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## **REVIEW**

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# Mukaiyama aldol reaction: an effective asymmetric approach to access chiral natural products and their derivatives/analogues

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The Mukaiyama aldol reaction is generally a Lewis-acid catalyzed cross-aldol reaction between an aldehyde or ketone and silyl enol ether. It was first described by Mukaiyama in 1973, almost 5 decades ago, to achieve the enantioselective synthesis of  $\beta$ -hydroxy carbonyl compounds in high percentage yields. Mukaiyama aldol adducts play a pivotal role in the synthesis of various naturally occurring and medicinally important organic compounds such as polyketides, alkaloids, macrolides, etc. This review highlights the significance of the Mukaiyama aldol reaction towards the asymmetric synthesis of a wide range of biologically active natural products reported recently (since 2020).

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## Introduction

The Mukaiyama aldol reaction was first reported by Mukaiyama in 1973, about 50 years ago. He carried out the aldol reaction of an aldehyde or ketone with trimethyl silyl enol ether by utilizing titanium chloride as a catalyst.2 The electrophilic nature of carbonyl compounds is enhanced using Lewis acid catalyst, thereby leading to a facile attack by the carbon nucleophile. Similarly, Mukaiyama and his coworker Ishida implemented the aldol reaction between silyl enol ether, which was obtained as a derivative of crotonaldehyde, and cinnamaldehyde dimethyl acetal. The aldol reaction, involving these substituents was named vinylogous Mukaiyama aldol reaction (VMAR).3-5 VMAR results in the synthesis of double bonds containing bulky structural skeletons, which can then be subjected to various reactions including organometallic reactions, dihydroxylation and epoxidation (Scheme 1).6

The general mechanism of the Mukaiyama aldol reaction involves the attack of aldehyde oxygen to titanium followed by the release of a chloride ion. The chloride ion then attacks silylenol ether 6 to generate enolate and trimethylsilyl chloride. The enolate then attacks the electron-deficient carbonyl carbon followed by the addition of water to give the Mukaiyama aldol product 7 (Scheme 2).

Silicon<sup>7-9</sup> and boron enolates<sup>10-12</sup> were also employed by Mukaiyama and co-workers to execute the aldol reaction, which is highly stereoselective in nature. A strong base is employed to abstract a proton from the carbonyl compound to generate silicon enolate, which is then reacted with trialkylsilyl chloride.<sup>13</sup> Then, this silicon enolate further undergoes reaction with a carbonyl compound by utilizing a Lewis acid as catalyst. In general, the

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Mukaiyama aldol adduct is formed by the involvement of an open transition state, however, boron enolates require the use of a weak base with boron Lewis acid and the reaction proceeds through a transition state that is cyclic in nature.14,15

Various other Lewis acids i.e., zinc chloride, iron chloride, tin chloride, boron trifluoride and aluminium trichloride have been utilized after the employment of titanium tetrachloride in Mukaiyama aldol reactions. 16 Moreover, there have been further advancements in this reaction by the application of numerous other electrophiles such as acetals, thioacetals, ketimines, imines and ketones.17-20 Besides electrophiles, many other nucleophiles have now been employed in the Mukaiyama aldol reaction including allylsilanes, silicon dienolates and silyl cyanides.21,22

Moreover, a facile reaction between silicon enolates and observed trimethylsilyl acetals has been in fluoromethanesulfonate, trityl perchlorate and trityl hexachloroantimonate mediated Mukaiyama aldol reactions.<sup>23</sup> In addition, utilization of non-metallic Lewis acids i.e., triphenyl methyl salt has also been reported.24a Previously, almost all reported Mukaiyama aldol reactions were carried out in organic solvents. Despite water being an easily accessible and ecofriendly solvent, it was not considered for Mukaiyama aldol reactions due to the possibility of decomposition of silicon enolates. However, later studies revealed that lanthanide triflate catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reactions were possible using water as solvent, resulting in enantioselective synthesis of aldol adducts in high yields.24b

β-Hydroxy carbonyl compounds with two asymmetric centers are produced as a result of the reaction between enolates and carbonyl compounds.25,26 C-C bonds are formed as a result of this reaction leading to the generation of complicated structures. Sakurai-Hosomo allylation<sup>27</sup> and hetero-Diels-Alder reactions are examples of such C-C bond forming reactions.

OSiMe<sub>3</sub>

$$R^1 = Ph$$
MAR
$$R^1$$
OSiR<sub>3</sub>

$$R^2$$
VMAR
$$R^1 \times S$$

Scheme 1 Titanium chloride catalyzed Mukaiyama and vinylogous Mukaiyama aldol reactions.<sup>6</sup>

Scheme 2 The general mechanism of the TiCl<sub>4</sub> catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction.<sup>17</sup>

Moreover, chiral Lewis acid catalysts are used to carry out asymmetric transformations. Various natural products constitute  $\beta$ -hydroxy carbonyl groups in their structural framework. Specifically, naturally occurring macrolides and polyketides are

known to be derived from  $\beta$ -hydroxy carbonyl compounds. The stereocontrol nature of the Mukaiyama aldol reaction with ambient reaction conditions paved the way towards the synthesis of various natural products. <sup>28–30</sup> There have been

Fig. 1 Structures of some naturally occurring compounds involving Mukaiyama aldol reactions in their total synthesis.

several reports on the incorporation of MAR and VMAR in the synthesis of various natural products. Some of their structures are given in Fig. 1.31,32

The synthesis of natural products is a very appealing yet complicated process and there has been a great focus on the procurement of biologically important natural products via facile synthetic routes.33-36 The role of the Mukaiyama aldol reaction towards the total synthesis of organic compounds and natural products has been summarized by various research groups previously.37,38 The objective of our review is to provide the recent applications of Mukaiyama aldol reaction towards the synthesis of natural products/pharmaceutically important organic compounds, thereby covering the literature reported during the past three years (2020-2023).

### Review of the literature 2.

### Synthesis of macrolide based natural products

The antibacterial potential of Streptomyces species is well they are also source of various macrolides.

Aldgamycin N has been isolated from Streptomyces strain HK-2006-1, and these macrolides have been found to be highly potent against numerous bacterial strains i.e., Staphylococcus aureus 209P.39,40 Aldgamycins are D-mycinose containing mycinolide macrolides having glycosylation at hydroxyl group on carbon 20.41,42 Herle et al.43 reported the total synthesis of mycinolide IV 18, which led to the synthetic pathway towards aldgamycin N. The first step of their synthetic route involves the reduction of compound 10 followed by its reaction with vinyl acetate and amino lipase in tetrahydrofuran, which resulted in compound 11 in 40% yield with 94% ee. Acetate 11 was then reacted with methyl lithium in the presence of diethyl ether followed by Swern oxidation to yield aldehyde 12. In the following step, compound 12 was subjected to the Mukaiyama aldol reaction by treatment with silvl enol ether 13 and compound 14 in isopropyl alcohol and DCM, which resulted in the synthesis of aldol adduct 15 in 69% yield. The compound 15 was further reacted with  $CH_2(OMe)_2$ ,  $P_4O_{10}$ , dichloromethane followed by its reaction with [Rh(acac)(CO)<sub>2</sub>], and compound 16 to obtain aldehyde 17 in 60% yield. Aldehyde 17 was then

Scheme 3 Synthesis of mycinolide IV 18.

- 1. 2,4,6-Cl<sub>3</sub>BzCl, DMAP, Et<sub>3</sub>N, THF:PhMe
- 2. Rh(cod)<sub>2</sub>BAr<sup>F</sup>, *rac*-BINAP, H<sub>2</sub>, DCE
- Cl<sub>3</sub>CC(O)NCO, 9-BBN, DCM then, MeOH, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>
   1:1 rr, 70 %

Scheme 4 Synthesis of leiodermatolide A 28.

reacted over a number of steps to synthesize target molecule **18** (Scheme 3).

The Lithistid sponge of the genus *Leiodermatium* is the main source of anti-mitotic leiodermatolide A, which disrupts the arrangement of microtubules, thereby inhibiting uncontrolled cell division.<sup>44–46</sup> This marine macrolide has found ample significance in medicinal fields; however, its usage is limited as it is not available in sufficient amounts. These factors have led to numerous efforts towards its total synthesis. In 2021, Siu *et al.*<sup>47</sup> reported the efficient and facile synthesis of this

structurally complex and medicinally important macrolide by utilizing catalytic enantioselective hydrogenative allylation, the Mukaiyama aldol reaction, crotylation and propargylation as key steps. For this purpose, they obtained homo allylic alcohol **20** in 78% yield with 92% enantiomeric excess as a result of the iridium catalyzed reaction of aldehyde **19** with 4-chloro-nitro benzyl alcohol using (*S*)-BINAP followed by allylation. Homoallylic alcohol **20** was further reacted *via* several steps to obtain compound **21**. In the next step, ester **22** reacted with lithium diisopropylamide, TMSCl in the presence of THF followed by

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1. 31, BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub>, DCM
-78 °C, 1 h, 85%
(Mukaiyama aldol
Reaction)
29
30
30
87%

Scheme 5 Synthesis of the C1–C27 Fragment of stambomycin D 38.

the titanium tetrachloride catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction reacting with propanal in the presence of DCM, which resulted in the synthesis of adduct 23. Compound 23 was then transformed to compound 24 *via* several steps. Compounds 21 and 24 were then coupled in the presence of 25 and toluene to obtain dienyne 26 in 47% yield, which was then reacted *via* several steps to give conjugated enyne 27. Later, the conjugated

enyne 27 was subjected to react over three distinct steps (including Yamaguchi lactonization) to accomplish the synthesis of leiodermatolide A 28 in 70% yield in a 1:1 racemic ratio (Scheme 4).

