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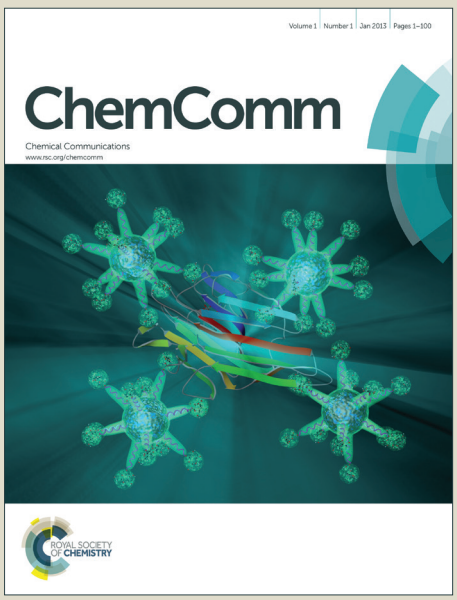

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Total Synthesis of Largamide B†

Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/xoxxoooooox

Shiwei Qu,[a] Ying Chen,[a] Xiaoji Wang,[b] Shipeng Chen,[b] Zhengshuang Xu,*[a] and Tao Ye*[a,c]

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Accepted

DOI: 10.1039/xoxxoooooox

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Total synthesis of the cyanobacterial metabolite largamide B and the disapproval of its originally assigned stereochemistry as well as confirmation of the revised stereochemistry are reported.

The cyclodepsipeptide largamide B (**1**) was isolated from marine cyanobacterium *Oscillatoria* sp. from the Florida Keys and structurally characterized by Plaza and Bewley in 2006.[1] Along with the related cyclodepsipeptide largamides A and C (Figure 1), largamide B (**1**) possesses a 16-membered macrolactone composed of the unique, non-proteinogenic amino acids 2-amino-5-(4'-hydroxyphenyl)pentanoic acid (Ahppa) and (*Z*)-2,3-dehydro-2-aminobutanoic acid, as well as D-Glu, Abu, L-Ala and L-Thr. The initially published structure of largamide B (**1a**)[1] revealed that a senecioic acid-containing side chain is appended to the *N*-terminus of the core depsipeptide. After extensive high-field NMR studies, Luesch and coworkers[2] suggested that the senecioic acid residue of largamides, originally assigned by Plaza and Bewley, should be revised to tiglic acid, as indicated in **1b** (Figure 1). Largamides A–C exhibit inhibitory activity against the serine protease with selectivity

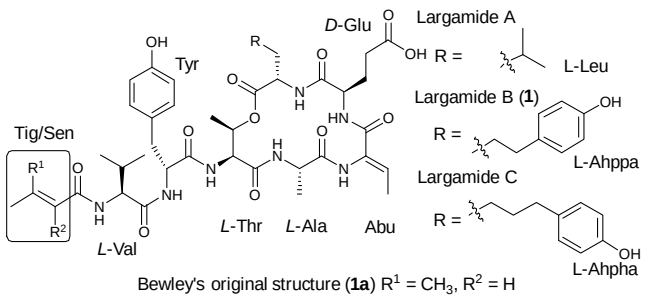


Figure 1. Structure of largamides

for elastase over chymotrypsin and trypsin. As part of a program directed toward the synthesis, structural modification, and biological evaluation of marine natural products,[3] we have developed and report herein the first total synthesis of largamide B and unambiguously confirming its structure. Since the only difference between **1a** and **1b** is the unsaturated acid moiety of the side chain, we planned a convergent synthetic approach (Fig. 1), which aimed for late-stage incorporation of the side chain, enabling facile divergence to both **1a** and **1b**. Our retrosynthetic analysis for largamide B (**1b**) is presented in Figure 2. We chose to construct the macrocyclic core (**3**) *via* an intramolecular coupling between D-Glu and L-Ahppa, on the basis of the literature precedent[4] that suggests macrolactamization between a D and an L-residue generally proceeds more efficiently than those employing L,L or D,D coupling partners. Thus, our target fragments for the assembly of largamide B were bis-protected L-Ahppa (**4**), dipeptide **5** and side-chain segment **2b**.

