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Preparation of oxocene terpenes. The first enantiospecific synthesis of cytotoxic arenaran A†

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The first syntheses of cytotoxic marine arenarans A and B starting from commercial (–)-sclareol are reported. The oxocene ring of the target compound is formed *via* ring-closing metathesis, a process that depends on certain structural requirements. The *trans*-fused structure of the natural product is confirmed by comparison with the *cis*-fused isomer, which was synthesized. This synthetic strategy is also applicable to the synthesis of other oxocene terpenes.

Introduction

Although terpenes containing eight-membered ether rings are infrequent in nature, their biological activities are of interest. Arenaran A (**1**) and B (**2**), two sesquiterpene ethers isolated from the marine sponge *Dysidea arenaria*, belong to this type of compound. Compound **1** is *in vitro*-active against several types of cancer cells, with reported IC₅₀ values (μg mL⁻¹) of 9.51 (A-549, human lung carcinoma), 9.11 (HT-29, human colon adenocarcinoma), 5.28 (HCT-29, human colon adenocarcinoma) and 3.17 (P-388 murine leukemia). Another example of oxocene terpene is the labdane type brominated diterpene **3**, isolated from the red alga *Laurencia obtuse* (Fig. 1).²

Despite the rare structure of this type of compound, which is biogenetically related to aplystatin and other bioactive metabolites, and the relevant biological activity observed in

some cases, no syntheses of these oxocene terpenes have yet been reported. The structure of arenaran A (**1**) has been established in 2D NMR experiments, utilizing mainly H–C COSY correlations ($J = 140$ and $J = 9$ Hz); however, this result is insufficient to characterise the *trans*-fused union assigned. Moreover, the absolute configuration of natural terpene **1** remains unknown.

Results and discussion

These considerations, together with the possibility of preparing large quantities of arenaran A (**1**) in order to conduct an in-depth study of its biological activity, encouraged us to develop a synthetic route to compound **1** and related terpenes. In this respect, the only relevant antecedent is a study aimed at the synthesis of arenaran A reported by Reggelin *et al.*³ These authors essayed the construction of the bicyclic oxocene structure of **1** based on the intramolecular attack of an allyl alcohol on an alkenyl sulfoximine. The failure of their attempt highlights the difficulty in forming an eight-membered ring. In view of this outcome, we planned to create the oxocene ring *via* a ring-closing metathesis (RCM) process, as shown in Scheme 1.

In order to determine the reaction conditions, we first investigated the use of α -ionone (**6**) as a starting material. Considering the chemical behaviour of compound **6** previously

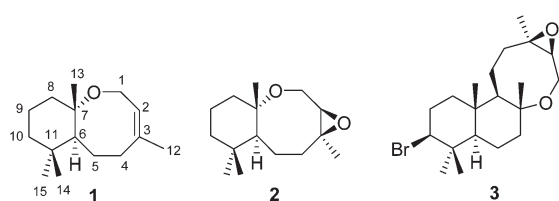


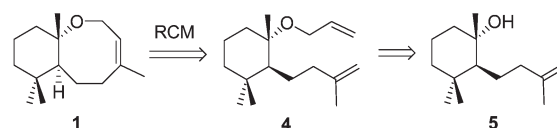
Fig. 1 Natural oxocene terpenes.

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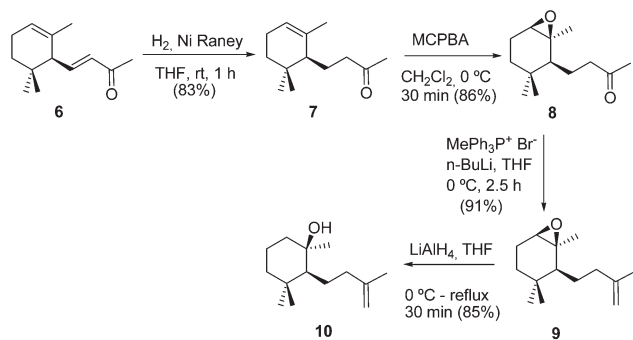
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† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Copy of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for all new compounds. See DOI: 10.1039/c6ob01640e



Scheme 1 Retrosynthesis of arenaran A (**1**) *via* ring-closing metathesis.



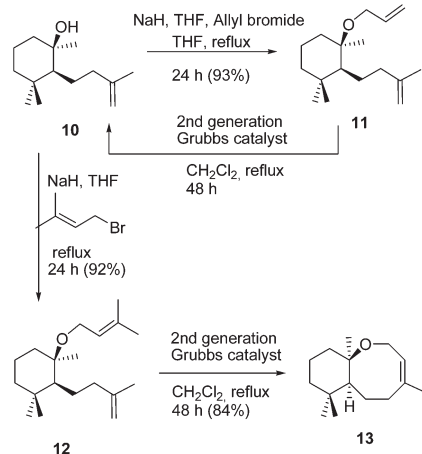


Scheme 2 Synthesis of alcohol 10 from α -ionone (6).

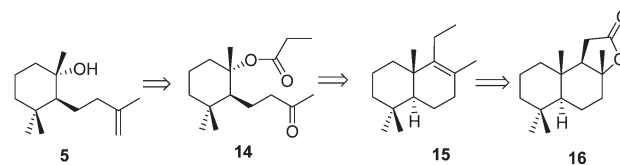
reported,⁴ the utilization of this terpene as the synthetic precursor should provide alcohol 10, the epimer of compound 5, and consequently the complete sequence should lead to the corresponding *cis*-fused *epi*-arenanan A (13). Scheme 2 shows the synthesis of alcohol 10 from α -ionone (6). Epoxidation of dihydro- α -ionone (7) gave the expected epoxyketone 8, which after methylation and treatment with LiAlH_4 provided alcohol 10.

This alcohol was then transformed into *epi*-arenanan A (13), following the above retrosynthetic plan (Scheme 3). The reaction of alcohol 10 with allyl bromide under basic conditions leads to ether 11, which unexpectedly failed to give the desired RCM after treatment with the second-generation Grubbs catalyst, instead generating alcohol 10. Under these reaction conditions, ether 12, derived from dimethylallyl bromide, underwent the desired ring-closing metathesis, affording compound 13, the *cis*-fused stereoisomer of arenanan A.

At this point, it is very important to note that the preparation of alcohol 5 in enantiopure form, the precursor of arenanan A (1), from α -ionone (6) can be achieved *via* the corresponding diastereoisomer of epoxyketone 8, with the epoxy group on the α side; however, the preparation of this epoxyketone from α -ionone (6), reported by Serra, involves a



Scheme 3 Synthesis of *epi*-arenanan A (13) from alcohol 10.



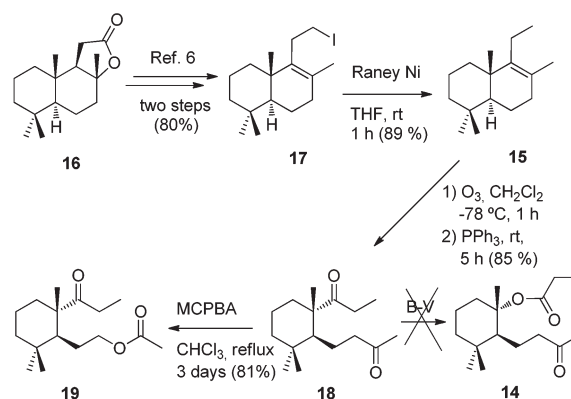
Scheme 4 Retrosynthesis of alcohol 5 from (+)-sclareolide (16).

very long synthetic sequence (10 steps), including a low yield lipase-mediated acetylation reaction.⁴

Taking into account these difficulties, we investigated the preparation of the enantiopure alcohol 5. The first synthetic proposal for obtaining this alcohol from commercial (+)-sclareolide (16) is depicted in Scheme 4. Alcohol 5 is obtained from ketoester 14, resulting from the Baeyer–Villiger oxidation of the diketone derived from alkene 15, which is easily prepared from lactone 16.

