, efforts could then be directed towards construction of the side chain. As shown in Scheme 15, its preparation starts from PMB-protected hydroxyl-pentanone 92, which was homologated by an HWE reaction with trimethyl phosphonoacetate to provide the $\alpha,\beta$-unsaturated ester 93 in preparatively useful yields (62%) as an $E/Z$ mixture of 3:1, following a procedure, recently developed in our group on a related substrate. Reduction of this ester to the corresponding alcohol with DIBAL-H and reoxidation of the allylic alcohol with MnO$_2$ gave aldehyde 94 in a straightforward fashion. Brown allylation under “salt-free” conditions at -100 °C afforded the homoallylic alcohol 95 in 80% yield and good enantioselectivity (90% ee). After protection with TBSOTf, the $E/Z$ isomers could be separated by ordinary column chromatography with silica gel. Finally, the $E$ isomer was transformed to methyl ester 96 over 4 steps by PMB deprotection, Dess-Martin oxidation, Pinnick oxidation and methyl esterification with diazomethane.

Scheme 15
For introduction of the stannane, we initially conceived an approach via iodide 102 by mono-Stille coupling with trans-1,2-bis(tri-n-butylstannyl)ethylene 103. Accordingly, the required iodide 102 was prepared by cross metathesis, Takai olefination and TBS deprotection from the terminal alkene 96. Cross coupling was best performed with Grubbs II catalyst (5% mol) and an excess of crotonaldehyde (10 equiv) at 60 °C in dry toluene, giving desired aldehyde 99 in high yields (90%). Subsequently, Takai olefination with iodoform (8.8 equiv) and chromium (II) chloride (14.0 equiv) in a mixed...
solvent system (dioxane/THF = 6:1)\textsuperscript{66} gave dienyl iodide 102 in 65% yield and acceptable selectivity ($E/Z = 6:1$), which proved to be highly labile to light ($E/Z$ isomerization) and traces of iodoform.\textsuperscript{67}

The final critical step, the Stille mono-coupling with *trans*-1,2-Bis(tri-*n*-butylstannyl)ethylene (103) was firstly tried under standard Stille conditions.\textsuperscript{68} However, treatment of iodide 102 with PdCl$_2$(CH$_3$CN)$_2$ (10% mol) and 10 equivalents of *trans*-1,2-bis(tri-*n*-butylstannyl)ethylene in degassed DMF, resulted in complex mixtures. Also, with Pd(PPh$_3$)$_4$ as catalyst, formation of complex mixtures was observed, and the deiodinated congener was observed as the main product (40%). We therefore resorted to an alternative protocol utilizing a one-pot Sn-Li-Zn transmetallation and subsequent Negishi coupling.\textsuperscript{69} Accordingly, the required reagent 104 was prepared *in situ* from 103, as previously described,\textsuperscript{69a} and directly added to a cooled (0 °C) THF solution of iodide 102 and catalyst Pd(PPh$_3$)$_4$.

However, only low degrees of conversions were observed under conventional conditions and after extended reaction times formation of various side products was observed. Moreover, the low and similar polarity of starting material and product and slow decomposition of stannane 46 on silica gel in the absence of triethylamine, rendered isolation of the desired stannane 46 extremely challenging, resulting in very low yields in all cases. After a series of further unsuccessful attempts including a tin-Takai olefination,\textsuperscript{70} we turned our attention to the introduction of the stannane by a HWE olefination with stannylated phosphonate 101, a related work of which had previously been used by the Smith group with limited success.\textsuperscript{71,72} As shown in the Table in Scheme 15, various reaction conditions were applied, resulting however initially only in very low yields of the right product which was also contaminated by a few other side products. It seemed that sodium as counter ion and lower temperatures appeared to be beneficial (entries 1-4), suggesting the size ($K^+(18\text{-c}-6) > K^+ > Na^+ > Li^+$) or coordinative capability ($K^+(18\text{-c}-6) < K^+ < Na^+ < Li^+$) of the counter ion to be important for the reaction outcome. Indeed, deprotonation of phosphonate 101 with KHMDS in the presence of 18-crown-6 followed by addition of the aldehyde 99 at -78 °C resulted in the formation of the expected triene 46 in 38% yield after preparative HPLC (Entry 5). Subsequent removal of the secondary TBS was cleanly effected by TBAF, giving the desired alcohol 105 in useful yields (69%).\textsuperscript{73}
To test the projected late-stage generation of the all-(E) hexaene subunit of etnangien, the Stille-coupling of 46 was subsequently attempted with simplified model vinyl iodide 107, which was prepared from 78 by allylic oxidative deprotection with DDQ. Notably, the secondary allylic TBS ether remained untouched. Takai olefination of aldehyde 106 gave the labile trienyl iodide 107 (56% yield, $E/Z = 4:1$). Gratifyingly, the subsequent Stille coupling between iodide 107 and stannane 46 proceeded smoothly using PdCl$_2$(CH$_3$CN)$_2$ in DMF system, giving the desired product in high yield (85%).