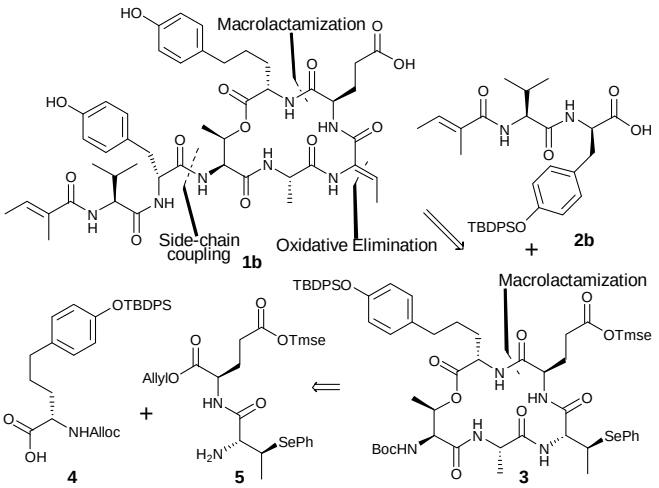
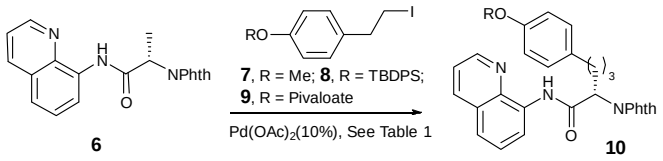


Figure 2. Retrosynthetic analysis of **1b**.

The synthesis of macrocycle **3** commenced with the preparation of a bis-protected L-Ahppa (**4**) as described in Scheme 1. Inspired by the seminal work of Daugulis and co-workers describing a synthesis of substituted phenylalanine derivatives by using C-H bond functionalization,[5] we investigated the alkylation of alanine derivative **6** with alkyl iodides **7**-**9** under palladium-catalyzed conditions to give rise to L-ahppa derivative **10** (Scheme 1).

As shown in Scheme 1, we initially surveyed the alkylation of alanine derivative **6** with alkyl iodides **7**, **8**, **9** (entries 1-3) employing catalytic $Pd(OAc)_2$ in the presence of 1.5 equivalents of AgOAc with toluene as the solvent at 80 °C. Alkylation with both



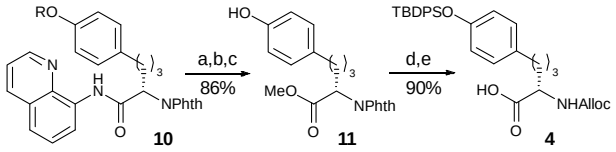
Scheme 1. Synthesis of **10** via C-H functionalization.

Table 1. Optimization of reaction conditions for the synthesis of **10**.

Entry	Alkyl Iodide	Ag(I) (eq)	Additive (eq)	Solvents	T (^oC)	Y/C[a] (%)
1	**7** (3.0)	AgOAc (1.5)	None	Toluene	80	23/24
2	**8** (3.0)	AgOAc (1.5)	None	Toluene	80	29/30
3	**9** (3.0)	AgOAc (1.5)	None	Toluene	80	46/59
4	**8** (3.0)	Ag_2CO_3 (1.25)	$(BnO)_2PO_2H$ (0.5)	DCE/t-BuOH (2/1)	80	42/45
5	**9** (3.0)	AgOAc (1.5)	$(BnO)_2PO_2H$ (0.5)	DCE/t-BuOH (2/1)	80	54/59
6	**9** (3.0)	Ag_2CO_3 (1.5)	$(BnO)_2PO_2H$ (0.5)	DCE/t-BuOH (2/1)	80	66/90
7	**9** (3.0)	Ag_2CO_3 (1.5)	$(BnO)_2PO_2H$ (0.5)	DCE/t-BuOH (2/1)	110	43/74

[A] Y refers to an isolated yield of product **10**; C refers conversion of **6**.