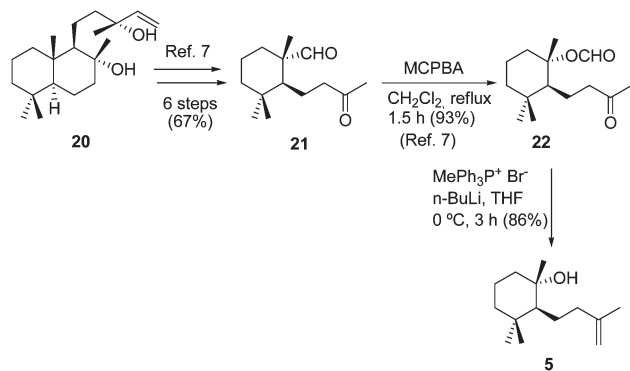
Scheme 5 shows the synthetic sequence for the intended synthesis of ketoester 14 from lactone 16. Reduction of iodide 17⁶ with RANEY® Ni, following a procedure developed in our laboratory, gave alkene 15, which was then converted into diketone 18. However, all attempts at obtaining the desired ketoester 14, *via* Baeyer–Villiger oxidation of diketone utilizing a variety of reaction conditions were unsuccessful, producing instead ketoester 19. These results highlight the difficulty of achieving oxidation of the ketone group linked to the quaternary carbon, probably due to steric hindrance. This outcome contrasts with that of the related, but more rigid 1-decalones;⁵ however, the possibility of utilizing these ketones as a starting material for preparing alcohol 5 must be disregarded due to the further difficulties arising from the tendency of the subsequent reduction products to dehydrate, affording bicyclic enol ethers.

The above difficulties were circumvented by utilizing commercial (–)-sclareol (20) as a starting material. Thus, alcohol 5 was prepared from this diterpene, *via* ketoester 22, resulting from the Baeyer–Villiger oxidation of ketoaldehyde 21, utilizing a procedure developed in our laboratory⁷ (see Scheme 6). At this point, it is interesting to note the different



Scheme 5 Attempts at preparing ketoester 14 from (+)-sclareolide (16).



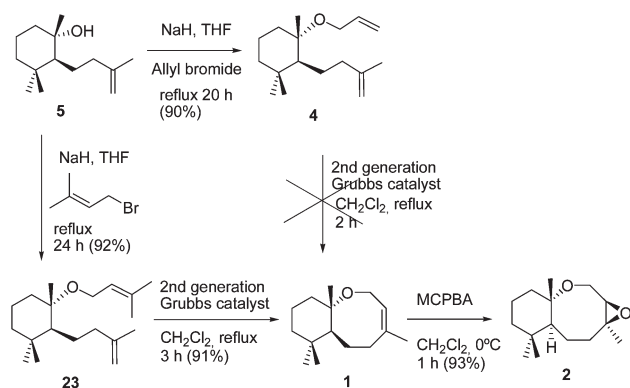


Scheme 6 Synthesis of alcohol 5 from (-)-sclareol (20).

behaviour of the aldehyde group attached to the quaternary carbon, present in compound 21, from that of the ketone group joined to the same carbon atom, which is in compound 18; the first of these undergoes Baeyer–Villiger oxidation in good yield, under the usual reaction conditions, and so methylenation of ketoester 22 leads to good yield of the desired alcohol 5.

Alcohol 5 was then transformed into arenaran A (1) following a similar procedure to that utilized for the *cis*-fused isomer 13. First, the *O*-allyl ether 4 was prepared, but this dialkene also failed to give the metathesis process. However, the *O*-dimethylallyl ether 23 underwent the desired reaction, affording arenaran A (1). At this point it is important to note that ether 23 undergoes the RCM much faster than its epimer 12. The further epoxidation of compound 1 gave arenaran B (2) (Scheme 7).

As mentioned above, the structural elucidation performed by Crews *et al.* for the natural arenaran A, based on 2D NMR experiments, does not allow us to establish unequivocally the *trans*-fused union proposed by these authors.¹ However, after preparing both stereoisomers, we will be able to confirm this proposal. Tables 1 and 2 show the ¹³C and ¹H NMR chemical shifts for *epi*-arenaran A (13) (with the *cis*-fused union), for the synthetic arenaran A (1), reported here, and for the natural



Scheme 7 Synthesis of arenaran A (1) and B (2) from alcohol 5.

Table 1 ¹³C NMR chemical shifts for *epi*-arenaran A (13) and for the synthetic and natural arenarans A (1)

<i>epi</i> -Arenaran A (13) ^a	Synthetic arenaran A (1) ^a	Synthetic arenaran A (1) ^b	Natural arenaran A (1) ^b (ref. 1)
140.6 (C)	132.9 (C)	133.1 (C)	132.8 (C)
123.6 (CH)	123.3 (CH ₂)	124.7 (CH)	124.5 (CH)
77.4 (C)	80.2 (C)	79.5 (C)	79.3 (C)
56.4 (CH ₂)	61.1 (CH)	61.8 (CH ₂)	61.5 (CH ₂)
55.5 (CH)	45.4 (CH ₂)	46.1 (CH)	45.9 (CH)
42.8 (CH ₂)	41.9 (CH)	42.6 (CH ₂)	42.4 (CH ₂)
41.9 (CH ₂)	35.2 (CH ₃)	35.7 (CH ₂)	35.5 (CH ₂)
35.5 (CH ₂)	34.0 (C)	34.5 (C)	34.3 (C)
34.1 (C)	32.3 (CH ₂)	33.4 (CH ₃)	33.1 (CH ₃)
31.4 (CH ₃)	28.9 (CH ₃)	29.7 (CH ₂)	29.5 (CH ₂)
25.2 (CH ₂)	25.0 (CH ₂)	26.4 (CH ₂)	26.1 (CH ₃)
24.6 (CH ₃)	24.1 (CH ₃)	24.9 (CH ₂)	24.7 (CH ₂)
21.1 (CH ₃)	21.9 (CH ₂)	23.2 (CH ₃)	23.0 (CH ₃)
18.0 (CH ₂)	21.0 (CH ₂)	22.1 (CH ₃)	21.9 (CH ₃)
15.1 (CH ₃)	19.7 (CH ₃)	20.5 (CH ₂)	20.1 (CH ₂)

^a CD₃OD. ^b C₆D₆.

arenaran A. NMR data for the synthetic and natural arenarans B (2) are shown in Table 3.

As can be seen in Tables 1 and 2, there is an excellent correlation of spectral data between the synthetic and the natural arenaran A (1), while those of the *cis*-fused stereoisomer (*epi*-arenaran A, 13) are very discordant. This finding corroborates the *trans*-fused stereochemistry proposed for natural arenaran A by Crews *et al.* On the other hand, the *Z* configuration of the carbon–carbon double bond of arenaran A has been confirmed on the basis of the observed NOE effect between Me-12 (δ 1.68) and H-2 (δ 5.07) (see the ESI[†]). The NMR data of the synthetic and natural arenarans B (2), which are placed in order of decreasing δ in Table 3, showed some discrepancies. In order to dispel doubts, a thorough study on the structure of synthetic arenaran B (2) has been conducted. This includes 1D and 2D NMR spectra at 500 MHz (TOCSY, COSY, HSQC, HMBC and NOESY experiments). This allowed us to corroborate unequivocally the proposed structure for this compound, and to assign correctly the ¹H and ¹³C NMR signals (Table 4). The β disposition of the epoxide group has been confirmed on the basis of the observed NOE effect between H-2 (δ 2.79) and H-6 (δ 1.50). All these experiments are included in the ESI.[†] With respect to the absolute stereochemistry of natural arenaran A, it should be noted that the optical rotation for the natural compound ($[\alpha]_D^{25}$: +154.0; *c* 0.01, CHCl₃) is very discordant from that measured in our laboratory for synthetic arenaran A ($[\alpha]_D^{25}$: -32.1; *c* 0.01, CHCl₃); however, the optical rotation of synthetic arenaran B (2) ($[\alpha]_D^{25}$: -24.9; *c* 0.2, CHCl₃) is very similar to that described for the natural epoxide ($[\alpha]_D^{25}$: -24.4; *c* 0.23, CHCl₃). This finding leads us to believe that the $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ value previously reported for natural arenaran A (1) might be mistaken, and that the absolute stereochemistry proposed by Crews *et al.* for this compound is correct, because of its correlation with (-)-sclareol (20).