Scheme 16

With the introduction of the side chain established, efforts were then directed to access the macrocyclic vinyl iodide 110. Initially, a similar sequence as before was applied, involving allylic oxidation and Takai reaction. However, direct treatment of 87 with DDQ/pH7 buffer gave only low yields (36%) of the expected aldehyde 109. Alternatively, a two-step process, involving first liberation of the primary allylic alcohol, best done with aqueous 65% acetic acid in THF, and subsequent allylic oxidation with manganese(IV) dioxide, proved beneficial giving aldehyde 109 which was directly used for the Takai olefination, which proceeded in excellent yield and acceptable stereoselectivity (92% over 2 steps, $E/Z = 4:1$).
For deprotection, we initially planned to remove both the acetonide as well as the TBS groups of 110 in a one-pot fashion under acidic conditions. However, as shown in the Table in Scheme 17, only complex
product mixtures could be obtained using a variety of conditions, including CSA, HF and HCl in various concentrations and solvents and no traces of the desired compound could be detected by LC-MS analysis (entries 1-5).

Due to these difficulties, we turned our attention to the macrocycle 87. Furthermore, to understand the difficulties of the deprotection process, we firstly evaluated concomitant removal of the acetonide and TBS groups with the northern fragment 113. For this compound, both hydrochloric acid and hexafluorosilicic acid (H$_2$SiF$_6$) proved effective with complete removal, resulting in selective formation of the desired tetraol 114. However, when these or related conditions were transplanted onto macrocycle 87 (entries 6-9), again only complex mixtures were obtained, and no traces of the desired product were found. Similar results were obtained with various Lewis acids, including TMSOTf or BF$_3$-OEt$_2$ (entries 10, 11).

At this stage we decided to apply non-acidic conditions and attempted to firstly remove the TBS groups. While some reagents [TASF, Zn(NO$_3$)$_2$], entries 12, 19] were too unreactive giving mainly removal of the primary TBS group, other likewise mild reagents resulted in extensive decomposition (Silica gel supported FeCl$_3$, BF$_3$-OEt$_2$/1,3-propanedithiol, BF$_3$-OEt$_2$, TBSOTf, entries 11, 17, 18, 20). Finally, TBAF (1.0 M in THF) emerged as a promising reagent, resulting in a limited number of products. However by conventional aqueous workup, the corresponding open-chain seco-acid was obtained as the main product. Accordingly, to avoid potential saponification during workup, which may be caused by basic fluorides, we applied an alternative workup procedure, recently developed by the Kishi group, by means of Dowex 50w, CaCO$_3$ and MeOH. Indeed, applying this procedure (entry 14) resulted in the formation of three distinct compounds, which were eventually confirmed to be 116 together with translactonized 115 and 117 (see Scheme 18), together with smaller amounts of the corresponding seco-acid. After further optimization (entries 20-22), optimum results were obtained with use of TBAF buffered with HOAc in combination with short reaction times, in combination with the Kishi workup, resulted in the formation of three distinct isomers 115, 116 and 117 with complete loss of
TBS groups, which were isolated after preparative HPLC separation on silica gel (DCM/\-PrOH = 91:9) in preparatively acceptable yields, with only negligible traces of the seco-acid.