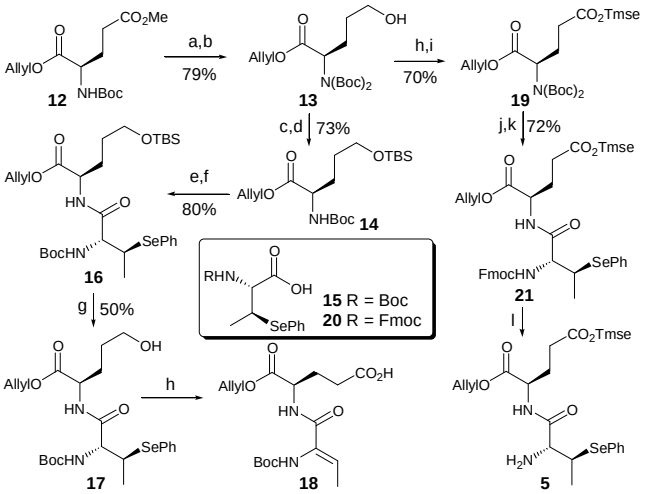
alkyl iodides **7** and **8** produced **10** in less than 30% yields and suffered from low conversion (entries 1, 2). When **9** was employed as the alkylating reagent, the reaction resulted in a significant improvement of the yield and conversion (entry 3). Upon examining the alkylation with alkyl iodide **8**, we were pleased to find when the reaction was conducted with Ag_2CO_3/$(BnO)_2PO_2H$ as additives in a dichloroethane–*tert*-butanol mixed solvent system, the desired L-ahppa derivative **10** could be obtained in 42% yield (entry 4). Further exploration of the reaction with alkyl iodide **9** under the identical conditions revealed the efficiency of the alkylation could be further improved (entries 5, 6). As shown in entry 6, the desired L-ahppa derivative **10** could be obtained in 66% yield. Further experimentation indicated the yield of the alkylation also depended on the reaction temperature. Thus, when the reaction temperature was raised from 80 ^oC to 110 ^oC, the alkylation resulted in reduced yield (entry 7). **10** was converted into the bis-protected L-Ahppa (**4**)



Scheme 2. Reagents and Conditions: a) 6N HCl, reflux, 12h; b) MeOH, $SOCl_2$; c) AllocCl, $NaHCO_3$, THF-H_2O, 86% from **10**; d) TBDPSCl, TEA, DCM, 95%; e) LiOH, THF-H_2O, 95%.

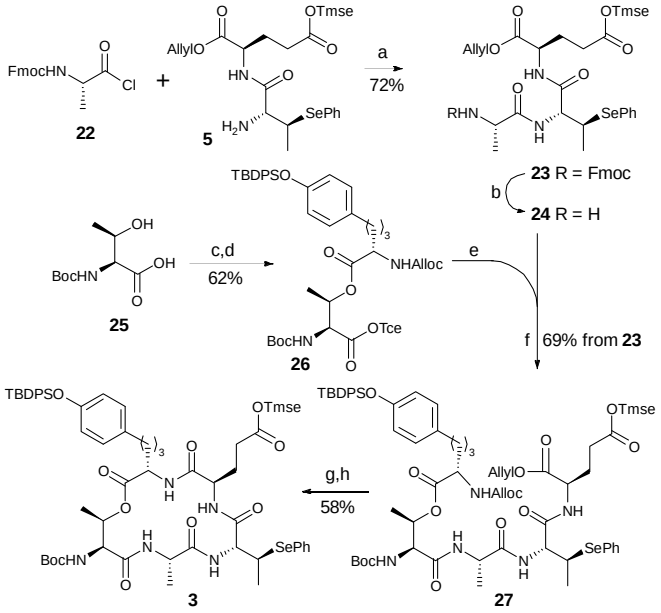
in 78% overall yield by a sequence of protecting group manipulation including removal of the directing group 8-aminoquinoline, phthalimide and pivaloate under acidic condition, followed by reprotection of the amino moiety as its *N*-alloc-carbamate and the phenol as a *tert*-butyldiphenylsilyl (TBDPS) ether, then saponification of the methyl ester afford bis-protected L-Ahppa (**4**).