Utilizing a similar strategy, commercial (-)-sclareol (20) was transformed into the oxocene epoxide 29, via alcohol 26



Table 2 ^1H NMR chemical shifts for *epi*-arenaran A (13) and for the synthetic and natural arenarans A (1)

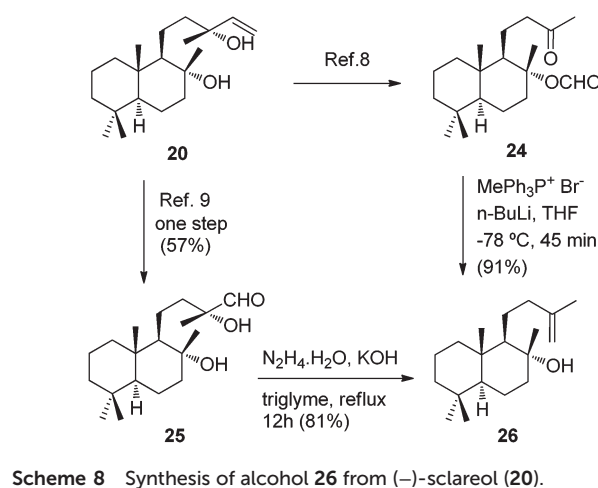
<i>epi</i> -Arenaran A (13) ^a	Synthetic arenaran A (1) ^a	Synthetic arenaran A (1) ^b	Natural arenaran A (1) ^b (ref. 1)
5.43 (t, <i>J</i> = 6.9)	5.15 (br s)	5.07 (br s)	5.06 (br s)
3.96 (dd, <i>J</i> = 7.0, 13.8)	4.22 (dd, <i>J</i> = 2.1, 18.4)	4.11 (br s)	4.06 (br s)
3.76 (dd, <i>J</i> = 6.9, 13.8)	4.03 (d, <i>J</i> = 18.4)	3.68 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 19.5, 11.3)	3.67 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 19.9, 11.5, 1.3)
2.40–2.03 (m)	3.37 (m)	1.68 (m)	1.68 (m)
1.96 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 3.1, 13.1)	1.76 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 4.5, 12.7)	1.68 (s)	1.67 (s)
1.87 (m)	1.69 (s)	1.63 (m)	1.63 (m)
1.76 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 3.3, 13.4)	1.65 (m)		
1.71 (s)	1.61–1.58 (m)	1.62 (m)	1.62 (m)
1.45–1.40 (m)	1.55 (m)	1.52 (m)	1.51 (m)
1.34 (d, <i>J</i> = 3.0)	1.51 (m)	1.35 (m)	1.34 (m)
1.20 (m)	1.46 (dt, <i>J</i> = 3.0, 13.5)	1.31 (m)	1.31 (m)
1.13 (s)	1.35–1.32 (m)	1.29 (s)	1.26 (s)
1.08 (dd, <i>J</i> = 4.0, 13.4)	1.25 (s)	1.25 (m)	1.25 (m)
1.03 (s)	1.16 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 4.1, 13.3)	0.86 (s)	0.85 (s)
0.89 (s)	0.91 (s)	0.78 (s)	0.79 (s)

^a CD₃OD. ^b C₆D₆.Table 3 ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data in CDCl₃ for the synthetic and natural arenarans B (2)

Synthetic arenaran B (2)	Natural arenaran B (2) (ref. 1)	Synthetic arenaran B (2)	Natural arenaran B (2) (ref. 1)
4.02 (dd, <i>J</i> = 17.6, 1.7)	4.02 (dd, <i>J</i> = 15.6, 2.1)	80.0 (C)	80.0 (C)
3.90 (d, <i>J</i> = 17.6)	3.89 (d, <i>J</i> = 15.6)	64.1 (CH)	64.1 (CH)
2.79 (s)	2.79 (d, <i>J</i> = 2.1)	60.8 (C)	60.8 (C)
2.42 (dt, <i>J</i> = 13.4, 4.9)	2.41 (dt, <i>J</i> = 13.5, 5.1)	58.1 (CH ₂)	58.2 (CH ₂)
1.86 (dt, <i>J</i> = 13.2, 3.9)	1.86 (dt, <i>J</i> = 13.5, 3.6)	44.7 (CH)	45.0 (CH)
1.67 (m)	1.67 (m)	42.2 (CH ₂)	42.4 (CH ₂)
1.58 (m)	1.58 (m)	35.9 (CH ₂)	36.0 (CH ₂)
1.50 (m)	1.50 (m)	34.7 (C)	35.5 (C)
1.45 (m)	1.45 (m)	33.2 (CH ₃)	33.3 (CH ₃)
1.40 (m), 1.21 (m)	1.40 (m), 1.21 (m)	31.8 (CH ₂)	32.7 (CH ₂)
1.35 (m)	1.35 (m)	22.9 (CH ₃)	23.0 (CH ₃)
1.29 (s)	1.21 (s)	22.5 (CH ₃)	22.6 (CH ₃)
1.16 (s)	1.16 (s)	22.0 (CH ₂)	22.1 (CH ₂)
0.98 (s)	0.97 (s)	21.5 (CH ₃)	21.9 (CH ₃)
0.85 (s)	0.84 (s)	19.9 (CH ₂)	20.0 (CH ₂)

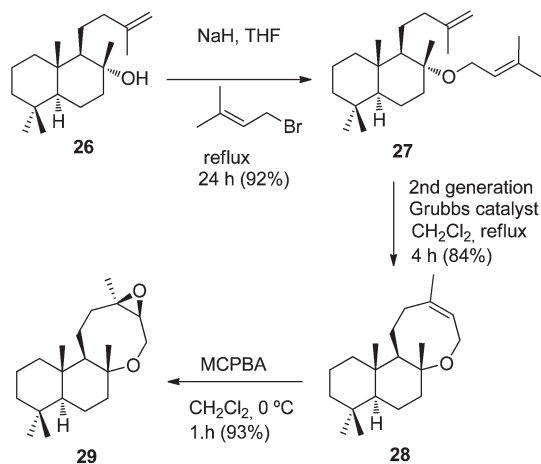
Table 4 ^1H and ^{13}C NMR assignments for synthetic arenaran B (2)

Carbon or proton	^1H	^{13}C
1	4.03 (dd, <i>J</i> = 15.9, 2.3) 3.90 (d, <i>J</i> = 15.9) 2.79 (d, <i>J</i> = 2.3)	58.2 (CH ₂) 64.2 (CH) 60.9 (C)
2	2.43 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 13.4, 4.3, 4.3) 1.88 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 13.4, 13.4, 4.3)	32.0 (CH ₂)
3	1.68 (tt, <i>J</i> = 13.4, 4.3)	22.2 (CH ₂)
4	1.61 (tdd, <i>J</i> = 13.4, 4.3, 4.3)	
5	1.50 (dd, <i>J</i> = 13.4, 4.3)	44.9 (CH)
6	1.72 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 13.5, 3.8, 3.8) 1.33 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 13.5, 13.5, 3.8)	80.2 (C) 36.1 (CH ₂)
7	1.55 (dp, <i>J</i> = 13.5, 3.8)	20.0 (CH ₂)
8	1.45 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 13.5, 3.8, 3.8) 1.39 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 13.5, 3.8, 3.8)	42.4 (CH ₂)
9	1.19 (ddd, <i>J</i> = 13.5, 13.5, 3.8)	
10		34.8 (C)
11	1.30 (s)	23.1 (CH ₃)
12	1.16 (s)	22.7 (CH ₃)
13	0.85 (s)	21.7 (CH ₃)
14	0.98 (s)	33.4 (CH ₃)



Scheme 8 Synthesis of alcohol 26 from (-)-sclareol (20).