Scheme 18

With these TBS deprotected macrocycles in hand, we again studied removal of the acetonide. No reaction was observed, when lactone 115 was subjected to a suspension of Dowex 50w in methanol for 8 h or PPTS in methanol, suggesting a high degree of steric hindrance exerted by the adjacent methyl groups. While acetonide removal may be effected by treatment of 116 with CSA/MeOH or HCl/MeOH, in both cases several products were obtained. Furthermore LC-MS analysis suggested the incorporation of an additional methylene-unit, presumably by addition of methanol, suggesting alternative solvents to be more appropriate. Acetonide removal was possible with 65% aqueous acetic acid, however again a number of side products were concomitantly formed. Other methods which were evaluated included silica gel supported FeCl₃, leading to dehydration or PdCl₂(CH₃CN)₂, which resulted in a complex mixture. We also wondered if the ring size makes difference upon deprotection of the acetonide. These results suggested that also the primary allylic C-15 alcohol might be too labile under these acidic conditions. Together with the propensity of isomerisation of the terminal vinyl iodide 110, we re-evaluated the endgame strategy and decided to remove the acetonide after the Stille coupling.
To further evaluate the endgame strategy, the stability of a solution of etnangien methyl ester (2)\textsuperscript{78} in methanol under various pH-values was studied, as shown in Figure 2. While, as expected\textsuperscript{3} the methyl ester was stable under neutral conditions and can be conveniently stored at pH 7 in dark vessels in solution, considerable degrees of decomposition was observed at very low (pH < 3) or high pH-values (pH > 10), in agreement with the observed lability of 87, 111 and 115-118 in acidic media. However, despite this pronounced tendency for decomposition, it was observed that even at pH 2, around 60% of the initial product could be retained after two hours. Accordingly, it was envisioned that final acetonide removal might be possible within this pH-range and short reaction times, in agreement with promising results obtained above with HOAc.

**Figure 2.** Stability of etnangien methyl ester at various pH-values.

Accordingly, as shown in Scheme 19, the macrocyclic vinyl iodide 110 was submitted to the previously established conditions (TBAF/AcOH) for complete removal of all TBS groups giving the expected three isomers 118, 120, 121 together with partially deprotected 119 as the major products, after purification by prep. HPLC on silica gel. Subsequent Stille coupling of 120 with iodide 105 proceeded smoothly using our previously established conditions, giving the desired coupling product 122 in good yields (70%), which was then submitted to 65% acetic acid at 0 °C. Gratifyingly, the desired etnangien methyl ester could then be obtained in acceptable yield (35%) after 80 min. Finally, cleavage of the methyl ester was effectuated with porcine liver esterase following our previously
established procedure, giving etnangien, which was identical in all aspects (¹H and ¹³C NMR, HRMS, Rᵣ and optical rotation) to an authentic sample.

Conclusions

In conclusion, a highly stereoselective total synthesis of etnangien was accomplished by a convergent strategy. It proceeds in 23 steps (longest linear sequence) and 0.25% yield starting from commercially available aldehyde 65. This work establishes unambiguously the relative and absolute configuration. Notable synthetic features include an array of highly stereoselective aldol reactions to set the characteristic methyl and hydroxyl bearing stereogenic centers, an efficient conformation controlled Heck macrocyclization, by use of an acetonide protecting group, mimicking solution structure of the
natural products and a late-stage introduction of the labile side chain by an efficient Stille coupling reaction, in the presence of four nonprotected hydroxyls.

Along this synthesis, considerable time and efforts had to be invested in a few critical steps. The best method to construct the macrocyclic core proved to be the most direct approach, a Heck reaction involving a non-functionalized alkene. With regard the side chain stannane \(105\), after several unsuccessful attempts to introduce the stannane from a terminal alkene, an effective approach involving a HWE reaction with a metallated allylic phosphonate \((101)\) was developed. However, the most demanding part appeared very late. Global deprotection of all TBS groups and the acetonide was extremely demanding, resulting in a plethora of unexpected side reactions, reminding us many times that a much deeper understanding of this kind of natural products and related chemistry is vital. Ultimately, a two-step method (TBAF/AcOH removal of all TBS groups and 65% AcOH deprotection of the acetonide), enabled us to attain the goal, however in only very low yield. This problem should be addressed in future synthetic studies towards the etnangiens.

The presented modular synthesis of etnangien should be instructive and amenable to designed analogues of this novel RNA-polymerase inhibitor, thus enabling further exploration of the promising biological potential of this macrolide antibiotic.