The synthesis of the dipeptide fragment **5** commenced from the fully protected D-glutamic acid **12**, which is readily available according to literature procedure.[6] Attempts to directly convert the gamma-methyl



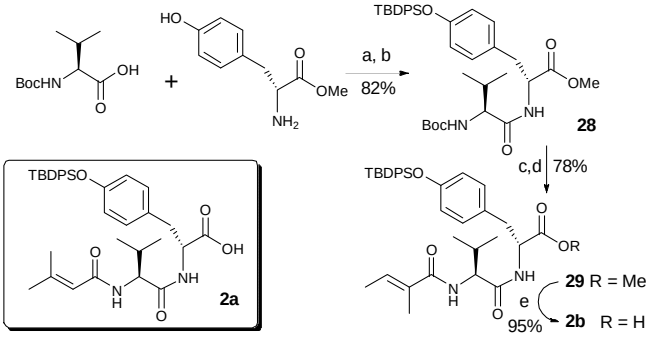
Scheme 3. Reagents and Conditions: a) Boc_2O, DMAP, MeCN; b) DIBAL-H, THF; c) LiBr, MeCN; d) TBSCl, Imid., DCM; e) TMSOTf, 2,6-lutidine, DCM; f) **15**, HATU, HOAt, DIPEA, DCM; g) aq. HCl, THF; h) TEMPO, NaClO, $NaClO_2$, NaBr, MeCN-pH = 6.7 buffer; i) TMSE-OH, EDCI, DMAP, DCM; j) TMSI, DCM, TFA (20 eq.), DCM; k) **20**, PyAOP, HOAt, DIPEA; l) Et_2NH, MeCN.

ester into 2-trimethylsilylethyl ester (Tmse) turned out to be unsuccessful, it was envisaged at first to reduce the methyl ester to the corresponding alcohol and then introduce the 2-trimethylsilylethyl ester at a later stage. Thus, the methyl ester **12** was converted to alcohol **13** in 79% yield via a two step sequence, including DIBAL reduction and introduced a second Boc group on the nitrogen.[7] Protection of the hydroxy group as its TBS ether followed by mono-deprotection of one Boc protecting group[8] to afford **14** in 73% yield. The remaining Boc group in **14** was removed with trimethylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (TMSOTf) in the presence of 2,6-lutidine,[9] and the resulting free amine underwent a HATU-mediated coupling reaction with the known (2*R*,3*S*)-2-*N*-Boc-3-(phenylseleno)butanoic acid (**15**)[10] to afford dipeptide **16** in 80% yield. Removal of the TBS protecting group of **16** under acidic condition afforded the corresponding primary alcohol **17**. We attempted to effect the oxidation of the primary alcohol of **17** to its carboxylic acid;[11] however, this oxidation process proved to be complicated by concomitant *syn* β-elimination of the phenylselenide group in **17**. Formation of **18** as the major product was observed as a significant and unavoidable side reaction. To circumvent this complication, we elected to introduce the trimethylsilylethyl ester prior to conducting the coupling reaction with (2*R*,3*S*)-2-amino-3-(phenylseleno)butanoic acid. Thus, oxidation of the primary hydroxyl group in **13** by the sequential action of TEMPO/NaClO and $NaClO_2$ afforded the corresponding acid,[11] which was then esterified with trimethylsilylethanol in the presence of EDCI and DMAP to produce compound **19** in 70% yield. Selective deprotection of the two Boc groups of **19** was achieved by the sequential action of trimethylsilyl iodide (TMSI) and Trifluoroacetic acid, which left the TMSE esters intact. The resulting free amine underwent a PyAOP-mediated coupling reaction with (2*R*,3*S*)-2-*N*-Fmoc-3-(phenylseleno)butanoic acid (**20**)[12] to provide dipeptide **21** in 72% yield. Removal of the Fmoc protecting group of **21** was achieved by treatment with diethylamine in acetonitrile to afford **5**.