Stambomycins are naturally occurring and biologically active macrolides containing two chiral centers that are known to be obtained from *Streptomyces ambofaciens*. <sup>48</sup> Confirmation of the

structural framework and stereochemistry of natural products is one of the key factors in devising an efficient synthetic strategy for these molecules. Researchers have confirmed the

planar structure of stambomycin D by employing NMR spectroscopy and various efforts have been carried out to get information about their stereochemistry via predictive sequence

Scheme 6 Synthesis of desepoxy-tedanolide C 49.

HO,

ŌН

Ö

ŌΗ

49

ŌН

 $IC_{50}$  = 95.3 nM against HCT-116 cells

57a

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Scheme 7 Synthesis of anthracimycin 59 and anthracimycin B 60.

analysis.49,50 In order to ensure the correct stereochemistry of stambomycin D, Lim et al.51 in 2021 reported its total synthesis and then justified its structure through nuclear magnetic

resonance spectroscopy. They employed the Mukaiyama aldol reaction in their synthetic approach towards the synthesis of C1-C27 fragment of stambomycin D. The synthesis was

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inaugurated with the procurement of compound 30 by reacting aldehyde 29 over a number of steps. Then, compound 30 was subjected to react with silyl enol ether 31 by employing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction, using boron trifluoride diethyl etherate catalyst in DCM, which gave the Mukaiyama aldol product in 85% yield. The next step involved the Dess-Martin periodinane mediated oxidation to obtain β-keto ester 32 in 87% yield. β-Keto ester 32 was reacted with HCl by using a suitable solvent ratio of methanol and THF, followed by deprotection of the alcoholic group to furnish C1-C11 fragment 33 in 44% yield. Furthermore, fragments C13-C22 34 and C23-C27 35 were prepared individually, which were coupled in the presence of (S)-BINOL, diethyl zinc and Cy<sub>2</sub>NH followed by the addition of Ti(Oi-Pr)<sub>4</sub> and diethyl ether, which resulted in the synthesis of propargylic alcohol 36 in 62% yield. Propargylic alcohol 36 was later converted to vinylboronic ester 37. This synthesized ester 37 was then coupled with C1-C11 fragment 33 by using palladium tetrakistriphenyl phosphine and Tl<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. thereby leading to the synthesis of target molecule 38 in 41% yield by using the deprotection strategy (Scheme 5).

Tedanolide C is a naturally occurring macrolide extracted from sea sponges i.e. Ircinia sp. Excellent cytotoxic activity has been found to be demonstrated by tedanolide C against HCT- 116 cell lines i.e., 95.3 nM.52 Moreover, it plays an important role in interrupting the biosynthesis of proteins.<sup>53</sup> The synthesis of tedanolide C was considered to be a troublesome task due to the primary hydroxyl group containing few macrolactone moieties. Thus, Lucke et al. 54 reported the total synthesis of desepoxy-tedanolide C by utilizing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction, Kiyooka aldol reaction and Julia-Kocienski olefination as key steps. The first step of the synthetic scheme involved the synthesis of carboxylic acid 40 which was further reacted with compound 41 in the presence of EDCl, dimethyl aminopyridine and dichloromethane to obtain allyl ester 42 in 78% yield. Fragment A was subjected to the Mukaiyama aldol reaction upon treatment with acetaldehyde 43, which resulted in the synthesis of aldol adduct 44. Compound 44 was later reacted over a number of steps to obtain fragment 45. In the second part of their synthetic scheme, ester 46 was reacted over number of steps, which gave aldehyde 47. Aldehyde 47 was further subjected to react with previously synthesized fragment 45 in the presence of DIPCl, triethyl amine and diethyl ether, which resulted in the synthesis of compound 48 in 55% yield. Compound 48 was then treated over a number of steps, thus leading to the synthesis of target molecule i.e., tedanolide C 49 (Scheme 6).

Scheme 8 Synthesis of the carbon skeleton of A-74528 69

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The ability of bacteria to develop resistance against numerous antibiotics has reached dangerous levels, which has led to emphasis on the synthesis and discovery of non-resistant antibiotics to treat bacterial diseases. Anthracimycin is a nonresistible, naturally occurring macrolide that is highly potent against various bacterial strains i.e. Mycobacterium tuberculosis, S. aureus and B. anthracis. 55-57 They are not dangerous to normal human cells and perform their biological activities effectively. Taking into account the high demand of non-resistible antibiotics, Tian et al.58 in 2022 devised a concise and efficient synthetic strategy for the synthesis of pharmaceutically important macrolides i.e. anthracimycin and anthracimycin B in 25 mg and 14 mg, respectively. They carried out the Mukaiyama aldol reaction, intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction and olefincross metathesis as key steps in their synthetic approach. The synthesis began with the generation of aldehyde 53 in 85% yield from the Evan's symmetric alkylation of xazolidinone 50 followed by treatment with crotonaldehyde via olefin crossmetathesis. Sulfone 54 was then made to react with aldehyde 53 in the presence of lithium hexamethyldisilazide and lithium borohydride followed by Dess-martin periodinane oxidation to obtain diene 55 in 62% yield. Diene 55 further underwent triaryl borane catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction with silyl ketene 56 in diethyl aluminium chloride which gave more than 3:1 diastereomeric ratio of trienes 57a and 57b in 63% yield. In the next step, reduction of ester with Burgess reagent in the

presence of DIBAL-H took place, which gave aldehyde 58 in 65% vield on further treatment with Dess-Martin periodinane. This aldehyde 58 later reacted over three different steps to give anthracimycin 59 and anthracimycin B 60 in 25 mg and 14 mg, respectively (Scheme 7).

### 2.2. Synthesis of polyketide-based natural products

A-74528 is a naturally occurring polyketide, that has been isolated from Streptomyces strains. They are highly remarkable in medicinal chemistry as they restrain the release of 2'-phosphodiesterase, hence exhibiting high potency against viral and cancerous cells. Their structure comprises six fused rings along with a pyrone side chain and six asymmetric centers.<sup>59</sup> Despite their significant biological activity, there have been minor contributions towards their total synthesis. Maeir et al.,60 in 2022 attempted to report the total synthesis of A-74528 by employing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction, 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition, spiro epoxide annulation and hydroarylation as major steps. In the first step, tetralone 61 was treated with carbonate 62 by employing a bis-pyridine ligand to obtain ketoester 64 in 84% yield. Later, compound 65 was obtained in 52% yield by reacting keto ester 64 over a number of different steps. Compound 65 was treated with Shenvi's HAT hydrogenation, followed by treatment with benzyl bromide in tetrabutyl aluminium iodide and sodium hydride. Further treatment with HF in the presence of pyridine gave neopentylic alcohol 66 in

Synthesis of caprolactones A1 and A2, caprolactones 74a and 75a, B1 and B2, 74b and 75b and their derivatives 74c and 75c.

32% yield with 37% brsm. The synthesized alcohol **66** was further subjected to Stahl oxidation, then subsequent treatment with  $LiCH(BPin)_2$  and  $NaBO_3 \cdot 4H_2O$  resulted in the synthesis of aldehyde **67** in 27% yield. The synthesized aldehyde **67** was subjected to titanium chloride catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction with silyl enol ether **68**. Thus, the carbon skeleton of A-74528 **69** was obtained in 52% yield on subsequent oxidation with Dess-Martin periodinane (Scheme 8).

It has been discovered that many coloured substances isolated from coloured aphids are highly biologically active and are found to be highly potent against a number of bacterial diseases. They are also found to inhibit the proliferation of cancerous cells. In a similar way, Inai *et al.*, isolated pharmacologically important organic compounds from Cryptomyzus species, as a result four different polyketides *i.e.*, caprolactones  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ ,  $B_1$ , and  $B_2$  were obtained. These polyketides are  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated compounds that have been derived

Scheme 10 Synthesis of iso-lankacidin 81

from δ-lactones.62 These are found to be effective against various diseases as they inhibit the human immunodeficiency virus activity and interrupt the uncontrolled cell division. Inai et al.,63 reacted compound 70 through a number of steps to obtain aldehyde 71, which was further subjected to react with TMS-substituted moiety 72 via a boron trifluoride diethyl etherate catalyzed Mukiyama aldol reaction to give 73a, 73b and 73c in 59%, 52% and 40% yields, respectively. Each of them was reacted with a Grubbs second generation catalyst in DCM to synthesize a mixture of 74a and 75a (caprolactones  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ ), 74b and 75b (caprolactones  $B_1$  and  $B_2$ ) and 74c and 75c in 79%, 69% and 60% yields, respectively (Scheme 9).