**Experimental Section**

**1,3-**\textit{syn}** Reduction of 20 to 21.** To a solution of chlorodicyclohexylborane (27 \(\mu\)L, 0.125 mmol) in 300 \(\mu\)L Et\(_2\)O was added Et\(_3\)N (18 \(\mu\)L, 0.125 mmol). The mixture was cooled to -20 °C before a solution of the ketone 20 (50 mg, 0.083 mmol) in 50 \(\mu\)L Et\(_2\)O was added. The mixture was stirred at -30 °C for 75 min and then cooled to -78 °C before 200 \(\mu\)L of a solution of LiBH\(_4\) in THF (2 M, 0.415 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred again for 60 min at -78 °C an then diluted with Et\(_2\)O (1 mL) and quenched with 1 mL satd. aq. NH\(_4\)Cl solution. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et\(_2\)O (3 \(\times\) 2 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine and concentrated in vacuo to an oil. The crude oil was dissolved in MeOH (330 \(\mu\)L), 10% NaOH solution
(100 µL), 30%H₂O₂ (150 µL) and stirred for 60 min at r.t before the reaction was diluted with 2 mL H₂O and 2 mL DCM. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 3 mL). The combined organic phases were dried with MgSO₄ and concentrated to an oil. The reaction was purified by column chromatography (light petroleum ether /EtOAc 85:15) to afford the diol 21 (42.6 mg, 0.071 mmol, 87%, dr 19:1) of a clear oil. Rₜ = 0.28 (light petroleum ether /EtOAc 90:10); [α]_{D}^{22} = +2.5 (c = 1.1, CHCl₃); ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 0.02 (s, 3H), 0.03 (s, 3H), 0.05 (6H), 0.87 (s, 9H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 0.98 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.00 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.01 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.73 (m, 2H), 1.81 (m, 1H), 1.88 (m, 1H), 1.96 (m, 1H), 3.55 – 3.47 (m, 2H), 3.51 - 3.60 (m, 3H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 3.85 (dd, J = 6.7, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (dd, J = 7.4, 2.4 Hz), 4.39 (d, J = 11.9 Hz), 4.40 (d, J = 11.9 Hz), 6.87 (dd, J = 8.7, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (dd, J = 8.7, 1.9 Hz, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm -5.5, -5.4, -4.6, -4.5, 8.5, 11.4, 13.7, 17.9, 18.3, 23.8, 25.8, 25.9, 29.7, 34.2, 37.3, 37.9, 38.2, 55.5, 66.2, 66.7, 72.7, 73.8, 74.7, 75.9, 113.8, 129.5, 130.2, 159.9; HRMS calculated for C₃₂H₆₂O₆NaSi₂ [M+Na]⁺: 621.3983, found: 621.3990.

Preparation of Stork-Zhao-Wittig reagent. A solution of PPh₃ (50.0 g, 0.19 mol, 1.00 eq) and diiodomethane (20.0 ml, 0.25 mmol, 1.30 eq) in 250 ml toluene was heated to 50 °C and stirred for 96 h in the absence of light. The mixture was cooled down to room temperature and filtered. The precipitate was washed with dry toluene and dry diethylether subsequently, then dried under vacuum to yield a colourless solid (56.8 g, 0.11 mol, 56%). ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ = 5.08 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.73-7.96 (m, 15 H). ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ = 117.9, 119.1, 130.4, 134.1, 135.5. MS calculated for C₁₉H₁₇IP⁺ [M⁺]⁺ = 529.9; found 529.5.

Stork-Zhao-Wittig Reaction to Vinyl Iodide 55. In the absence of light, to a solution of NaHMDS (1.0 M in THF, 2.96 mL, 2.96 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in absolute THF (58 mL) was added a suspension of the phosphonium iodide (1.57 g, 2.96 mmol, 1.5 equiv) in anhydrous HMPA (dried over 4 Å molecular sieves, 4.0 mL and 2 x 2.5 mL washes) at 10-15 °C (ice-water bath). After 1 min, the mixture was cooled to -78 °C and a solution of aldehyde 53 (541 mg, 1.97 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in THF (1.0 mL and 2 x 0.5 mL washes) was added dropwise. After stirred at -78 °C for 20 min, the reaction was quenched by
addition of aqueous saturated NH₄Cl (25 mL) and water (10 mL). When warmed to room temperature, the insoluble solids were filtered off and the layers of the filtrate were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (40 mL), dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated. Flash chromatography on silica gel (80 g, hexanes / Et₂O = 35 : 1 to 12:1) afforded the vinyl iodide 55 (607 mg, 1.52 mmol, 77%, Z : E = 27 : 1). R_f = 0.68 (hexanes / EtOAc = 9 : 1); [α]²³_D = -9.9 (c = 2.0, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 0.06 (s, 6H), 0.90 (s, 9H), 1.36-1.60 (m, 6H), 2.30-2.43 (m, 2H), 3.30 (m, 1H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 3.61 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 6.24-6.32 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -5.2, 18.4, 21.8, 26.0, 32.9, 33.5, 38.6, 56.7, 63.1, 79.6, 84.1, 137.7; HRMS calculated for C₁₅H₃₁IO₂SiNa [M+Na]⁺: 421.1036, found: 421.1039.