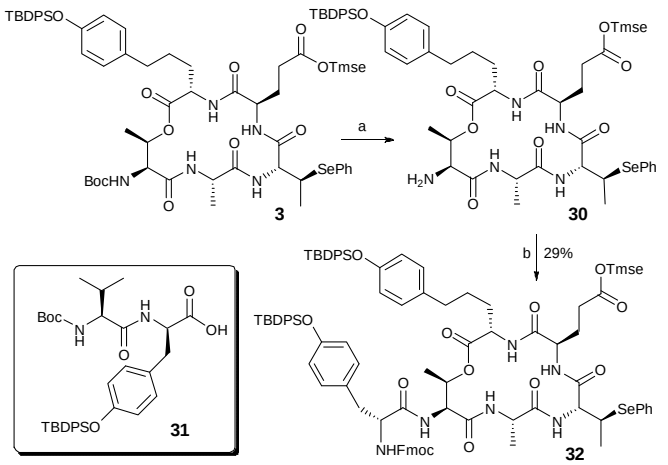
Scheme 4. Reagents and Conditions: a) NMM, DMAP; b) Et_2NH, MeCN; c) Cl_3CCH_2OH, EDCI, DMAP; d) **4**, TCBC, DIPEA, then DMAP, PhMe; e) Zn, THF, aq. KH_2PO_4, pH = 4.3; f) HATU, HOAt, DIPEA, DMF; g) $Pd(PPh_3)_4$, $PhSiH_3$, DCM; h) HATU, HOAt, NMM, DMF (0.001M)

With the two target fragments in hand, the stage was now set for their assembly and elaboration into macrocycle **3** (Scheme 4). Thus, treatment of the dipeptide fragment **5** with Fmoc-Ala-Cl (**22**) afforded tripeptide **23** in 72% yield. Deprotection of the Fmoc group in **23** with diethylamine in acetonitrile afforded the corresponding free amine **24**, which sets the stage for further fragment assembly. In parallel, *N*-Boc-threonine was converted into the corresponding trichloroethyl ester and subsequent esterification of the secondary hydroxy group with the bis-protected L-Ahppa (**4**) under Yamaguchi's protocol[13] gave rise to ester **26** in 62% yield over two steps. Reductive removal of the trichloroethyl ester in **26** under buffered conditions afforded the corresponding acid, which was coupled with amine **24** to furnish the protected linear precursor **27** in 69% yield. Deprotection of the allyl ester and alloc protecting groups by using $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ and $PhSiH_3$[14] and subsequent HATU-mediated macrolactamisation afforded the macrocycle **3** in 58% over two steps.



Scheme 5. Reagents and Conditions: a) EDCI, HOAt, DIPEA; b) TBDPSCl, TEA; c) TFA, DCM; d) Tiglic acid, EDCI, HOAt, DIPEA, 78%; e) LiOH, THF-H_2O.