Scheme 9 Synthesis of oxocene epoxide **29** from alcohol **26**.

(Scheme 9). This was synthesized in two alternative ways. First, methylation of ketoester **24**, whose efficient preparation in one step from (–)-sclareol (**20**) has been developed by our group,⁸ gave in high yield alcohol **26**. Alternatively, aldehyde **25**, previously synthesised in our laboratory,⁹ was converted into this alcohol under the Wolff–Kishner conditions; to the best of our knowledge, this transformation of an α -hydroxyaldehyde into an alkene has not yet been described (Scheme 8).

Next, alcohol **26** was transformed into the oxocene epoxide **29**, the 3-debromoderivative of the marine metabolite **3**. Treatment of dimethylallyl ether **27** with the second-generation Grubbs catalyst afforded in good yield oxocene **28**, which underwent stereoselective epoxidation, after reaction with MCPBA at 0 °C, to give epoxide **29**, the 3-debromoderivative of natural terpene **3**. The ¹³C NMR chemical shifts of the carbons of the bicyclic ether moiety of epoxide **29** are similar to those reported for natural terpene **3**.

Experimental

Materials and methods

Unless stated otherwise, the reactions were performed in oven-dried glassware under an argon atmosphere using dry solvents. The solvents were dried as follows: THF over Na-benzo-phenone, and DCM and MeOH over CaH₂. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using F254 precoated plates (0.25 mm) and visualized by UV fluorescence quenching and phosphomolybdic acid solution staining. Flash chromatography was performed on silica gel (230–400 mesh). Chromatography separations were carried out by using a conventional column on silica gel 60 (230–400 mesh), using hexanes–EtOAc mixtures of increasing polarity.¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz and 100 MHz, respectively. CDCl₃ was treated with K₂CO₃. Chemical shifts (δ H) are quoted in parts per million (ppm) referenced to the appropriate residual solvent peak and tetramethylsilane. Data for ¹H NMR spectra are reported as follows: chemical shift

(δ ppm) (multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz), integration), with the abbreviations s, br s, d, br d, t, q, and m denoting singlet, broad singlet, doublet, broad doublet, triplet, quartet and multiplet respectively. *J* = coupling constant in Hertz (Hz). Data for ¹³C NMR spectra are reported in terms of the chemical shift relative to Me₄Si (δ 0.0) and the signals are assigned utilizing DEPT experiments and on the basis of heteronuclear correlations. Infrared spectra (IR) were recorded as thin films or as solids on a FTIR spectrophotometer with samples between sodium chloride plates or as potassium bromide pellets and are reported in the frequency of absorption (cm⁻¹). Only selected absorbances (ν_{\max}) are reported. ($[\alpha]_D^{25}$) measurements were carried out on a polarimeter, utilizing a 1 dm length cell and CHCl₃ as a solvent. The concentration is expressed in mg mL⁻¹. HRMS were recorded on a spectrometer, using FAB with a thio-glycerol or a glycerol matrix doped with 1% NaI.

Synthetic procedures

4-(2,6,6-Trimethylcyclohex-2-enyl)butan-2-one (7). Ni RANEY® (50% in water, 6 mL) was added to a solution of α -ionone (**6**) (10.0 g, 52 mmol) in THF (120 mL), and the mixture was stirred under an ordinary hydrogen pressure (balloon) at room temperature for 1 h. Then, the reaction mixture was filtered through a silicagel-Na₂SO₄ pad (100 g), eluting with acetone (100 mL). After evaporation of the solvent under vacuum, ketone **7** (8.39 g, 83%) was obtained, as a colourless oil. Compound **7** showed identical spectroscopic properties to those reported in the literature.^{10,11}

4-((1S,2S,6R)-1,3,3-Trimethyl-7-oxa-bicyclo[4.1.0]heptan-2-yl)butan-2-one (8). *m*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (70%, 4.92 g, 20.00 mmol) was added to a solution of dihydro- α -ionone (**7**) (3.52 g, 18.11 mmol) in dichloromethane (70 mL), cooled at 0 °C, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min. Then, a 10% Na₂SO₃ solution (10 mL) was added, and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 20 mL). The organic phase was successively washed with sat. NaHCO₃ (3 \times 30 mL) and brine (2 \times 30 mL), and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After evaporation of the solvent under vacuum, compound **8** (3.27 g, 86%) was obtained as a colourless syrup. Compound **8** exhibited identical properties to those reported in the literature.⁴

(1S,6R)-1,3,3-Trimethyl-2-(3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)-7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane (9). 2 M *n*-BuLi in cyclohexane (7.8 mL, 15.7 mmol) was added to a solution of methyl-triphenylphosphonium bromide (5.59 g, 15.7 mmol) in anhydrous THF (75 mL), and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C under an argon atmosphere for 15 min. Then, a solution of ketone **8** (3 g, 14.26 mmol) in anhydrous THF (2 mL) was added, and the resulting mixture was kept stirring for 2.5 h. Then, the reaction was carefully quenched with water (10 mL), and the solvent was evaporated. Then, ether (100 mL) was added and the organic phase was washed with water (3 \times 30 mL) and brine (2 \times 30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to afford a crude product that was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (10% EtOAc/hexane) to yield epoxide **9** (2.67 g, 91%) as a colourless oil. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.82 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 3H), 1.28 (m, 1H), 1.33 (s,



3H), 1.46–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.37 (m, 1H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.83 (m, 1H), 1.92 (dd, $J = 15.5, 6.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.05 (m, 1H), 2.29 (m, 1H), 2.93 (s, 1H), 4.71 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 22.3 (CH_2), 22.8 (CH_3), 25.8 (CH_2), 27.1 (CH_3), 27.1 (CH_2), 27.5 (CH_3), 27.9 (CH), 31.6 (C), 37.7 (CH_2), 46.9 (CH_3), 59.8 (C), 60.3 (CH), 109.7 (CH_2), 146.8 (C). IR (film): 756, 884, 1095, 1182, 1216, 1366, 1376, 1449, 1649, 3073 cm^{-1} . HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{24}\text{ONa}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$) 231.1725, found 231.1733.

(1R,2S)-1,3,3-Trimethyl-2-(3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl) cyclohexan-1-ol (10). LiAlH_4 (130 mg, 3.43 mmol) was added to a solution of epoxide **9** (2.5 g, 12.00 mmol) in anhydrous THF (50 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at reflux under an argon atmosphere for 30 min, at which time TLC showed no **9** remaining. Then, the mixture was poured into ice and the solvent was evaporated. Ether (100 mL) was added and the phases were shaken. The organic phase was washed with water (3×30 mL) and brine (2×30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated to give alcohol **10** (2.15 g, 85%) as a yellow oil. ^1H RMN (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.97 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.25 (br s, 2H), 1.33–1.47 (m, 4H), 1.53–1.65 (m, 2H), 1.75 (m, 1H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 2.05 (m, 2H), 4.69 (s, 2H). ^{13}C RMN (CDCl_3 , 101 MHz): δ 18.3 (CH_2), 21.4 (CH_3), 22.5 (CH_3), 24.3 (CH_2), 30.8 (CH_3), 32.0 (CH_3), 34.7 (C), 41.1 (CH_2), 41.7 (CH_2), 41.8 (CH_2), 54.0 (CH), 73.0 (C) 109.5 (CH_2), 146.5 (C). IR (film): 757, 884, 909, 930, 1024, 1042, 1099, 1178, 1214, 1378, 1386, 1454, 1648, 3072, 3400–3600 cm^{-1} . HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{26}\text{ONa}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$) 233.1881, found 233.1876.