**Wittig reaction to Aldehyde 67.** A flask containing Ph₃PCHCHO (146 mg, 0.481 mmol, 1.0 equiv) was added a solution of (E)-Ethyl 3-methyl-4-oxobut-2-enoate (207 µL, 1.52 mmol, 3.0 equiv) in abs. DCM (100 µl). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 h at room temperature and purified direct by flash chromatography (hexanes / Et₂O = 6:1 to 1:1) to give aldehyde 67 (64.6 mg, 0.384 mmol, 80%) and aldehyde 68 (2.5 mg, 13 µmol, 2.7%), as amorphous solids. Aldehyde 67: R_f = 0.37 (hexanes / EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 1.29 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 4.20 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 6.11 (s, 1H), 6.43 (dd, J = 15.6, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 9.65 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 13.8, 14.2, 60.5, 127.0, 132.7, 148.6, 154.2, 165.8, 193.3; HRMS calculated for C₉H₁₂O₃ [M]⁺: 168.0786, found: 168.0788. Aldehyde 68: R_f = 0.37 (hexanes / EtOAc = 9:1); ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 1.28 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 4.18 (q, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (s, 1H), 6.26 (dd, J = 15.3, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, J = 15.4, 1H), 6.74 (dd, J = 15.3, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (dd, J = 15.3, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 9.60 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = 13.6, 14.3, 60.2, 123.9, 131.1, 133.5, 144.8, 150.0, 150.4, 166.4, 193.3; HRMS calculated for C₁₁H₁₄O₃ [M]⁺: 194.0943, found: 194.0940.

**Heck macrocyclization to 87.** A solution of ester iodide 88 (88.0 mg, 71.2 µmol, 1.0 equiv), Pd(OAc)₂ (16.0 mg, 71.2 µmol, 1.0 equiv), Bu₄NCl (49.5 mg, 178 µmol, 2.5 equiv) and K₂CO₃ (78.5
mg, 569 µmol, 8.0 equiv) was added DMF (18.0 mL) at room temperature. The resulted yellow suspension was stirred at 70 °C for 50 min. The mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with Et₂O (40 mL) and filtered through a celite plug (3 × 10 mL Et₂O). After removing of the solvent, the residue was purificated by column chromatography (hexanes / Et₂O = 20:1) to give dien 87 (55.1 mg, 49.7 µmol, 70%) as a colorless oil. Rf = 0.55 (hexanes / Et₂O = 9:1); [α]20 D = +6.3 (c = 0.57, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -0.04 (s, 3H), 0.005 (s, 3H), 0.02 (s, 3H), 0.04 (s, 3H), 0.07 (s, 9H), 0.08 (s, 3H), 0.83 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.84 (s, 9H), 0.87 (s, 9H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 0.91 (s, 9H), 0.91 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H), 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.39-1.53 (m, 6H), 1.61 (m, 1H), 1.68-1.75 (m, 2H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 1.80-1.85 (m, 2H), 1.89-1.93 (m, 2H), 2.11 (m, 1H), 2.20 (m, 2H), 2.34 (dd, J = 16.1, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (m, 1H), 3.20 (m, 1H), 3.31 (s, 3H), 3.31-3.36 (m, 2H), 3.78 (m, 1H), 4.24-4.26 (m, 3H), 4.40 (dd, J = 9.2, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 5.17 (m, 1H), 5.36 (d, J = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (m, 1H), 5.64 (m, 1H), 5.69 (dt, J = 15.8, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 6.04 (t, J = 10.8 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (d, J = 15.8 Hz, 1H), 6.23 (dd, J = 14.7, 11.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -5.1, -4.7, -4.5, -4.4, -4.3, -4.1, -3.8, 5.8, 11.3, 13.3, 16.3, 18.0, 18.1, 18.5, 19.6, 25.9, 26.0, 26.1, 30.1, 31.1, 31.8, 35.0, 37.2, 38.3, 40.1, 44.1, 56.5, 64.1, 70.7, 71.0, 72.9, 80.3, 99.1, 126.0, 127.1, 127.9, 130.2, 132.2, 133.1, 133.6, 134.4, 171.0; HRMS calculated for C₆₁H₁₁₈O₉Si₄Na [M+Na]⁺: 1129.7751, found: 1129.7743.