Soil bacteria i.e. Streptomyces rochei are a source of numerous occurring compounds including lankacidins.

Lankacidins are pharmacologically important polyketides which are found to be highly potent against bacterial diseases. Their structural formulae contain huge 17-membered cyclic rings. 64,65 Cai et al. 66 in 2020 reported the synthesis of naturally occurring members of lankacidin family i.e., iso- and secolankacidin and evaluated their efficacy against bacterial strains. Iso-lankacidin was synthesized by involving the Mukaiyama aldol rection as one of the main steps in their synthetic scheme. The synthesis began with treatment of lcamphorsultam derivative 76 with aldehyde 77 via titanium chloride catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction (dr = more than 20:1). Furthermore, reaction of the Mukaiyama aldol product with sodium methoxide followed by esterification with EDCl in the presence of DMAP resulted in the synthesis of compound 78

OH HN CH<sub>3</sub>Cl Exhibited IC<sub>50</sub> = 1.70 
$$\mu$$
M against Escherichia coli BI21 Exhibited IC<sub>50</sub> = 0.57  $\mu$ M against Mycobacterium smegmatis Exhibited IC<sub>50</sub> = 0.84  $\mu$ M against rabbit reticulocyte

Scheme 11 Synthesis of bactobolin A 90

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in 68% yield. Compound 78 was further subjected to three different steps; oxidation, Julia-Kocienski olefination and Stille coupling to obtain the macrocyclic ring 80 in 64% yield.

Compound 80 was then reacted again over three steps to synthesize iso-lankacidin 81 (Scheme 10).

The naturally occurring polyketide i.e., bactobolin A is extracted from Pseudomonas sp. It is employed as a secondary

Scheme 12 Synthesis of Aflastatin A 105.

metabolite as it exhibits a wide range of biological activities against both types of bacterial and tumour cell lines. Their structural skeleton comprises a lactone moiety along with five chiral centers. 67,68 Considering the wide ranging significance of bactobolin A, Vojackova et al. 69 in 2020 reported their total synthesis by employing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction, rhodium catalyzed amination and alkoxy carbonylation as major steps. The first step of their efficient synthetic strategy involved the preparation of enone 83 by the reaction of quinic acid 82 over a number of steps. In the next step, this enone 83 was made to react with TBSOTf and i-Pr<sub>2</sub>NEt by using acetonitrile as a solvent to obtain TMS-silyl enol ether 84. Silyl enol ether 84 was further subjected to react with compound 85 via a titanium chloride catalyzed vinylogous Mukaiyama aldol reaction (VMAR) by using dichloromethane as a solvent to obtain Mukaiyama aldol product 86 in 55% yield with a separable diastereoselectivity ratio of 7:1. Later, aldol adduct 86 was hydrogenated in the presence of palladium to obtain ketone 87 in >99% yield. The ketone based compound 87 was further reacted over several steps to furnish amine moiety 88. Amine 88 was then coupled with acid 89 followed by deprotection of protecting groups in acidic conditions, which led to the synthesis of bactobolin A 90 in 92% yield (Scheme 11).

Aflatoxins are extremely detrimental as they contaminate food which results in the proliferation of cancer cells in animals and humans. 70 In order to prevent the toxic effects of aflatoxins, there is a dire need for aflatoxin growth inhibitors. Aflastatin A, which was obtained from Streptomyces sp. MRI142 in 1996, was

found to interrupt the growth of aflatoxins.71,72 Aflastatin A is a naturally occurring and structurally complex polyketide, which contains 29 optically active carbons along with numerous hydroxyl groups. Its structure also contains a derivative of tetramic acid on its lengthy chains. There have been numerous reports on the total synthesis of aflastatin A to date. Recently, Evans et al. 73 reported the asymmetric and efficient approach for the total synthesis of aflastatin A in 0.69% overall yield by employing various aldol reactions including the Mukaiyama aldol reaction. The C3-C15 aldehyde 92 was synthesized in 94% yield by treating oxazolidinone 91 over numerous steps. Similarly, oxazolidinone 91 was made to react with aldehyde 93 through different reactions to synthesize C16-C26 enolsilane 94. Aldehyde 92 and enolsilane 94 were then made to react via a trityl-catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction in the presence of Ph<sub>3</sub>CPF<sub>6</sub> and DCM, followed by reaction with PPTS and methanol to obtain Mukaiyama aldol product 95 in 75% yield in a diastereoselectivity ratio of more than 95:05. It was inferred that the trityl-catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction is highly efficient as compared to the BF3 · OEt2 mediated Mukaiyama aldol reaction in this case, as the latter resulted in aldol adduct 95 with a lower diastereoselectivity ratio (dr = 57:43). Compound 95 was further subjected to Prasad reduction, followed by preparation of acetonide and finally leading to the synthesis of ketone 96 via ozonolysis in 81% yield. In order to synthesize C27-C35 aldehyde 99, aldehyde 97 and oxazolidinone 98 were treated over a number of steps. Aldehyde 99 was then made to react with ketone 100 (which was synthesized by

Scheme 13 Synthesis of  $(\pm)$ -omphalic acid 111.

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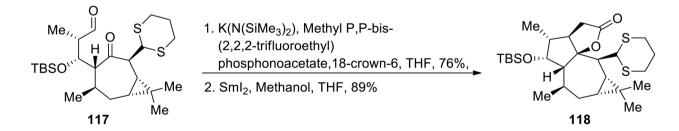
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Synthesis of terpenoids based natural products

using 1-decanol 101 as the starting reagent) to furnish C27-C48 aldehyde fragment 102 in 80% yield over several steps. C27-C48 aldehyde 102 and C3-C26 ketone 96 were subsequently coupled in the presence of magnesium bromide diethyl etherate, PMP and dichloromethane followed by Prasad's reduction to furnish diol 103 in 70% yield with a diastereoselectivity ratio of more than 95:05. In the next step, diol 103 was reacted with aq. H<sub>2</sub>SiF<sub>6</sub> and acetonitrile in DCM, followed by reaction with a hydrogen molecule in the presence of palladium to afford naturally occurring C3-C48 fragment 104 of aflastatin A in 53% yield. Furthermore, diol 103 was made to react under a number of steps to synthesize diethylamine salt of aflastain A 105 (Scheme 12).

Omphaline sesquiterpenoids are generally obtained from land and sea organisms, and their structure is composed of two consistent quaternary carbon cores. Omphalic acid was the former omphalene sesquiterpenoid, which was extracted from Omphalanthus filiformis, that is a Colombian liverwort.74 Omphalic acid and its corresponding sesquiterpenoids hold prime importance in the natural product family, but owing to their complex carbon framework, it was considered a highly arduous task to successfully carry out their total synthesis. In this regard, Chen et al.75 in 2021 attempted to report the total synthesis of omphalic acid for the first time. For this purpose, they reacted cyclic ketone 106 with methyl magnesium bromide in the presence of trimethylsilyl chloride and cuprous iodide via conjugate addition to obtain compound 107 in 95% yield. Conjugate addition product 107 was



Scheme 14 Synthesis of euphorikanin A 119

further subjected to the Mukaiyama aldol reaction by reacting with titanium tetrachloride and trioxane in dichloromethane to obtain compound 108 in 63% yield. Mukaiyama aldol product 108 was then transformed to intermediate 109 by undergoing several steps. Intermediate 109 was later subjected to ketone synthesis and isomerization steps followed by palladium catalyzed hydrogenation and HAT hydrogenation to obtain compound 110 in 92% yield with a 13:1 diastereoselectivity ratio. In the next step, cyclic ketone

Scheme 15 Synthesis of curcusone diterpenes.

Scheme 16 Synthesis of curcucomosin 134, vitexolide 135, villosin 136, coronarin E 137, Chinensine C 138 and (E)-labda-7,11,13-trien-16,15-olide 142.

110 was made to react under various conditions, finally leading to the synthesis of target molecule *i.e.* ( $\pm$ )-omphalic acid 111 (Scheme 13).