(1R,2S)-1-(Allyloxy)-1,3,3-trimethyl-2-(3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl) cyclohexane (11). NaH (208 mg, 5.20 mmol, 60% dispersion in mineral oil) was added to a solution of alcohol **10** (470 mg, 2.238 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20 mL) at 0 °C under an argon atmosphere, and allyl bromide (0.4 mL, 4.62 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was kept stirring at reflux for 24 h, at which time TLC showed no **10** remaining. The mixture was poured into ice and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. Then ether (50 mL) was added and the organic phase was washed with water (3×15 mL) and brine (2×15 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated to give a crude residue, which, after column chromatography on silica gel (5% EtOAc/hexane), afforded ether **11** (520 mg, 93%) as a colorless oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 0.86 (s, 3H), 0.99 (s, 3H), 1.07 (dd, $J = 14.1, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 1.16 (dd, $J = 13.4, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.27–1.34 (m, 2H), 1.36–1.45 (m, 2H), 1.53–1.64 (m, 2H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.93–2.12 (m, 3H), 3.82 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 2H), 4.68 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.9 (m, 1H), 5.27 (d, $J = 17.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.05 (d, $J = 10.5$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 18.4 (CH_2), 22.5 (CH_3), 24.1 (CH_2), 24.5 (CH_3), 32.2 (CH_3), 34.9 (C), 34.93 (CH), 41.8 (CH_2), 42.2 (CH_2), 56.0 (CH), 61.6 (CH_2), 22.1 (CH_3), 76.7 (C), 109.3 (CH_2), 114.1 (CH_2), 136.6 (CH), 146.9 (C). IR (film): 917, 1065, 1075, 1154, 1171, 1264, 1372, 1454, 1647 cm^{-1} . HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{30}\text{ONa}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$) 273.2194, found 273.2201.

Treatment of ether **11** with the 2nd generation Grubbs catalyst. Obtention of alcohol **10**

The 2nd Generation Grubbs catalyst (20 mg) was added to a solution of ether **11** (170 mg, 0.68 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2

(30 mL), and the mixture was kept stirring at reflux under an argon atmosphere for 48 h. Then, the solvent was evaporated and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (20% EtOAc/hexane) to yield alcohol **10** (124 mg, 87%).

(2S,3R)-1,1,3-Trimethyl-3-((3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy)-2-(3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)cyclohexane (12). NaH (208 mg, 5.2 mmol, 60% dispersion in mineral oil) was added to a solution of alcohol **10** (0.5 g, 2.38 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20 mL) at 0 °C under an argon atmosphere, and 3,3-dimethylallyl bromide (0.4 mL, 3.46 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was kept stirring at reflux for 24 h, at which time TLC showed no **10** remaining. The mixture was poured into ice and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. The aqueous phase was extracted with ether (2×30 mL) and the organic phase was washed with water (3×15 mL) and brine (2×15 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated to give a crude residue, which, after column chromatography on silica gel (5% EtOAc/hexane), afforded ether **12** (0.61 g, 92%) as a colorless oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 0.85 (s, 3H), 0.97 (s, 3H), 1.05 (dd, $J = 13.9, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 1.15 (dd, $J = 13.3, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.27–1.33 (m, 2H), 1.34–1.42 (m, 2H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 1H), 1.71 (s, 3H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.96–2.01 (m, 2H), 2.04 (m, 2H), 3.79 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 2H), 4.68 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.28 (tt, $J = 6.3, 1.4$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 18.0 (CH_3) 18.5 (CH_2), 22.0 (CH_3), 22.5 (CH_3), 24.2 (CH_2), 24.6 (CH_3), 25.7 (CH_3), 32.2 (CH_3), 34.9 (C), 35.0 (CH_2), 41.9 (CH_2), 42.4 (CH_2), 56.0 (CH), 57.7 (CH_2), 76.5 (C), 109.3 (CH_2), 123.3 (CH), 133.3 (C), 147.0 (C). IR (film): 909, 1029, 1106, 1374, 1450, 1648 cm^{-1} . HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{34}\text{ONa}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$) 301.2507, found 301.2498.

(6aS,10aR,Z)-4,7,7,10a-Tetramethyl-5,6,6a,7,8,9,10,10a-octa-hydro-2H-benzo[b]oxocine (epi-arenaran A) (13). The 2nd Generation Grubbs catalyst (20 mg) was added to a solution of ether **12** (200 mg, 0.72 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (40 mL), and the reaction mixture was kept stirring at reflux under an argon atmosphere for 48 h. Then, the solvent was evaporated and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (3% EtOAc/hexane) to yield ether **13** (0.13 g, 84%). ^1H NMR (CD_3OD , 400 MHz): δ 0.89 (s, 3H), 1.03 (s, 3H), 1.08 (dd, $J = 13.4, 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.13 (s, 3H), 1.20 (m, 1H), 1.34 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, 2H), 1.40–1.45 (m, 2H), 1.71 (s, 3H), 1.76 (dd, $J = 13.4, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.96 (dd, $J = 13.1, 3.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.03–2.40 (m, 2H), 3.76 (dd, $J = 13.8, 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 3.96 (dd, $J = 13.8, 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.43 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CD_3OD , 100 MHz): δ 15.1 (CH_3), 18.0 (CH_2), 21.1 (CH_3), 24.6 (CH_3), 25.2 (CH_2), 31.4 (CH_3), 34.1 (C), 35.5 (CH_2), 41.9 (CH_2), 42.8 (CH_2), 55.5 (CH), 56.4 (CH_2), 77.4 (C), 123.6 (CH), 140.6 (C). IR (film): 1052, 1071, 1095, 1153, 1176, 1212, 1364, 1386, 1454, 1475, 1671 cm^{-1} . HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{26}\text{ONa}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$) 245.1881, found 245.1876.

(4aS,8aS)-8-Ethyl-4,4,7,8a-tetramethyl-1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octa-hydronaphthalene (15). 5 mL of an aqueous suspension of RANEY® nickel (Aldrich, cat. 221678) was added to a stirred solution of **17** (2.5 g, 7.22 mmol) in THF (30 mL) and the mixture was further stirred at room temperature for 1 h, under an ordinary hydrogen pressure (balloon). Then the mixture



was diluted with diethyl ether (50 mL) and filtered on a silica gel–Na₂SO₄ mixture (10:16 g) column, washed with diethyl ether (10 mL) to yield **15** as a colorless oil (1.42 g, 89%). [α]_D²⁰ +67.1 (*c* 1.1, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.82 (s, 3H), 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 3H), 0.96 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 1.56 (s, 3H), 0.99–1.70 (m, 8H), 1.75–2.08 (m, 5H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 15.1 (CH₃), 19.07 (CH₃), 19.09 (CH₃), 19.3 (CH₂), 20.0 (CH₂), 20.5 (CH₃), 21.7 (CH₂), 33.3 (CH₂), 33.61 (C), 33.63 (CH₃), 36.9 (CH₂), 39.1 (C), 41.8 (CH₂), 51.9 (CH), 125.0 (C), 142.3 (C). IR (film): 1374, 1457, 1644 cm⁻¹. HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₂₈Na (M + Na⁺) 243.2089, found 243.2093.

4-((1S,6S)-2,2,6-Trimethyl-6-propionylcyclohexyl)butan-2-one (18). O₃/O₂ was bubbled through a solution of compound **15** (2.0 g, 9.09 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (60 mL) cooled at -78 °C for 1 h, after which time TLC showed no remaining starting material. Then, argon was bubbled through the solution for 5 min, and triphenylphosphine (2.6 g, 9.9 mmol) was added, and the mixture was further stirred at room temperature for 5 h. After evaporation of the solvent under vacuum, the resulting crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (25% EtOAc/hexane) giving diketone **18** (1.95 g, 85%), as a colourless syrup. [α]_D²⁰ -16.8 (*c* 0.9, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 3H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.18 (m, 1H), 1.28–1.75 (m, 8H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 2.25–2.68 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 8.5 (CH₃), 17.2 (CH₃), 18.2 (CH₂), 22.1 (CH₂), 22.5 (CH₃), 29.8 (CH₃), 30.6 (CH₂), 33.4 (CH₃), 34.3 (C), 37.1 (CH₂), 41.2 (CH₂), 45.5 (CH₂), 47.7 (CH), 52.8 (C), 209.0 (C), 217.6 (C). IR (film): 772, 957, 1161, 1355, 1460, 1697, 1715 cm⁻¹. HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₂₈O₂Na (M + Na⁺) 275.1987, found 275.1979.