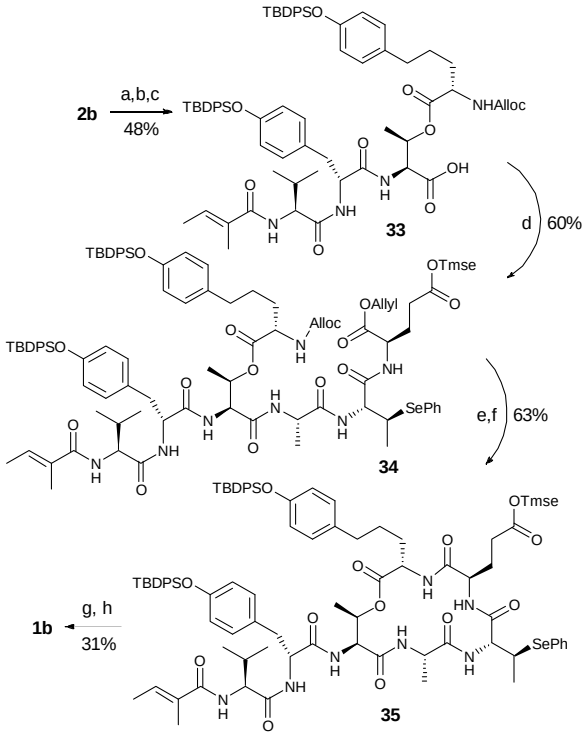
The synthesis of the side chain fragment (**2b**) started with the coupling of *N*-Boc-L-valine with the methyl ester of *D*-tyrosine to afford the corresponding dipeptide, followed by protection of the phenolic OH as its TBDPS ether to provide **28** in 82% yield. The Boc group of **28** was selectively removed using TFA in dichloromethane at 0 ºC and the resulting amine salt was coupled with tiglic acid in the presence of EDCI to give rise to intermediate **29** in 78% yield. (Scheme 5). Saponification of the methyl ester of **29** provided the side chain fragment **2b**, which set the stage to append the side chain to the macrocycle **3**. Similarly, the side chain fragment **2a** was readily achieved by following the same synthetic procedure as for **2b**, but using senecioic acid instead of tiglic acid.



Scheme 6. Reagents and Conditions: a) TMSI, MeCN; b) DMAP, NMM, Toluene.

With the side chain fragments **2a** and **2b** in hand, efforts were focused on the key appendage of the side chain fragment to macrocycle **3**. As shown in Scheme 6, selective removal of the Boc carbamate from **3** could be achieved using trimethylsilyl iodide (TMSI) in acetonitrile to give the corresponding free amine **30**. Much to our disappointment, condensation of **30** with either side chain acid **2b** or dipeptide acid **31**, using various coupling agents, including EDCI, HATU, PyAOP and DEPBT, were unsuccessful, and no desired products could be detected in the complex mixture of products. We then attempted to condense *O*-TBDPS-*N*-Fmoc-*D*-Tyrosyl Chloride with **30** in the presence of DMAP, NMM in toluene to afford the coupling product **32** in 29% yield. The formation of **32** confirmed the inherent stability of the depsipeptide macrocycle is able to suppress the propensity for *O*,*N*-acyl migration of **30** which contains a free *N*-terminal amino group.[15] To circumvent the problems encountered in the above strategy toward the side chain attachment, we decided to revise our synthetic strategy which includes to incorporate the side chain to an appropriate linear precursor prior to the formation of macrocycle.

Thus, the side chain fragment **2b** was elongated to acid **33** via a three-step sequence including PyAOP promoted coupling of **2b** and L-threonine trichloroethyl ester, subsequent esterification of the secondary hydroxy group of L-threonine with the bis-protected L-Ahppa (**4**) under Yamaguchi conditions, and reductive cleavage of the trichloroethyl ester. Condensation of acid **33** with tripeptide **24** was achieved through carboxyl activation with 3-(diethoxyphosphoryloxy)-1,2,3-benzotriazin-4(3H)-one (DEPBT) [16] and provided fully protected linear precursor **34** in 60% yield. This compound was then submitted to our previously established protocol for the deprotection of the allyl ester and alloc protecting groups in **27**. Much to our surprise, attempts to remove of the same protecting groups in **30** by using $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ and $PhSiH_3$ were unsuccessful, and led only to decomposition of the starting material. After screening a number of reagents and conditions, we eventually found the combination of $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ and (NDMBA)[17] comprised a particularly effective means for the removal of both allyl ester and alloc protecting groups in **34**. The resulting amino acid was cyclised with



Scheme 7. Reagents and Conditions: a) L-Thr-OTce, PyAOP, DIPEA, DCM, 85%; b) **4**, TCBC, DIPEA, then DMAP, PhMe, 71%; c) Zn, THF, aq. KH_2PO_4, pH = 4.3 buffer, 81%; d) **24**, DEPBT, NMM, DMF, 60%; e) $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (0.2eq), 1,3-Dimethylbarbituric acid, THF; f) HATU, HOAt, NMM, DMF (0.001M), 63% from **34**; g) *t*-BuOOH, DCM, 62%; h) HF·Pyr., THF; then TASF, DMF, 50%.