Most of the natural products are found to be isolated from *Euphorbiaceae*.<sup>76,77</sup> Among them, euphorikanin A is a naturally occurring diterpenoid, which is composed of four fused cyclic

reaction), 66%

rings with 8 chiral centers, obtained from Euphorbia kansui. These are found to be highly active against cancerous cell lines i.e., NCI-446 and HeLa. Classen et al. 78 attempted to describe the total synthesis of euphorikanin A by utilizing Mukaiyama aldol reaction in their synthetic strategy. In this regard, they treated (+)-3-carene 112 with ozone, followed by its reaction with dimethyl sulfide and HC(OMe)3 and CeCl3·7H2O. In the next step, enol ether 113 was obtained as a result of reaction with

LiNiPr2 and TMSCl in tetrahydrofuran. Compound 113 was further made to react with SnCl<sub>4</sub> in acetonitrile at -20 °C *via* the Mukaiyama aldol reaction followed by reaction with acetic acid, which gave compound 114 in 59% yield. Aldol adduct 114 was then converted to alcohol containing compound 116 in 79% yield as a result of conjugate addition with aldehyde 115 in the presence of diethyl ether. Alcohol 116 was further treated through several steps to obtain compound 117. Aldehyde 117

Scheme 17 Total syntheses of ganocochlearins C-D and cochlearol T.

then underwent Still-Gennari olefination followed by reaction with SmI<sub>2</sub> using methanol/THF, which resulted in the synthesis of compound **118** in 89% yield. Compound **118** was then treated over a number of steps, thus leading to the synthesis of euphorikanin A **119** (Scheme 14).

Jatropha curcas is the source of curcusone diterpenes. These diterpenes are used to cure a number of diseases. Their structure is composed of three carbon containing cyclic rings. Owing to the biological significance of curcusone diterpenes, Cui et al. 10 in 2021, for the first time reported their total synthesis. The first step of total synthesis involved the treatment of perillaldehyde 120 with TBSOTf, triethyl amine and dichloromethane via the Mukaiyama aldol reaction, which further involved the Lewis acid catalyzed reaction with HC(OET)3. Mukaiyama aldol product 121 was subjected to reduction followed by treatment with compound 122 in the presence of triphenyl phosphine, DEAD and tetrahydrofuran, which resulted in the synthesis of compound 123 in 48% yield.

Compound 123 was then treated *via* a number of steps to obtain enone 124. Compound 124 was further treated with KHMDS, methyl iodide in the presence of tetrahydrofuran to obtain curcusone A 125a and curcusone B 125b in 63% yield. In the next step, curcusone C 125c and curcusone D 125d were synthesized from 125a and 125b, as a result of the reaction with KHMDS and MoOPh in tetrahydrofuran. 125c and 125d were then subjected to react through two different routes to obtain dimericursone (–)-126a and curcusone analog 128 in 18% and 59% yields respectively. Furthermore, curcusone A and B 125a and 125b were made to react with TMEDA in the presence of oxygen and methanol, which resulted in 21% yield of pyracurcasone 129 and 60% yield of compound 130 (Scheme 15).

An efficient methodology for treating cyclic dienol silanes with chiral aldehydes has been put forward by using Lewis acid *i.e.*, Yb(OTf)<sub>3</sub> or Zn(OTf)<sub>2</sub> as catalysts for known Mukaiyama aldol reactions. This efficient methodology was then employed to synthesize various naturally occurring terpenoids. These

Scheme 18 Total syntheses of ganocins A-C 152-154

naturally occurring terpenoids have been found to be active against various inflammatory and cancerous diseases.81,82 These are also used as effective pain killers. In this regard, Adamkiewicz et al.83 reacted sclareolide 131 with CH3NHOCH3 in the presence of HCl, AlMe<sub>3</sub> and dichloromethane, followed by its reaction with thionyl chloride and then subsequent reduction resulted in the synthesis of compound 132 in 90% yield. Compound 132 was further reacted with silvl enol ether 133 via the Yb(OTf)3 catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction, which resulted in the mixture of curcucomosin 134 and vitexolide 135 in 70% yield (5:1). This was then reacted with aluminium oxide and pyridine to obtain villosin 136 in 84% yield. Villosin 136 was then subjected to reduction in THF and DCM one by one, thus leading to the synthesis of coronarin E 137 and chinensine C 138 in 80% and 76% yield, respectively. Similarly, sclareolide 131 was transformed into mixture of aldehydes 139 and 140. Aldehyde 139 was subjected to Mukaiyama aldol reaction to obtain compound 141, which was further reacted with aluminium oxide and pyridine to synthesize (E)-labda-7,11,13trien-16,15-olide 142 in 78% yield (Scheme 16).

In order to treat various cancerous diseases, Ganoderma fungi has been found to play an effective role. This particular

fungus is a source of extraction of a number of triterpenoids and polysaccharides.84 In a similar way, many biologically active monoterpenoids i.e. gonocochlearin A, C, D and ganocins A-C, were isolated from the Ganoderma cochlear. Many of these were found to be highly potent against acetylcholinesterase activity.85 Ganocins A-C are highly structurally complex monoterpenoids with a five-membered cyclic ring. Moreover, their structure constitutes five asymmetric/chiral centers. Beside numerous reported synthetic routes to attain these structurally and biologically diverse molecules, an efficient synthetic methodology for their synthesis was required. For this purpose, Shao et al. 86 and Zhang et al.87 in 2020 reported the synthesis of these naturally occurring terpenoids by utilizing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction as a key step. In the first step, geranylacetone 143 was made to react with lithium diisopropyl amide and tert-methyl silyl chloride in the presence of triethyl amine and tetrahydrofuran, followed by its reaction with 5-methoxy salicylaldehyde 144 via titanium chloride catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction. This resulted in the synthesis of compound 145 in 63% yield. The Mukaiyama product 145 was further converted to phenol 146 by undergoing a number of steps. Compound 146 was subsequently reacted with Tf<sub>2</sub>O by using triethyl amine and

Scheme 19 Synthesis of atropurpuran diterpene 162.

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DCM to obtain triflate 147 in 63% yield. Then, the intermediate compounds 146 and 147 were further reacted individually i.e., compound 146 was subjected to demethylation to synthesize cochlearol T 148 in 52% yield. Similarly, compound 147 was subjected to palladium catalyzed carboxylation followed by its reaction with 4-methylthiophenol, which gave ganocochlearin C 149 in 40% yield. The intermediate compound 149 was also subjected to palladium catalyzed carboxylation in the presence of DMSO, followed by subsequent demethylation, which afforded ganocochlearin D 150 in 73% yield (Scheme 17).

Furthermore, intermediate 146 was made to react with SO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> in the presence of sodium carbonate, followed by reaction with cesium fluoride which gave dienone. Dienone was then reduced regioselectively to furnish compound 151 in 80% vield. Compound 151 was further demethylated to give ganocin B 152 and C 153 in 66% and 65% yields, respectively. Ganocin B was subsequently converted to ganocin A 154 by undergoing several steps (Scheme 18).

Aconitum heterophyllum is the source of many diterpenes such as campylopin,88 atropurpuran89 and Guan Fu diterpenoid A.90 Among these, atropurpuran is a non-alkaloidal diterpene whose structural framework constitutes five cyclic rings with tetracyclo and bicyclo units. Suzuki et al.91 in 2022 reported the synthesis of the highly complex structure of atropurpuran by

employing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction and intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction in their strategy. The first step involved the reaction of 6-methoxy-1-tetralone 155 with hydrogen bromide utilizing aqueous hydrogen peroxide and acetic acid followed by Hartwig hydroxylation to give phenol 156 in 80% yield. The hydroxyl group was protected by benzyl bromide followed by a subsequent Mannich reaction with formaldehyde and Me<sub>2</sub>-NH<sub>2</sub>Cl in acetic anhydride. The next step involved the reaction with methyl iodide in the presence of potassium cyanide and ammonium chloride to furnish nitrile 157 in 88% yield. It was then made to react with TMSOTf in triethyl amine and DCM to afford trimethyl silyl enol ether 158, which then underwent the Mukaiyama aldol reaction with acrolein 159 by utilizing Yb(OTf)<sub>3</sub> as a catalyst in toluene or ethanol/water to synthesize adduct 160. The adduct 160 was further treated over a number of steps to obtain atropurpuran skeleton 161. This atropurpuran skeleton then resulted in the synthesis of atropurpuran diterpene 162 on treatment with Qin's intermediate or Xu's intermediate (Scheme 19).

Garsubellin A has been found to be isolated from Garcinia subelliptica, a tree that is present on Okinawa Japan island.92 This naturally occurring monoterpene has wide biological significance alongside structural complexities. Their structure is composed of a cyclic framework constituting 13 carbon atoms

Scheme 20 Synthesis of garsubellin A 169

with three quaternary carbons. They are known to boost the activity of acetylcholine transferase thus preventing the onset of Alzheimer's disease.93 Owing to their remarkable structural framework and biological significance, various synthetic routes have been reported towards their total synthesis. However, these methods resulted in racemic synthesis of target molecules. Jang et al.94 in 2022 attempted to describe the enantioselective synthesis of target molecule. The first step of their synthetic methodology involved the reaction of enone 163 with LDA and TMSCl followed by a titanium chloride catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction in DCM upon treatment with aldehyde 164. As a result, the Mukaiyama aldol product 165 was obtained in 75% yield, which was then subjected to a number of steps to afford compound 166. Later, compound 166 underwent conjugate addition in the presence of Lev's conditions followed by subsequent oxidation by using DMP and DCC to furnish triketone 168 in 94% yield. It was then transformed into target molecule 169 by undergoing a number of different reactions (Scheme 20).