2-((1S,6S)-2,2,6-Trimethyl-6-propionylcyclohexyl)ethyl acetate (19). *m*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (70%, 493 mg, 2.158 mmol) was added to a solution of compound **18** (272 mg; 1.079 mmol) in chloroform (10 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for 3 days, at which TLC showed no remaining starting material. Then, a 10% Na₂SO₃ solution (1 mL) was added, and the mixture was stirred for an additional 15 min. Then the reaction was extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL) and the organic phase was successively washed with sat. NaHCO₃ (5 × 10 mL) and brine (2 × 10 mL), and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to give a crude residue, which, after column chromatography on silica gel (10% EtOAc/hexane), afforded **19** (234 mg, 81%) as a colourless syrup. [α]_D²⁰ -13.3 (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.89 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 3H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.18 (s, 3H), 1.18–1.74 (m, 9H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 2.40–2.56 (m, 2H), 3.79–3.97 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 8.5 (CH₃), 17.5 (CH₃), 18.2 (CH₂), 21.0 (CH₃), 22.7 (CH₂), 27.2 (CH₂), 30.5 (CH₂), 33.1 (CH₃), 34.0 (C), 36.3 (CH₂), 40.8 (CH₂), 44.7 (CH), 52.5 (C), 65.1 (CH₂), 170.9 (C), 216.9 (C). IR (film): 957, 1096, 1355, 1459, 1697, 1714, 3072 cm⁻¹. HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C₁₆H₂₈O₃Na (M + Na⁺) 291.1936, found 291.1944.

(1S,2S)-1,3,3-Trimethyl-2-(3-oxobutyl) cyclohexyl formate (22). *m*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (70%, 1.37 g, 5.58 mmol) and NaHCO₃ (0.56 g, 6.69 mmol) were added to a solution of ketoaldehyde **21** (0.5 g, 2.23 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) and the

mixture was stirred under reflux for 1.5 h. Then, 10% aq Na₂SO₃ (5 mL) was added and the mixture was further stirred at room temperature for 15 min. Then, EtOAc (20 mL) was added and the organic phase was washed with water (3 × 20 mL) and brine (2 × 20 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and evaporated to give formate **22** (0.49 g, 93%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.88 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 3H), 1.14–1.28 (m, 1H), 1.30–1.40 (m, 1H), 1.43–1.50 (m, 1H), 1.50–1.60 (m, 3H), 1.55 (s, 3H), 1.60–1.75 (m, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.48 (dt, *J* = 12.0, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 2.51–2.59 (m, 1H), 2.65–2.73 (m, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 19.8 (CH₂), 20.2 (CH₂), 20.9 (CH₃), 21.7 (CH₃), 30.0 (CH₃), 32.7 (CH₃), 35.8 (C), 38.6 (CH₂), 40.6 (CH₂), 45.9 (CH₂), 53.2 (CH), 88.9 (C), 209.3 (C), 160.5 (CH). HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₂₄O₃Na (M + Na⁺) 263.1623, found 263.1619.

(1S,2S)-1,3,3-Trimethyl-2-(3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl) cyclohexan-1-ol (5). 2 M *n*-BuLi in cyclohexane (1.25 mL, 2.5 mmol) was added to a solution of methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (0.91 g, 2.5 mmol, 98%) in anhydrous THF (25 mL), and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C under an argon atmosphere for 15 min. Then, a solution of ketoester **22** (0.3 g, 1.25 mmol) in anhydrous THF (0.3 mL) was added, and the resulting mixture was kept stirring for 3 h. Then, the reaction was carefully quenched with water (0.5 mL). The solvent was evaporated and ether was added (25 mL), and the organic phase was washed with water (3 × 10 mL) and brine (2 × 10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to afford a crude product that was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (20% EtOAc/hexane) to yield alcohol **5** (0.23 g, 86%) as a yellow oil. [α]_D²⁰ +6.5 (*c* 1.2, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 0.83 (s, 3H), 0.95 (s, 3H), 1.11 (t, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.21 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 1.25 (s, 1H), 1.37 (m, 1H), 1.31 (dd, *J* = 12.3, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 1.40–1.50 (m, 2H), 1.52–1.64 (m, 2H), 1.75 (s, H), 2.11 (m, 1H), 2.20 (m, 1H), 4.70 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 20.5 (CH₂), 21.4 (CH₃), 22.6 (CH₃), 23.2 (CH₃), 24.4 (CH₂), 32.8 (CH₃), 35.6 (C), 40.9 (CH₂), 41.5 (CH₂), 43.6 (CH₂), 56.8 (CH), 74.1 (C), 109.7 (CH₂), 147.1 (C). IR (film): 883, 911, 1063, 1100, 1161, 1373, 1388, 1459, 1648, 1714, 3072, 3300–3600 cm⁻¹. HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C₁₄H₂₆O₂Na (M + Na⁺) 233.1881, found 233.1890.

(1S,2S)-1-(Allyloxy)-1,3,3-trimethyl-2-(3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl) cyclohexane (4). NaH (250 mg, 6.24 mmol, 60% dispersion in mineral oil) was added to a solution of alcohol **5** (564 mg, 2.70 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20 mL) at 0 °C under an argon atmosphere, and allyl bromide (0.5 mL, 5.54 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was kept stirring at reflux for 20 h, at which time TLC showed no **5** remaining. The mixture was poured into ice and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. Then ether (50 mL) was added and the organic phase was washed with water (3 × 20 mL) and brine (2 × 20 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and evaporated to give a crude residue, which, after column chromatography on silica gel (5% EtOAc/hexane), afforded ether **4** (618 mg, 90%) as a colorless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 5.87 (m, 1H), 5.25 (dd, *J* = 1.7, 17.2 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (dd, *J* = 1.7, 10.4 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (s, 2H), 3.92–3.83 (m, 2H), 2.22 (m, 1H), 2.01 (m, 1H), 1.72 (s, 3H),



1.65–1.52 (m, 2H), 1.41–1.28 (m, 5H), 1.24 (s, 1H), 1.19 (m, 1H), 1.14 (s, 3H), 0.95 (s, 3H), 0.84 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 147.4 (C), 136.5 (CH), 114.6 (CH_2), 108.9 (CH_2), 78.5 (C), 60.9 (CH_2), 53.5 (CH), 41.2 (CH_2), 40.7 (CH_2), 37.7 (CH_2), 35.4 (C), 32.9 (CH_3), 25.2 (CH_2), 22.6 (CH_3), 22.1 (CH_3), 19.9 (CH_2), 19.8 (CH_3). IR (film): 1074, 1155, 1264, 1374, 1455, 1648 cm^{-1} . HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{30}\text{ONa}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$) 273.2194, found 273.2185.

Treatment of ether 4 with the 2nd generation Grubbs catalyst

The 2nd Generation Grubbs catalyst (22 mg) was added to a solution of ether 4 (187 mg, 0.75 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL), and the mixture was kept stirring at reflux under an argon atmosphere for 2 h. Then, the solvent was evaporated affording a crude product, which consists of a complex mixture and the starting material.