**Stannane 46.** To a cooled (-78°C) solution of phosphonate 101 (74.9 mg, 160.3 µmol, 1.2 equiv) and 18-crown-6 (70.6 mg, 267.2 µmol, 1.2 equiv) in dry THF (0.8 mL) was added dropwise a solution of KHMDS (0.5 M in toluene, 320.6 µL, 1.2 equiv). After stirring for 5 min, a solution of aldehyde 99 (45.5 mg, 133.6 µmol, 1.0 equiv) in dry THF (0.2 mL and 0.2 mL washing) was added dropwise. The resulted mixture was stirred at -78°C for 1 h followed by dilution with n-hexane (5.0 mL) and quenching with pH7 phosphate buffer (4.0 mL). Warmed to room temperature, the layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with n-hexane (2 x 2.0 mL). The combined organic phased were washed with brine (4.0 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was chromatographed by preparative HPLC (Column:
LiChrospher® Si 60 (10 µm) 250x10 mm, n-hexane/EtOAc = 97:3, 6.0 mL/min, 254 nm) to produce the pure trienyl stannane (retention time = 8.08 min, 33.1 mg, 50.6 µmol, 38% yield).

**Etnangien Methyl Ester 2.** A cooled (0°C) solution of the acetonide 12 (0.3 mg, 0.34 µmol) in AcOH / water (65 / 35 v / v, 100 µL) was stirred at this temperature for 80 min. Aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ (1.5 mL) and EtOAc (1.5 mL) were added and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (9 x 2.0 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was flash chromatographed (silica gel, dichloromethane / methanol = 15 : 1 to 10 : 1) to afford the product 2 (0.1 mg, 0.12 µmol, 35% yield). \( R_f = 0.31 \) (dichloromethane / methanol = 10 : 1); \[ \gamma^2_D = +17.0^\circ \; (c = 0.20, \text{MeOH}) \]; \(^1\)H NMR (600 MHz, Acetone-\(d_6\)) \( \delta \) ppm 0.84 (d, \( J = 7.2 \) Hz, 3H), 0.92 (d, \( J = 6.8 \) Hz, 3H), 0.97 (d, \( J = 7.0 \) Hz, 3H), 0.98 (d, \( J = 6.8 \) Hz, 3H), 1.31 (m, 2H), 1.41 (m, 1H), 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.46 (m, 1H), 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.66 (d, \( J = 0.7 \) Hz, 1H), 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.82 (d, \( J = 0.7 \) Hz, 1H), 1.84 (m, 1H), 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.95 (m, 1H), 1.98 (m, 1H), 2.22 (m, 1H), 2.23 (m, 1H), 2.27 (m, 1H), 2.33 (ddd, \( J = 14.9, 7.5, 6.8 \) Hz, 1H), 2.37 (m, 1H), 2.38 (m, 1H), 2.40 (d, \( J = 5.5 \) Hz, 1H), 2.44 (m, 1H), 3.25 (m, 1H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 3.44 (d, \( J = 6.8, 3.8 \) Hz, 1H), 3.51 (m, 1H), 3.56 (m, 1H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 3.61 (dd, \( J = 7.9, 2.6 \) Hz, 1H), 3.72 (m, 1H), 3.81 (d, \( J = 2.6 \) Hz, 1H), 3.89 (m, 1H), 3.98 (d, \( J = 4.4 \) Hz, 1H), 4.17 (dt, \( J = 5.5, 5.5 \) Hz, 1H), 4.37 (ddd, \( J = 8.4, 6.8, 6.8 \) Hz, 1H), 4.39 (dd, \( J = 8.7, 8.3 \) Hz, 1H), 5.25 (d, \( J = 8.3 \) Hz, 1H), 5.35 (m, 1H), 5.44 (ddd, \( J = 8.5, 4.4, 4.4 \) Hz, 1H), 5.53 (d, \( J = 9.0 \) Hz, 1H), 5.71 (ddd, \( J = 14.9, 8.5, 6.2 \) Hz, 1H), 5.76 (ddd, \( J = 14.9, 6.8, 7.5 \) Hz, 1H), 6.06 (dd, \( J = 10.9, 10.9 \) Hz, 1H), 6.16 (dd, \( J = 14.9, 10.4 \) Hz, 1H), 6.24 (m, 1H), 6.25 (m, 1H), 6.31 (m, 2H), 6.33 (d, \( J = 17.9 \) Hz, 1H), 6.35 (m, 3H); \(^{13}\)C NMR (100 MHz, Acetone-\(d_6\)) \( \delta \) ppm 7.2, 10.9, 11.1, 13.2, 15.1, 16.7, 22.2, 30.7, 33.0, 33.2, 35.2, 36.5, 37.3, 37.7, 38.6, 38.7, 39.2, 42.4, 42.8, 43.8, 51.7, 56.4, 67.9, 68.4, 69.0, 69.1, 73.5, 76.9, 79.4, 81.1, 126.0, 128.3, 129.5, 130.0, 130.9, 132.1, 132.6, 133.3, 133.6, 133.7, 133.9, 134.0, 134.1, 134.3, 135.5, 135.9, 136.2, 138.3, 173.6, 174.2; HRMS: calculated for C₅₀H₇₈O₁₁Na [M+Na]⁺: 877.5444, found 877.5442.