HATU/HOAt in the presence of NMM to give rise to the corresponding macrolactam **35** in 63% yield over two steps. Treatment of **35** with *tert*-Butyl hydroperoxide in dichloromethane, the phenylselenide group in **35** was converted into the corresponding selenoxides that underwent concomitant *syn* β-eliminations to afford the corresponding alkene derivative. Subsequent global removal of the remaining silyl-protecting groups afforded **1b** in 31% yield based on **35**. With many building blocks already at hand, the next step was to prepare **1a**, and this was readily achieved by following the same synthetic procedure as for **1b**, but using **2a** as the starting material. A thorough examination of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of **1a** and **1b** and comparison of reported spectra for natural largamide B revealed that the true structure of natural largamide B was **1b**. Moreover, the optical rotation (in both sense and magnitude) of the synthetic material (**1b**), $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -72.6$ (*c* 0.12, MeOH) was in close agreement with those reported in the original isolation paper $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -71.5$ (*c* 0.3, MeOH).

In conclusion, we have resolved the structural ambiguities of the marine cyclodepsipeptide, largamide B, by completing the total synthesis of two previously assigned structures. The synthesis of largamide B proceeds in 14 steps (longest linear sequence) and 3.4% yield. Notable features include the construction of a key unnatural amino acid by the use of by using C-H bond functionalization, and the use of oxidative elimination processes to control the stereochemistry of a 2,3-dehydro-2-aminobutanoic acid unit presented in the natural product.

We acknowledge financial support from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (21272011, 21133002); Hong Kong Research Grants Council (Projects: PolyU 5037/11P, 5020/12P; 5030/13P, 153035/14P); Fong Shu Fook Tong Foundation and Joyce M. Kuok Foundation; and Shenzhen Science and Technology Development Fund (JCYJ20130329175740481). X. Wang acknowledges Scientific Research Fund of Jiangxi Provincial Education Department (No. KJLD12036) and the Training Fund for Excellent Young Scientist of JiangXi Province (No. [2013]138).

Notes and references

[a] Laboratory of Chemical Genomics, Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School, University Town, Xili, Shenzhen, China, 518055. Email: tao_ye35@hotmail.com; xuzs@pkusz.edu.cn
[b] School of Pharmacy, Jiangxi Science and Technology Normal University, Nanchang, China, 330013.
[c] Department of Applied Biology & Chemical Technology, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong. Email: tao.ye@polyu.edu.hk;

† Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: Experimental procedures, characterization data and spectra data. See DOI: 10.1039/c000000x/

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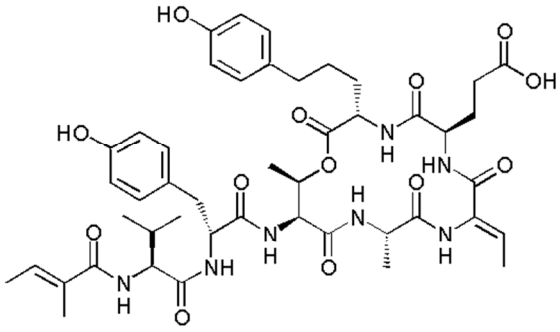
Total Synthesis of Largamide B

Shiwei Qu, Ying Chen, Xiaoji Wang,
Shipeng Chen, Zhengshuang Xu,*
Tao Ye*

Total synthesis of the cyanobacterial metabolite largamide B and the disapproval of its originally assigned stereochemistry as well as confirmation of the revised stereochemistry are reported.



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