(2S,3S)-1,1,3-Trimethyl-3-((3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy)-2-(3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)cyclohexane (23). NaH (34 mg, 0.86 mmol, 60% dispersion in mineral oil) was added to a solution of alcohol 5 (147 mg, 0.7 mmol) in anhydrous THF (12.5 mL) at 0 °C under an argon atmosphere, and 3,3-dimethylallyl bromide (0.24 mL, 20.77 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was kept stirring at reflux for 24 h, at which time TLC showed no 5 remaining. The mixture was poured into ice and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. Then ether (25 mL) was added and the organic phase was washed with water (3 \times 10 mL) and brine (2 \times 10 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated to give a crude residue, which, after column chromatography on silica gel (3% EtOAc/hexane), afforded ether 23 (179 mg, 92%) as a colorless oil. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ +21.2 (*c* 0.9, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 0.86 (s, 3H), 0.97 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.26 (s, 1H), 1.31–1.33 (m, 2H), 1.36 (m, 1H), 1.43–1.46 (m, 2H), 1.56–1.59 (m, 3H), 1.64 (s, 3H), 1.71 (s, 3H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 2.03 (m, 1H), 2.24 (m, 1H), 3.82–3.90 (m, 2H), 4.67 (s, 2H), 5.27 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 18.02 (CH_3), 20.0 (CH_2), 20.3 (CH_3), 22.3 (CH_3), 22.6 (CH_3), 25.2 (CH_2), 25.8 (CH_3), 32.9 (CH_3), 35.4 (C), 37.3 (CH_2), 40.5 (CH_2), 41.2 (CH_2), 53.0 (CH), 56.8 (CH_2), 78.2 (C), 108.9 (CH_2), 122.8 (CH), 134.4 (C), 147.6 (C). IR (film): 754, 960, 1074, 1124, 1276, 1721 cm^{-1} . HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{34}\text{ONa}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$) 301.2507, found 301.2509.

Arenaran A (1). The 2nd Generation Grubbs catalyst (10 mg) was added to a solution of ether 23 (62 mg, 0.223 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (30 mL), and the mixture was kept stirring at reflux under an argon atmosphere for 3 h. Then, the solvent was evaporated and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (3% AcOEt/hexane) to yield 1 (45 mg, 91%). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ –32.1 (*c* 0.01, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (CD_3OD , 400 MHz): δ 0.91 (s, 3H), 1.16 (ddd, *J* = 13.3, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.35–1.32 (m, 2H), 1.46 (dt, *J* = 13.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 1.51 (m, 2H), 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.61–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.76 (ddd, *J* = 12.7, 4.5 Hz), 3.37 (m, 2H), 4.03 (d, *J* = 18.4 Hz), 4.22 (dd, *J* = 18.4, 2.1 Hz), 5.15 (br s). ^{13}C NMR (CD_3OD , 100 MHz): δ 19.7 (CH_3), 21.0 (CH_2), 21.9 (CH_2), 24.1 (CH_3), 25.0 (CH_2), 28.9 (CH_3), 32.3 (CH_2), 34.0 (C), 35.2 (CH_3), 41.9 (CH), 45.4 (CH_2), 61.1 (CH), 80.2 (C), 123.3 (CH_2), 132.9 (C). ^1H NMR

(CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 0.86 (s, 3H), 0.91 (s, 3H), 1.16 (dd, *J* = 13.3, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 1.25 (s, 3H), 1.32–1.35 (m, 2H), 1.46 (dt, *J* = 13.5, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 1.51 (m, 1H), 1.55 (m, 1H), 1.58–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.76 (dd, *J* = 12.7, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.37 (m, 1H), 4.03 (d, *J* = 18.4 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (dd, *J* = 18.4, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 5.15 (br s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 20.1 (CH_2), 22.0 (CH_3), 22.9 (CH_3), 24.5 (CH_2), 26.3 (CH_3), 29.4 (CH_2), 33.3 (CH_3), 34.5 (C), 35.5 (CH_2), 42.3 (CH_2), 45.7 (CH), 61.5 (CH_2), 79.8 (C), 123.7 (CH), 133.3 (C). HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{26}\text{ONa}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$) 245.1881, found 245.1893.

Arenaran B (2). *m*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (70%, 50.0 mg, 0.20 mmol) was added to a solution of compound 1 (28 mg, 0.126 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (12.5 mL) at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. Then a 10% Na_2SO_3 solution (5 mL) was added and the mixture was further stirred for 15 min. Then, EtOAc (10 mL) was added, and the organic phase was washed with sat NaHCO_3 (3 \times 10 mL) and brine (2 \times 10 mL), and dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . Evaporation of the solvent under vacuum gave finally epoxide 2 (28 mg, 93%) as a low m.p. solid. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25}$: –24.9 (*c* 0.2, CHCl_3) lit.¹: –24.4 (*c* 0.23, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 0.85 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.21 (m, 1H), 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.35 (m, 1H), 1.40 (m, 1H), 1.45 (m, 1H), 1.50 (m, 1H), 1.58 (m, 1H), 1.67 (m, 1H), 1.86 (dt, *J* = 13.2, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.42 (dt, *J* = 13.4, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (s, 1H), 3.90 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 1.7 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 19.9 (CH_2), 21.5 (CH_3), 22.0 (CH_2), 22.5 (CH_3), 22.9 (CH_3), 31.8 (CH_2), 33.2 (CH_3), 34.7 (C), 35.9 (CH_2), 42.2 (CH_2), 44.7 (CH), 58.1 (CH_2), 60.8 (C), 64.1 (CH), 80.0 (C). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz): δ 0.85 (s, 3H), 0.98 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.19 (ddd, *J* = 13.5, 13.5, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (s, 3H), 1.33 (ddd, *J* = 13.5, 13.5, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.39 (ddd, *J* = 13.5, 3.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.45 (ddd, *J* = 13.5, 3.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.50 (dd, *J* = 13.4, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 1.55 (dp, *J* = 13.5, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (tdd, *J* = 13.4, 4.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 1.68 (tt, *J* = 13.4, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 1.72 (ddd, *J* = 13.5, 3.8, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.88 (ddd, *J* = 13.4, 13.4, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (ddd, *J* = 13.4, 4.3, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (dd, *J* = 15.9, 2.3 Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz): δ 20.0 (CH_2), 21.7 (CH_3), 22.2 (CH_2), 22.7 (CH_3), 23.1 (CH_3), 32.0 (CH_2), 33.4 (CH_3), 34.8 (C), 36.1 (CH_2), 42.4 (CH_2), 44.9 (CH), 58.2 (CH_2), 60.9 (C), 64.2 (CH), 80.2 (C).

(1R,2R,4aS,8aS)-2,5,5,8a-Tetramethyl-1-(3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)decahydronaphthalen-2-ol (26). 2 M *n*-BuLi in cyclohexane (1.7 mL, 3.3 mmol) was added to a solution of methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (15.75 g, 60 mmol, 98%) in anhydrous THF (75 mL), and the mixture was stirred at –78 °C under an argon atmosphere for 15 min. Then, a solution of ketoester 24 (3.8 g, 12 mmol) in anhydrous THF (2 mL) was added, and the resulting mixture was kept stirring for 45 min. Then, the reaction was carefully quenched with water (5 mL), and the solvent was evaporated. Then, ether (100 mL) was added, and the organic phase was washed with water (3 \times 30 mL) and brine (2 \times 30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and evaporated to afford a crude product that was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (20% EtOAc/hexane) to yield alcohol 26 (3.4 g, 91%). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ +8.5 (*c* 0.8, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 0.79 (s, 3H), 0.80 (s, 3H),



0.86 (s, 3H), 0.92 (dd, $J = 12.1, 2.3$ Hz, 1H), 0.97 (dd, $J = 12.7, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.05 (t, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 1.14 (s, 3H), 1.25 (br s, 1H), 1.28 (s, 1H), 1.35–1.40 (m, 2H), 1.41 (s, 1H), 1.43 (m, 1H), 1.53–1.61 (m, 2H), 1.62–1.67 (m, 3H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 1.86 (dt, $J = 12.2, 3.1$ Hz, 1H), 2.04–2.14 (m, 2H), 4.69 (br s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 15.5 (CH_3), 18.5 (CH_2), 20.6 (CH_2), 21.5 (CH_3), 22.6 (CH_3), 23.6 (CH_2), 23.9 (CH_3), 33.3 (C), 33.4 (CH_3), 39.2 (C), 39.7 (CH_2), 41.3 (CH_2), 42.0 (CH_2), 44.6 (CH_2), 56.2 (CH), 61.5 (CH), 74.1 (C), 109.6 (CH_2), 147.1 (C). IR (film): 882, 968, 1083, 1103, 1386, 1455, 1648, 1727, 3300–3500 cm^{-1} . HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{34}\text{ONa}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$) 301.2507, found 301.2499.