Naturally occurring polycyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinols belong to the class of monoterpenoids and are known to exhibit potent biological activity against a number of diseases.95 Newly discovered acylphloroglucinol monoterpenoids containing six-membered rings were derived from

Hypericum patulum which includes hypatulin A and hypatulin B. 96 Their structure is composed of five-membered carbon rings along with 4 asymmetric centers. Moreover, they are found to be effective against a number of bacterial strains i.e., E. coli, S. aureus and B. subtilis. As hyptaulin A was found to be easily synthesized from hyptaulin B, Leisering et al.97 in 2022 attempted to report the total synthesis of hyptaulin B by carrying out the Mukaiyama aldol reaction and photo-oxidation. The first step of synthesis involved the enolization reaction of cyclopentanone 170 followed by Mukaiyma aldol addition with aldehyde 171 to yield diastereomers 172-(S) and 172-(R) in 91% yield with diastereoselectivity ratio of 3:2. Both these diastereomers were further subjected to deacetalization to afford enone 173 in 92% yield. This reaction was followed by the procurement of isomer 174 in 59% yield from enone 173. Compound 174 was then subjected to Homo-Sakurai allylation followed by the addition of trimethylamine which gave substituted ester 176 in 63% yield with 1:2 diastereoselectivity ratio. However, Homo-Sakurai-allylation followed by treatment with sodium hexamethyldisilazide gave ester 176 in 85% yield. Ester 176 was further reduced with DIBAL-H and then subjected to Lewis acid catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction in DCM. Then, oxidation was carried out with DMP, which gave triketone intermediate 177 in 62% yield. This triketone intermediate was

Scheme 21 Synthesis of hyptaulin B 175.

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then reacted several times, thereby leading to the synthesis of target molecule 178 (Scheme 21).

Owing to the wide range of biological activities exhibited by naturally occurring spiroketals, continuous efforts towards their total syntheses have been reported by various researchers. Alotaketal A is one of the naturally occurring marine spiroketal that has been found to be obtained from *Hamiegra* species. They are included in the sesterpenoid family as they have a didehydro spiroketal moiety in their structure. 98,99 Lee et al. 100 in 2020 attempted to describe the total synthesis of alotketal A by involving the Mukaiyama aldol reaction and epoxide rearrangement along with the gold-mediated spiroketalization approach. The synthesis began with the reaction of R-curvane 179 via iron chloride catalyzed formation of enol ether, which resulted in the synthesis of hydroxy curvane 180 via O-nitroso Mukaiyama aldol reaction. Hydroxy curvane 180 further underwent a number of reactions to synthesize coupling fragment 181. In the next step, aldehyde 182 was made to react with compound 183 in the presence of Ti(OiPr)<sub>4</sub>, (S)-BINOL, (CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-CHOH and PhCF<sub>3</sub> to obtain coupling fragment 184 in 11:1 enantioselective ratio. Fragments 181 and 184 were finally coupled by using copper iodide followed by treatment with hydroxide in methanol and gold-mediatedspiroketalization resulted in the synthesis of target molecule alotaketal A 185 in 82% yield (Scheme 22).

Most of the seawater norsesterpene metabolites belong to the family of naturally occurring endoperoxides. Various members of this family have been known to be isolated from different sponges *i.e.*, Diacarnus, Sigmosceptrella, prianos or Mycale. Similarly, Mycale sponges are a source of different mycaperoxides which exhibit significant biological activity

against a number of bacterial and viral diseases. 101,102 They constitute 1,2-dioxane ring substituted propionic acid along with a sesquiterpene subunit in their structure. Various researchers have attempted to describe the total synthesis of these naturally occurring endoperoxides, but a concise and efficient stereoselective route has not been developed yet. Thus, Kerim et al.103 in 2022 synthesized various members of the mycaperoxide class for the first time. The synthesis initiated with the generation of cyclopropylidene 187 by treating sclareol 186 over a number of steps. Cyclopropylidene was then subjected to protection with TESCl, followed by reaction with metachloroperoxybenzoic acid to give compound 188 in 81% yield. Compound 188 was further converted to peroxyacetal 189 in 84% yield, by undergoing three different steps. In the next step, peroxyacetal 189 underwent the Mukaiyama aldol reaction upon treatment with silyl enol ether 190 by using Sc(OTf)3 as catalyst and dichloromethane as solvent. A subsequent reaction with p-toluene sulfonic acid in the presence of methanol gave a mixture of different diastereomers i.e., 191a, 191b, 191c and 191d. Diastereomer 191a was further reacted with hydrogen peroxide and lithium hydroxide using THF/H2O as a solvent. Thus, mycaperoxide D methyl ester 192 was obtained in 76% yield after reaction with TMSCHN<sub>2</sub> in methanol (Scheme 23).

A series of similar steps were adopted to synthesize mycaperoxide C methyl ester **196**. For this purpose, compound **193a** was converted to peroxyacetal **194** in 82% yield. Peroxyacetal **194** later underwent reaction with silyl enol ether **190** by using a Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub> catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction in DCM solvent, followed by reaction with APTS, which gave a mixture of diastereomers **195a** and **195b** in 96% yield. **195b** was then treated further to obtain mycaperoxide C methyl ester **196** by employing

Scheme 22 Synthesis of (-)-alotaketal A 185.

similar steps to those described earlier for the synthesis of mycaperoxide D (Scheme 24).

The Mukaiyama aldol reaction was further employed to synthesize mycaperoxides B and G. For this purpose, compound 193b was converted to peroxyacetal 197 by undergoing several steps. Peroxyacetal was then subjected to Y(OTf)<sub>3</sub> catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction upon treatment with silyl enol ether 190 to furnish aldol adducts 198a in 32% yield with 198b and 198c in a racemic mixture. Adduct 198a was further made to react with SOCl<sub>2</sub> and pyridine to synthesize mycaperoxide G 199c in 63% yield along with 199a and 199b. Similarly, adduct 198c underwent a reaction with hydrogen peroxide in the presence of lithium hydroxide and THF/H2O, which gave mycaperoxide B 200a and compound 200b in a racemic mixture (Scheme 25).

Leaves of Cryptocarya laevigata are a source of a wide range of cryptolaevillactones (CLs). They belong to a class of naturally occurring monoterpenoids whose structural framework comprises a spiro-nonane moiety.104 Considering the versatility of these cryptolaevillactones, Miura et al. 105 in 2022 reported the synthesis of representative members of CLs 206a-206d by employing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction as the crucial step. The first step of synthesis involved the reaction of cyclohexanone 201 with cyclopropyl phenyl sulfide 202 in the presence of butyl lithium and anhydrous THF followed by treatment with HBF4 in diethyl ether via Trost's and Undheim's method to obtain spiro ketone 203 in 82% yield. Spiro ketone 203 was further treated a number of times to synthesize silyl enol ether 204. Silyl enol ether 204 was subjected to react with chiral aldehyde 205 via Lewis acid catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction

Scheme 23 Synthesis of members of the mycaperoxide family

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to obtain cryptolaevillactones **206a**, **206b**, **206c** and **206d** in 16%, 16%, 34% and 34% yields, respectively (Scheme 26).

### 2.4. Synthesis of alkaloid-based natural products

The Rauvolfia Vomitaria plant is an isolation source of rauvomines A and B, which are monoterpenoid indole alkaloids. Rauvomine A constitutes a chlorine atom at carbon number 20 and an extra cyclopropane ring is present in the skeleton of rauvomine B.106 These indole alkaloids have wide medicinal applications and they are found to be highly potent against inflammatory diseases. Owing to their unparalleled biological applications and structural diversity, they have attracted the interest of various researchers. Most recently, Wu et al. 107 reported the brief and efficient total synthesis of these compounds by employing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction as one of its key steps. In this regard, compounds 207 and 208 were coupled and reacted in a number of steps, thus leading to the synthesis of ketone 209 in excellent yields. In the next step, ketone 209 was made to react with compound 210 by utilizing potassium carbonate and dimethylformamide followed by its reaction with potassium hexamethyl disilazide and tert-butyl dimethyl silyl chloride in tetrahydrofuran to obtain tert-butyldimethylsilyl ether 211 in 95% yield. In the next step, ether 211 was subjected to the Mukaiyama aldol reaction upon treatment with titanium chloride in dichloromethane at −78 °C to room temperature. This reaction resulted in the synthesis of aldol adduct 212 in 70% yield, thereby synthesizing the fivemembered cyclic ring of the target molecule. The compound 212 was then reacted in the presence of different conditions to obtain the central ring of rauvomines 213a and 213b, respectively. Compounds 213a and 213b were further individually reacted with (COCl)2, dimethylsulfoxide, trimethylamine followed by treatment with hydrochloric acid to obtain the dextrorotary and levorotatory stereoisomers of compounds 214a and 214b in 82% and 85% yields, respectively. In this way, total synthesis of rauvomines can be carried out by employing this

synthetic approach, which has been utilized to synthesize a highly complex ring in its structure (Scheme 27).