**Etnangien 1.** A solution of etnangien methyl ester 2 (1.00 mg, 1.17 µmol) in 500 µL DMSO/water = 1:3 was treated under argon at room temperature with 2 mg porcine liver esterase (obtained from
Sigma) and stirred for 24 h. The crude product was purificated by HPLC (Nucleosil 100-7 C18, 250/21; MeOH / H₂O, 0.01 M phosphate buffer = 75:25, flow: 18 mL/min; UV detection 355 nm) to give etnangien (1, 0.65 mg, 0.71 µmol, 61%) as a colorless oil. [α]₀° = +16.2 (c = 0.65 mg/mL, MeOH) [Lit: [α]₀° = +18.7 (c = 0.9, MeOH)]⁷;¹H NMR (600 MHz, Acetone-d₆) δ ppm 0.84 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 0.97 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.98 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.31 (m, 2H), 1.41 (m, 1H), 1.42 (m, 1H), 1.46 (m, 1H), 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.66 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.82 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (m, 1H), 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.95 (m, 1H), 1.98 (m, 1H), 2.22 (m, 1H), 2.23 (m, 1H), 2.27 (m, 1H), 2.33 (ddd, J = 14.9, 7.5, 6.8, 1H), 2.37 (m, 1H), 2.38 (m, 1H), 2.40 (m, 2H), 2.44 (m, 1H), 3.25 (dddd, J = 6.0, 6.0, 5.6, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 3.44 (dd, J = 6.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 3.51 (tt, J = 8.3, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (m, 1H), 3.61 (dd, J = 7.9, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.73 (m, 1H), 3.84 (d, J = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (m, 1H), 3.98 (m, 1H), 4.17 (dt, J = 5.4, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (dddd, J = 8.4, 6.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (dd, J = 9.2, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 5.53 (dddd, J = 10.7, 7.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.44 (m, 1H), 5.53 (m, 1H), 5.71 (dddd, J = 14.9, 8.5, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 5.76 (dddd, J = 14.9, 6.8, 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.06 (dd, J = 11.2, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 6.16 (dd, J = 14.9, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (m, 1H), 6.25 (m, 1H), 6.31 (m, 2H), 6.33 (d, J = 17.9 Hz, 1H), 6.35 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, Acetone-d₆) δ ppm 7.2, 10.9, 11.1, 13.2, 15.1, 16.7, 22.0, 30.7, 33.1, 33.2, 35.1, 36.5, 37.3, 37.8, 38.71, 38.72, 39.2, 42.3, 42.8, 43.9, 56.4, 68.1, 68.4, 69.0, 69.6, 73.5, 76.8, 79.4, 81.1, 126.0, 128.3, 129.5, 129.9, 130.9, 132.1, 132.6, 133.4, 133.5, 133.7, 133.8, 134.0, 134.2, 134.3, 135.5, 135.9, 136.4, 138.6, 173.5, 174.3. HRMS: calculated for C₄₀H₇₅O₁₁ [M-H]: 839.5309, found: 839.5312. All data were identical to those previously reported for etnangien from Sorangium cellulosum.¹

Acknowledgement. This work was supported by the 'Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft', the 'Wild-Stiftung' and the 'Fonds der Chemischen Industrie'. We thank Björn Wiegmann for support and Tanja Lau for early exploratory studies. Excellent NMR assistance by Markus Enders and Beate Termin is most gratefully acknowledged.
Supporting Information Available: Full experimental details and copies of the $^1$H and $^{13}$C NMR spectra for all new compounds. This material is available free of charge at http://pubs.acs.org.

References.


(8) For a review on polypropionate syntheses, see: Li, J.; Menche, D. Synthesis 2009, 2293.

(9) Paterson, I.; Wallace, D. J.; Cowden, C. J. Synthesis 1998, 639.