Treatment of aldehyde 25 with N_2H_4 –KOH. Obtention of alcohol 26

Hydrazine (2 mL, 41.2 mmol) was added to a solution of aldehyde 25 (2.0 g, 6.5 mmol) in triethyleneglycol dimethyl ether (20 mL) and the mixture was stirred under reflux for 1 h, then KOH (2.31 g, 41.25 mol) was added and the mixture was stirred at reflux for an additional 11 h. Then, the mixture was kept at room temperature and H_2O (10 mL) was added. EtOAc (50 mL) was added and the organic phase was washed with H_2O (10 \times 20 mL) and brine (3 \times 20 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and evaporated to give a crude product which after column chromatography on silica gel (10% EtOAc/hexane), afforded alcohol 26 (1.6 g, 81%) as a colourless oil.

(4aS,5R,6R,8aS)-1,1,4a,6-Tetramethyl-6-((3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy)-5-(3-methylbut-3-en-1-yl)decahydronaphthalene (27). NaH (100 mg, 2.5 mmol, 60% dispersion in mineral oil) was added to a solution of alcohol 26 (180 mg, 0.647 mmol) in anhydrous THF (100 mL) at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$ under an argon atmosphere, and 3,3-dimethylallyl bromide (0.2 mL, 1.73 mmol) was added, and the reaction mixture was kept stirring at reflux for 24 h, at which time TLC showed no 26 remaining. The mixture was poured into ice and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. Then, ether (100 mL) was added and the organic phase was washed with water (3 \times 30 mL) and brine (2 \times 30 mL), dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated to give a crude residue, which, after column chromatography on silica gel (5% EtOAc/hexane), afforded ether 27 (206 mg, 92%). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} -7.1$ (c 1.0, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 0.79 (s, 3H), 0.83 (s, 3H), 0.85 (s, 3H), 0.90 (dd, $J = 12.3, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 0.97 (dd, $J = 12.9, 3.6$ Hz, 1H), 1.14 (s, 3H), 1.25 (s, 2H), 1.35–1.44 (m, 2H), 1.54–1.61 (m, 4H), 1.63 (s, 3H), 1.65–1.68 (m, 3H), 1.71 (s, 3H), 1.72 (s, 3H), 1.84 (dt, $J = 12.2, 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.01 (dd, $J = 13.6, 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 2.17 (dd, $J = 13.3', 4.6$ Hz, 1H), 3.81–3.90 (m, 2H), 4.65 (br s, 2H), 5.25 (tt, $J = 6.4, 1.4$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 15.9 (CH_3), 18.1 (CH_3), 18.5 (CH_2), 20.1 (CH_2), 20.8 (CH_3), 21.5 (CH_3), 22.6 (CH_3), 24.3 (CH_2), 25.8 (CH_3), 33.2 (C), 33.4 (CH_3), 38.5 (CH_3), 39.2 (C), 40.1 (CH_2), 41.0 (CH_2), 42.1 (CH_2), 56.1 (CH), 56.8 (CH_2), 58.1 (CH), 78.3 (C), 108.9 (CH_2), 122.9 (CH), 134.3 (C), 147.6 (C). IR (film): 973, 1035, 1058, 1079, 1131, 1386, 1446, 1647 cm^{-1} . HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{42}\text{ONa}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$) 369.3133, found 369.3141.

(6aR,8aS,12aS,12bR,Z)-4,6a,9,9,12a-Pentamethyl-2,3,6a,7,8,8a,9,10,11,12,12a,12b-dodecahydro-1H-naphtho[2,1-*b*]oxocine (28).

The 2nd Generation Grubbs catalyst (30 mg) was added to a solution of ether 27 (310 mg, 0.895 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (40 mL). The mixture was kept stirring at reflux under an argon atmosphere for 4 h. Then, the solvent was evaporated and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (3% AcOEt/hexane) to yield 28 (218 mg, 84%). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} +40.4$ (c 0.9, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (CD_3OD , 400 MHz): δ 0.80 (s, 3H), 0.82 (dd, $J = 12.2, 2.5$ Hz, 1H), 0.87 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 3H), 1.13 (dd, $J = 13.3, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.24 (s, 3H), 1.30 (dd, $J = 12.6, 3.5$ Hz, 1H), 1.34–1.43 (m, 3H), 1.50 (dd, $J = 12.0, 3.8$ Hz, 1H), 1.54–1.58 (m, 2H), 1.60–1.66 (m, 3H), 1.68 (br d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 3H), 1.70–1.73 (m, 2H), 1.82 (dd, $J = 13.1, 4.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.37 (dd, $J = 12.7, 4.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.03 (d, $J = 18.4$ Hz, 1H), 4.23 (dd, $J = 18.4, 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.15 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CD_3OD , 100 MHz): δ 15.8 (CH_3), 18.8 (CH_2), 20.1 (CH_2), 21.8 (CH_3), 23.4 (CH_2), 23.9 (CH_3), 26.2 (CH_3), 29.2 (CH_2), 33.3 (C), 33.6 (CH_3), 36.3 (CH_2), 38.0 (C), 40.6 (CH), 41.8 (CH), 50.3 (CH), 55.9 (CH), 61.7 (CH_2), 79.9 (C), 123.5 (CH), 133.7 (C). IR (film): 1052, 1111, 1127, 1218, 1384, 1450 cm^{-1} . HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{34}\text{ONa}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$) 313.2507, found 313.2516.

4aS,6aR,8aS,9aR,11bS)-4,4,6a,9a,11b-Pentamethyltetradecahydro-1H-naphtho[2,1-*b*]oxiren[2,3-*f*]oxocane (29). *m*-Chloroperbenzoic acid (70%, 147 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added to a solution of compound 28 (125 mg, 0.431 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL), cooled at 0 $^\circ\text{C}$, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h, at which TLC showed no remaining starting material. Then, a 10% Na_2SO_3 solution (10 mL) was added, and the mixture was stirred for an additional 15 min. Then the reaction was extracted with EtOAc (3 \times 20 mL). The organic phase was successively washed with sat. NaHCO_3 (3 \times 30 mL) and brine (2 \times 30 mL), and dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and evaporated to give a crude residue, which, after column chromatography on silica gel (5% EtOAc/hexane), afforded epoxide 29 (2.3 g, 93%) as a colourless oil. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 0.81 (s, 3H), 0.86 (s, 3H), 0.90 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.29 (s, 3H), 1.90–1.21 (m, 15H), 2.44 (dd, $J = 13.3, 5.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.80 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.89 (d, $J = 15.8$ Hz, 1H), 4.03 (dd, $J = 15.8, 2.2$ Hz, 1H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 125 MHz): δ 15.33 (CH_3), 18.96 (CH_2), 20.02 (CH_2), 20.82 (CH_2), 21.95 (CH_3), 23.09 (CH_3), 23.68 (CH_3), 31.72 (CH_2), 33.47 (C), 33.77 (CH_3), 36.93 (CH_2), 38.35 (C), 40.88 (CH_2), 41.84 (CH_2), 49.51 (CH), 56.17 (CH), 58.31 (CH_2), 61.10 (C), 64.22 (CH), 80.33 (C). HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_2\text{Na}$ ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$) 329.2457, found 329.2461.

Conclusions

In summary, the first synthesis of arenaran A (1) and B (2), utilizing a ring-closing metathesis (RCM) process, starting from commercial (–)-sclareol (20) is reported. For the RCM process to be successfully applied, some structural requirements must be met. The *trans*-fused structure of the natural products is corroborated by comparison of their spectroscopic data with those of the *cis*-fused isomer (*epi*-arenaran A, 13), which was also synthesized. This strategy can also be utilized for preparing other natural oxocene terpenes. Thus, epoxide 29, the



3-debromoderivative of the natural terpene **3**, has been synthesized from the diterpene **20**.

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