Various types of indole alkaloids can be extracted from Tabernaemontana corymbosa plants. 108 Specifically, vobasinyl iboga-type and chippiine-type indole alkaloids are found to be highly active against cancerous diseases. Kam and colleagues carried out the isolation of tronocarpine in the beginning of 21st century. 109 Tronocarpine holds significant importance in the chippiine-type alkaloids family. Its structure is composed of five-membered cyclic rings, constituting lactams and chiral centers. Owing to the importance of the tronocarpine alkaloid, various synthetic schemes have been proposed by different researchers in recent years. However, previous reported methodologies were too long and time consuming. Hence, Nakayama et al. 110 in 2021 demonstrated the efficient methodology for its synthesis. The first step of the synthesis involved the coupling reaction between 215 and α,β-unsaturated ester 216 in the presence of n-Bu<sub>3</sub>P, acetonitrile and methanol followed by hydrogenation and addition reactions, which led to the synthesis of compound 217 in 56% yield. The compound 217 was further treated with sodium azide in DMF solvent followed by subsequent reduction with DIBAL, which gave aldehyde 218 in 52% yield. Aldehyde 218 was then subjected to Mukaiyama aldol reaction conditions in the presence of TBSOTf, DIPEA and dichloromethane at 0 °C to obtain silyl enol ether. In the following step, acetaldehyde dimethyl acetal and TBSOTf were added to the reaction mixture, which resulted in 35% yield of compound 219 along with 25% yield of by-products i.e., 219a and 219b. By-products 219a and 219b were then treated with Amberlyst®15 in acetone to obtain 219 in 86% yield. Compound 219 was further reacted via several steps to obtain an excellent yield of tronocarpine alkaloid 220 (Scheme 28).

Sirivastava and Ha<sup>111</sup> in 2021 developed a novel approach for the Mukaiyama aldol reaction by employing chiral substituents. A highly stereoselective synthesis of aziridine-2-carboxaldehyde was carried out by employing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction between chiral 1- $(\alpha$ -methylbenzyl)-aziridine-2-carboxylaldehyde

Scheme 24 Synthesis of mycaperoxide C 196

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and a diverse range of enol silanes by employing zinc chloride as a catalyst. Most of the alkaloids are known to be synthesized from  $\beta$ -(aziridin-2-yl)- $\beta$ -hydroxy ketones *i.e.* (–)-epiallo-isomuscarine, epi-galantinic acid and the (2S,3R,5S)-enigmol analog. Sirivastava also reported the total synthesis of these alkaloids. The first step involved the reaction between carboxyl aldehyde 221 and chiral enol silyl compound 222 via a zinc chloride-mediated-Mukaiyama aldol reaction in acetonitrile to

Mycaperoxide exhibits  $IC_{50} = 0.25-1.0 \mu g/mL$  against Herpes simplex virus and vesicular stomatitis virus

Scheme 25 Synthesis of mycaperoxide B 200 and G 199.

206c. 34%

Scheme 26 Synthesis of cryptolaevillactones 206a-206d.

206b. 6%

obtain aldol adduct 223 with a diastereoselectivity ratio of more than 95:5. Compound 223 was then made to react with TBSOTf and 2,6-lutidine in the presence of DCM to obtain compound 224 in 88% yield. Compound 224 was then reacted over several steps to synthesize (–)-epiallo-isomuscarine 225 (Scheme 29).

Substituted chiral aldehyde **221** was made to react with trimethylsilyl enol ether **226** by using zinc chloride as the catalyst in acetonitrile to furnish aldol adduct **227**. The aldol adduct **227** was reacted with TBSOTf and 2,6-lutidine utilizing DCM which resulted in the synthesis of compound **228** in 85% yield. Finally, (2*S*,3*R*,5*S*)-enigmol analog **229** was synthesized by treating compound **228** over several steps (Scheme 30).

Substituted chiral aldehyde **221** underwent a zinc chloride catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction with trimethyl silyl enol ether **230** to furnish aldol adduct **231** in a diastereoselectivity ratio of more than 97:3. Compound **231** was reacted with TBSOTf and 2,6-lutidine in dichloromethane to afford compound **232** in 83% yield. Compound **232** was further made to react in a number of steps to synthesize *epi*-galantic acid **233** (Scheme 31).

Kobayashi along with colleagues isolated lycopodium alkaloids *i.e.*, lyconesidine A and B from *Lycopodium chinese*. These are naturally occurring alkaloids, which are comprised of Fawcettimine alkaloids type cyclic moiety in their structural framework. 112,113 They are found to be effective in inhibiting the proliferation of cancerous cells, thus behaving as anti-mitotic agents. Compounds with anti-cancerous potential have been widely investigated. 114,115 Specifically, Lyconsesidine B has been

found to interrupt the polymerization process of tubulin with  $IC_{50} = 250 \mu M$ . Taking into account the structural diversity and anti-cancerous potential of Lyconesidine B, Kurose et al.116 in 2020 furnished the total synthesis of this naturally occurring alkaloid by employing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction as one of its key steps. At the onset of synthesis, enol triflate 234 was reacted over a number of steps to synthesize the tetracyclic ring of lyconesidine B 235. Tetracyclic ring containing compound 235 was further treated via epoxidation in the presence of hydrogen peroxide, Cl<sub>3</sub>CCN and potassium carbonate followed by opening of the epoxide ring in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>, and Pd/C to obtain compound 236 in 86% yield. Compound 236 was then made to react with TESOTf and 2,6-lutidine followed by reduction utilizing palladium to obtain compound 237 in 96% yield. It was then reacted with TMSOTf and 2,6-lutidine in dichloromethane followed by a scandium triflate catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction with aldehyde in tetrahydrofuran, which resulted in the synthesis of  $\beta$ -hydroxyketone 238 in 76% yield.  $\beta$ -Hydroxyketone 238 later underwent a number of reactions to obtain lyconesidine B 239 (Scheme 32).

206d, 34%

Haliclona species, which belong to the sea-water sponge genus, are a source of various naturally occurring organic compounds. These naturally occurring metabolites have been found to be highly potent against cancerous, bacterial and viral diseases. Similarly, seawater cyclic alkaloid, haliclonin A, was obtained from Haliclona sp. by Shin and colleagues. In order to attain biologically active nitrogen containing organic compounds via synthetic methodology, Luo et al., 19 in 2021

214b

Synthesis of rauvomines A 213 and B 214

reported the efficient synthetic protocol for the synthesis of haliclonin A. The synthesis began with the attainment of nonane core based compound 241 by using enone 240 as precursor. Compound 241 was further subjected to react with compound 242 in the presence of titanium chloride followed by reaction with Grubbs reagent to obtain product in 92% yield. It was then reacted with mesityl chloride and trimethylamine in dichloromethane and DBU to obtain a diastereoselective mixture of 243a and 243b in 88% yield with dr = 1:1. The racemic mixture was then treated over a number of steps to synthesize ketone based compound 244. Compound 244 was further subjected to treat with formaldehyde via an Sc(OTf)3 catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction in the presence of DBU and TESOTf to obtain Mukaiyama aldol product 245. The Mukaiyama aldol product 245 was then treated over a number of steps, which led to the synthesis of compound 246. The next step involved the treatment with magnesium in the presence of methanol followed by treatment with ethyl formate and pyridine to obtain diamide compound in 82% yield. Compound 247 was then obtained by the reaction of TMSI and HDMS. Compound 247 later underwent a number of reactions to synthesize haliclonin A 248 in 82% yield (Scheme 33).

Scheme 28 Synthesis of tronocarpine 220.

acetone, 86%

## Scheme 29 Synthesis of (–)-epiallo-isomuscarine 225.

### 2.5. Synthesis of naturally occurring metabolites

Nannocystin along with its natural counterpart is known to be isolated from the *Nannocystis* species. They are biologically active myxobacteria secondary metabolites that are used in the inhibition and proliferation of cancer cell lines. <sup>120,121</sup> Their

structure is composed of 21 atoms along with nine stereocenters. Their giant structure with significant medicinal applications inspired numerous efforts to achieve their total synthesis. Zhang *et al.*<sup>122</sup> in 2021 carried out their total synthesis by making use of the Keck asymmetric vinylogous Mukaiyama aldol reaction to obtain component **254** which was then coupled

Scheme 30 Synthesis of enigmol analog 229.

Scheme 31 Synthesis of epi-galantic acid 233.

with other components to synthesize nannocystin A. In their synthetic scheme, unsaturated ester **249** was made to react with LDA and TMSCl in tetrahydrofuran to obtain trimethyl silyl enol ether **250** in 79% yield. Compound **250** was further subjected to the Mukaiyama aldol reaction by treating it with aldehyde **251** in the presence of  $Ti(OiPr)_4$  and (R)-BINOL, which resulted in aldol adduct **252** with 67% yield. It was observed that utilization of the chiral (R)-BINOL reagent resulted in the highly enantioselective synthesis of aldol adducts. Moreover, (R)-BINOL can be easily recovered after the reaction as it does not incorporate within the reactants. In the next step, compound **252** was made to react with silver oxide and methyl iodide in acetonitrile followed by subsequent reduction, which gave allylic alcohol **253**. Allylic alcohol **253** was then reacted over a number of steps to synthesize component **254** of the target molecule (Scheme 34).