(21) NMR-analysis of the crude product suggested the presence of formyl protons.


(31) Ketone 10 was prepared by a slightly modified procedure of the literature: Smith III, A. B.; Doughty, V. A.; Sfouggatakis, C.; Bennett, C. S.; Koyanagi, J.; Takeuchi, M. Org. Lett. 2002, 4, 783. In our case, PMB-protection of (R)-(−)-D-Roche's ester with p-methoxybenzyl imidate was best done in the
presence of catalytic amount of 10-camphorsulphonic acid in dichloromethane. Notably, the reaction scale seems important for the outcome. While small-scale (86 µmol) reactions were slow (24 h for completion, ~60% yield), large scale (4.86 mmol) reactions proved fairly fast (<4 h, 95% yield).


(33) For practical purposes, it proved beneficial to rely on a stock solution of (+)-lpc₂BCl in pentane. Prior to the reaction, the solvent was completely removed and the reagent dried for more than 2 h under high vacuum to remove any trace of HCl. The absolute configuration of the newly generated stereocenter and the degree of stereoselectivity were confirmed by Mosher ester analysis.


(38) The TES-ether was so unpolar that removal of the byproduct Et₃SiOH by flash chromatography was sometimes not complete. However, after Bz-deprotection, alcohol 39 was obtained in pure form after flash chromatography.


(50) Bonnet, B.; Gallic, Y. L.; Ple, G.; Duhamel, L. Synthesis 1993, 1071.


(53) The amount of this side product may be further minimized by increasing the excess of the starting aldehyde, which may readily be recycled after the reaction.

(54) Li, J.; Li, P.; Menche, D. Synlett 2009, 2417.

(55) While TBS protection was possible at this stage (TBSOTf, 2,6-Lutidine, DCM, 98%, see Supporting Information), conversion of the derived TBS ether to the Weinreb amide failed, possibly due to steric reasons.
In one instance, 7 equivalents of NaIO₄ were added in three portions over a period of 3.5 h, giving the desired methyl ketone 49 in high yields as the main product (86%), while under similar conditions (6 equiv NaIO₄, addition in one portion), the deprotected analogue 77 was obtained in high yields, see Supporting Information.


(63) trans-1,2-Bis(tri-n-butylstannyl)ethylene was synthesized from commercially available tributylethynylstannane following a reported procedure: Renaldo, A. F.; Labadie, J. W.; Stille, J. K. Org. Syn. 1989, 67, 86.


(67) Because of the low polarity of iodide 102, complete removal of the excess of iodoform or its derivatives was not practical. Column-purified compound also decomposed upon storage even under argon atmosphere at -20 °C.


(72) We slightly modified the preparation of 101. Direct hydrostannylation of progargylic alcohol has been reported to produce a mixture of three possible isomers: E, Z and geminal bistannylated products and separation of E/Z mixture was not straightforward (see: Jung, M. E.; Light, L. A. Tetrahedron Lett. 1982, 23, 3851). In contrast, radical hydrostannylation of TBS protected propargyl alcohol gave little Z product (see: Hayes, M. P.; Hatala, P. J.; Sherer, B. A.; Tong, X.; Zanatta, N.; Borer, P. N.; Kallmerten, J. Tetrahedron 2001, 57, 1515). Therefore, propargyl alcohol was protected as TBS ether. The crude ether was directly mixed with tributyltin hydride (1.2 equiv) and catalytic amount of AIBN (3% mol) and heated at 80-85°C for 2 h and then diluted with THF and TBAF (2.0 equiv), to access pure (E)-stannane in 64% yield over 3 steps. Subsequent bromination under Appel reaction conditions with catalytic amounts of 2,6-lutidine (0.2 equiv) gave the corresponding allylic bromide which was used immediately for displacement by sodium salt of diethyl phosphate (HPO(OEt)2, NaH), giving the required phosphonate 101 in 65% over 2 steps.

(73) At this stage, the all-(E) configuration of alcohol 105 was confirmed by 1H NMR (600 MHz, C6D6) analysis, revealing the characteristic coupling constants.
(74) Paterson, I.; Cowden, C. J.; Rahn, V. S.; Woodrow, M. D. *Synlett* **1998**, *915*.

(75) with TBAF in THF, the primary TBS could be removed in variable yields (50-85%) together with some over deprotected product even at 0 °C.

(76) The olefination product isomerizes rapidly to an *E/Z* = 1:1 mixture upon exposal to light.


(78) Etnangien methyl ester was available from previous isolation procedures: see Ref. 3.