Salimabromide is a significant naturally occurring myxobacteria metabolite that has been extracted from plesiocystis clade of sea-water myxobacteria. It was found to be active against *Arthobacter crystallopoietes*. This metabolite contains fused cyclic rings with four consistent chiral centers. <sup>123,124</sup> The structural and biological significance of salimabromide with its scarce availability in nature urged researchers to develop an efficient methodology for its synthesis. In order to contribute towards the design of facile methodology for the synthesis of salimabromide, Lu *et al.*<sup>125</sup> in 2022 employed the Mukaiyama aldol reaction as a major step in their synthetic approach. They treated unsaturated lactone 255 with Grignard reagent 256 and compound 257 in the presence of CuBr·SMe<sub>2</sub>, TMSCl, lithium bromide and THF at -78 °C *via* the Maukaiyama aldol reaction, which gave compound 258 in 15% yield and aldol adduct 259 in 63% yield with a diastereoselectivity ratio of more than 19:1. Aldol adduct 259 was further reacted with methyl lithium and CeCl<sub>3</sub> in THF followed by oxidation in the presence of PCC, which resulted in the synthesis of cycloheptenone 260 in 83% yield. Compound 260 was then further treated *via* different steps to obtain target molecule 261 (Scheme 35).

### 2.6. Synthesis of naturally occurring depsipeptides

Most naturally occurring compounds have been found to inhibit the proliferation of cancerous cells. Generally, the structure of members of the rakicidin family comprises 4-amino, 2,4-pentadienolate and this moiety has been found to be effective in combating cancer cell lines effectively. Their wide

239 (IC<sub>50</sub> = 9.5  $\mu$ g/mL and 250  $\mu$ M against tubulin polymerization)

Scheme 32 Synthesis of lyconesidine B 239.

Steps

biological significance and structural properties have attracted various researchers and urged them to attempt the total synthesis of members of the rakicidin family. 126,127 Sea-water sponges i.e., Streptomyces species have been found to be an isolation source of rakicidin F. Han et al. 128 in 2022, reported the total synthesis of this naturally occurring depsipeptide by employing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction as one of the major steps. The synthetic route commenced with the synthesis of aldehyde 263 from 2-methyl-butanol 262. Chiral aldehyde 263 was then subjected to react with silyl enol ether 264 via the Lewis acid catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction to obtain aldol product 265. Aldol product 265 was further hydrolyzed in the presence of lithium hydroxide followed by reaction with benzyl bromide in the presence of potassium carbonate. Then, coupling with acid 266 resulted in the synthesis of compound 267 in 95% yield. This coupled compound 267 further underwent several reactions to furnish target molecule 268 (Scheme 36).

Streptomyces species are the source of various naturally occurring secondary metabolites including rakicidin C. The depsipeptides family holds significant importance in medicinal chemistry, owing to their anti-mitotic potential. The structural framework of rakicidin C constitutes a pentadienolate moiety along with five chiral centers. Han et al. 131 reported the total synthesis of naturally occurring depsipeptide *i.e.*, rakicidin C by employing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction and Oppolzer's alkylation as key steps. The synthetic methodology commenced

with the synthesis of chiral aldehyde substituted compound 270 from alcohol 269 through a number of steps. This aldehyde was then subjected to the Mukaiyama aldol reaction in the presence of boron trifluoride diethyl ether by reacting compound 270 with silyl enol ether 264, thereby giving Mukaiyama aldol product 271. The aldol product 271 was further treated with lithium hydroxide followed by protection of the benzyl group in three to four steps. The next step involved the coupling of different components upon treatment with acid 266 in the presence of DIC and DMAP to obtain coupled product 272 in 96% yield. It was then finally converted to rakicidin C 273 over a number of steps (Scheme 37).

### 2.7. Synthesis of miscellaneous natural products

There are number of different sugars secreted by bacteria that are not present in mammals. The lipopolysaccharide layer of Gram negative bacteria has been found to constitute the carbohydrates *i.e.*, D-glycero-D-manno-heptose (D,D-Hep) and L-glycero-D-manno-heptose (L,D-Hep). These sugars are of significant importance in medicinal chemistry as they are found to be highly active against bacterial diseases. <sup>132,133</sup> In previous years, various synthetic schemes have been designed by different researchers by utilizing different name reactions. However, an efficient strategy for their synthesis was still required. For this purpose, Wang *et al.* <sup>134</sup> in 2020 reported the total synthesis of LPS core trisaccharide 1 of V. parahemolyticus O2 by utilizing

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Scheme 33 Synthesis of Haliclonin A 248.

the Mukaiyama aldol reaction as one of the main steps. In order to achieve the synthesis of the L,D-Hep subunit, they reacted L-lyxose 274 *via* several steps to obtain chiral aldehyde 275, which

248

was further subjected to react with silyl enol ether 276 by the Mukaiyama aldol reaction in the presence of  $MgBr_2 \cdot OEt_2$ , DCM and toluene. The Mukaiyama aldol product 277 was obtained in

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Scheme 34 Synthesis of nannocystin A 254.

Scheme 35 Synthesis of Salimabromide 261.

97% yield, which was followed by treatment via several steps to give L,D-Hep subunit 278. Similarly, D,D-Hep subunit 282 was obtained by reacting D-ribose 279 through similar steps. The D,D-Hep subunit 282 was then reacted with compound 283 over a number of steps that involved coupling with subunit 278, thereby leading to the synthesis of target molecule 284 (Scheme

Amphidinium genus is an isolation source of about 30 members of naturally occurring macrolactones<sup>135</sup> found in sea water. Amphidinolide F, C2 and C3 have a strong resemblance with the amphidinolide C 1 structure with only modifications in the side chain R group. Moreover, these structurally diverse, naturally occurring macrolactones have been found to inhibit the proliferation of various types of cancerous cells effectively. Owing to their significant contribution towards medicinal chemistry, amphidinolides have inspired researchers to devise efficient synthetic pathways to obtain these naturally occurring macrolactones on a large scale. In this regard, two similar yet slightly different synthetic approaches have been reported to attain amphidinolides F, C2, C1 and C3 by Ferrie et al.136 in 2022. At first, retrosynthetic analysis was carried out to obtain different fragments of the target molecule, which were then synthesized individually by using appropriate methodology. The Mukaiyama aldol reaction was carried out to obtain the C1-C9 fragment 289 in 99% yield, which is a common fragment in both synthetic approaches. In order to synthesize the C1-C9 fragment 289, chiral aldehyde 285 was reacted with silyl enol ether 286 in the presence of TMSOTf and dichloromethane via the Mukaiyama aldol reaction, which gave aldol adducts 287a and 287b in a 25:75 ratio. Aldol adduct 287 was further

**NHDMB** 

Scheme 36 Synthesis of rakicidin F 268.

Scheme 37 Synthesis of rakicidin C 273.

subjected to hydrogenation followed by treatment with TBSCl by using imidazole and DMF to obtain compound **288** in 73% yield with a diastereoselectivity ratio of more than 20:1. It was further treated over a number of steps to furnish the C1–C9 fragment **289**. Similarly, other fragments C10–C17 **290**, C18–C34 **291a** were synthesized separately. In order to couple these fragments for the total synthesis of amphidinolide F, fragment **290** was made to react with fragment **291a** by using lithium diisopropyl amide and THF followed by oxidation, which was carried out by employing Dess–Martin periodinane. In the next step, desulfonylation was carried out by using SmI<sub>2</sub> to attain

compound 292 in 55% yield. The next step involved the reaction of compound 292 with C1–C9 fragment 289 in the presence of sodium hydride, CuDDP and triphenyl phosphine followed by treatment with the Yamaguchi reagent, which resulted in the synthesis of macrolide 293 in 41% yield. This macrolide 293 later reacted over a number of steps to obtain amphidinolide F 294 (Scheme 39).

In order to synthesize amphidinolide C3, C2 and C1, the individually synthesized C10–C17 fragment **290** and C18–34 fragment **291b** were reacted in the presence of LDA and tetrahydrofuran followed by Dess–Martin periodinane mediated

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**Scheme 38** Synthesis of naturally occurring carbohydrate sugars.

oxidation. Further treatment with  $SmI_2$  in THF afforded compound 295 in 55% yield. Compound 310 was then made to react with C1–C9 fragment 289 under similar conditions to those employed for the synthesis of macrolide 294. Reaction with hydrogen fluoride pyridine furnished hemiketal 296 in 97% yield. Hemiketal 296 was then reacted over a number of

times to convert it into amphidinolide C2 297. The newly synthesized amphidinolide C2 297 was subjected to selective deacetylation to obtain amphidinolide C1 298. Moreover, hemiketal 296 was also used to synthesize amphidinolide C3 298 by undergoing several steps (Scheme 40).

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Scheme 39 Synthesis of amphidinolide F 294.

Uncontrolled proliferation of cancer cells is one of the major reasons for increasing deaths. There have been ongoing continuous efforts to tackle the effects of this deadly disease. In this regard, numerous natural products are found to be active

against tumour cells. The hypothetical macroketone, which is an analogue of the migrastatin natural product, plays an effective role as an anti-cancerous agent. Considering the pharmacological importance of this analogue, Choudhury *et al.*<sup>138</sup> in

carcinoma KB cell lines

Scheme 40 Synthesis of amphidinolide C1 299, C2 297 and C3 298.

2021, reported its total synthesis by utilizing the vinylogous Mukaiyama aldol reaction as one of its key steps. Initial steps involved the synthesis of compound **301** and aldehyde **303** from (*S*)-4-benzyloxazolidin-2-one **300** and 2,3-*O*-isopropylidene-L-tartrate **302** by known methodologies. They were then reacted together *via* the vinylogous Mukaiyama aldol reaction in the presence of titanium tetrachloride and dichloromethane, which

gave aldol adduct 304 in 72% yield. Compound 300 was transformed into alcoholic fragment 305 by undergoing a number of steps. In the next step, alcoholic fragment 305 was made to react with carbon tetrabromide by employing triphenyl phosphine and dichloromethane followed by its reaction with  $\beta$ -ketosulfone 306 in toluene and DBU to obtain compound 307 in

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Scheme 41 Synthesis of macroketone 308.

41% yield. Compound 307 was further treated through different steps to obtain macroketone 308 (Scheme 41).

The structure of boholamide is found to be composed of long cyclic framework containing a 4-amino-2,4pentadienolate moiety. It is a natural product, which is isolated from the Truncatella species mollusk, and is found to exhibit potent cytotoxic activity.139 It possesses highly effective anti-tumour potential as compared to other known anticancerous agents i.e., rakicidin A, vinylamycin, etc. Owing to their wide anti-tumour potential, Han et al. 140 in 2021 attempted to report the total synthesis of boholamide. For this purpose, compound 309 was made to react with substituted acyl chloride 310 in the presence of sodium hydride and toluene followed by its reaction with TBSOTf and trimethylamine to obtain intermediate 311. In the next step, a racemic mixture of compound 312 was subjected to reduction, followed by its treatment with Tf<sub>2</sub>O and pyridine. In the next step, reaction with camphorsultam derivative 313 and sodium hexamethyl dilsilazide and subsequent reduction resulted in a racemic mixture of compound 314. It was then subjected to a reaction with intermediate 311 via the Lewis acid catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction which gave aldol adducts 315a and 315b in 61% and 63% yields, respectively. These aldol adducts were further reacted with lithium hydroxide followed by protection with benzyl bromide to afford esters 316a and 316b in 65% and 62%

yields, respectively. These synthesized esters were then reacted with Boc protected L-valine **317** in the presence of DIC and dimethylaminopyridine to obtain a racemic mixture of **318a** and **318b** in 80% and 87% yields, respectively. These were then reacted over different steps to synthesize (*S*) and (*R*) boholamide A **319a** and **319b** (Scheme 42).

Owing to their diverse biological potential, isoquinolines hold a special place in the family of natural products. Fredericamycin A has been found to be active against bacterial and cancer diseases. It is a naturally occurring substance that has been derived from Streptomyces griseus.141 Various synthetic schemes have been reported by various researchers to synthesize the isoquinoline moiety. However, these methodologies suffer from various disadvantages of reaction conditions and stability of functional groups. In order to overcome these issues, Wang et al.142 in 2021, demonstrated the total synthesis of naturally occurring fredericamycin A by utilizing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction and Dieckmann condensation as its key steps. The first step of the synthesis involved the reaction between substituted pyridine moiety 320 and enone 321 in the presence of lithium diisopropyl amide and tetrahydrofuran followed by reaction with sodium hydroxide, Me2SO4 and TBAB to synthesize compound 322 in 71% yield. Compound 322 was then subjected to reaction with TMS enol ether 323 via a boron triflouride diethyl etherate catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction,

Scheme 42 Synthesis of boholamide A 319.

which resulted in a 42% yield of spiro diketone 324. Spiro diketone 324 was further reacted with DDQ and *p*-toluene sulfonic acid in toluene followed by subsequent Dieckmann condensation, which gave coupling product 325 after aromatization. Coupling product 325 was then reacted through several steps, thereby leading to the synthesis of the target molecule *i.e.*, fredericamycin A 326 (Scheme 43).

319a/319b

Hydrindanes are abundant in nature and hold significant importance in medicinal chemistry as they are involved in the synthesis of pharmaceutically valuable organic compounds.<sup>143</sup> Different organic compounds such as maltophilin, clifednamides, amaminol A and ikarugamycin constitute hydrindanes. Various research groups have reported the synthesis of hydrindanes by using the Michael addition reaction. However, Sinast *et al.*<sup>144</sup> reported the total synthesis of hydrindanes based

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clifednamides A and B by utilizing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction and Michael addition as the key steps. Streptomyces sp. JV178 are the source of these biologically active organic compounds, which are effective against division of cancer cells. In the first step of synthesis towards hydrindane, dimethyl malonate 327 and crotonaldehyde 328 were reacted in the presence of the Jorgensen-Hayashi catalyst followed by reaction with carbon tetrabromide by using triphenyl phosphine and dichloromethane, which gave compound 329 in 96% yield. Compound 329 was then reacted with lithium diisopropyl amide and trimethyl silyl chloride in tetrahydrofuran, which resulted in the synthesis of TMS alkyne 330 in 80% yield. Compound 330 was further reacted with lithium chloride and water using DMF as the solvent to furnish methyl ester 331 in 81% yield. Methyl ester 331 then underwent the titanium tetrachloride catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction upon treatment with aldehyde 332 in the presence of TMSCl and sodium

Scheme 43 Synthesis of fredericamycin A 326

hexamethyl disilazide to obtain adduct 333 in 66% yield, which was reacted over number of steps, to obtain a racemic mixture of hydrindanes 334a and 334b. Hydrindane 334 can then be easily converted into clifednamies (Scheme 44).

Curvulone A and curvulone B are found to be highly biologically active as they play a significant role in combating fungal diseases as well as also inhibiting the proliferation of cancerous cells. They are isolated from the known sea-water algal species i.e., Gracilaria folifera. 145 Considering the utility of the curvulone type natural product, Banoth et al. 146 in 2020 carried out a brief and efficient total synthesis of curvulone by utilizing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction as one of its key steps. For this purpose, homoallylalcohol 335 was reacted with acrolein and Hoveyda Grubbs II reagent in dichloromethane to obtain unsaturated aldehyde 336 in 87% yield. Aldehyde 336 then underwent the Mukaiyama aldol reaction by reacting with trimethyl(vinyloxy)silane 337 by utilizing iodine and DCM to

Scheme 44 Synthesis of hydrindanes 334.

MeÓ

334b

Scheme 45 Synthesis of curvulone B 341.

Scheme 46 Synthesis of meayamycin B 350.

obtain the substituted dihydropyran ring 338 in 81% yield. Compound 338 was further subjected to reduction by employing Adam's catalyst, followed by the oxa-Michael process as a result of the reaction with tert-butoxide in tetrahydrofuran. Furthermore, Pinnick oxidation was carried out by using NaClO<sub>2</sub>, 2-methyl-2-butene, and NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> in the presence of butanol: water, which led to the synthesis of acid fragment 339 in 86% yield. In the next step, acetate compound 340 was made to react with previously synthesized fragment 339 in trifluoroacetic acid and TFAA. The resulting compound was further demethylated by utilizing Maeir's conditions i.e., AlI<sub>3</sub>, TBAI, phloroglucinol and benzene, which resulted in the synthesis of curvulone B 341 in 91% yield (Scheme 45).

Meayamycin B is widely utilized as a highly active modulator of the splicing factor of 3b subunit 1.147 The reported synthetic

routes for meayamycin B are too long and time consuming. Thus, in order to supplement its availability, Bressin et al. 148 in 2020, attempted to describe the total synthesis of meayamycin B by utilizing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction, Corey-Chaykovsky reaction, Nicolaou-type-ring opening reaction of epoxide and altered Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons Z-selective olefination as the key steps. The first step of the total synthesis involved the reduction of ester 342, followed by its reaction with phosphonate 343 and KO<sup>t</sup>Bu. Furthermore, reaction with acetic acid and then with a hydrogen molecule in the presence of platinum oxide and ethanol gave lactone 344, which was transformed into fragment 345 via several steps. In the next step, ketone 346 was converted to silyl ether 347 in 90% yield, which was then made to react with acrolein by the Yb(OTf)·6H2O catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction, which gave aldol adduct 348 in 70%

Mitsunobu inversion, 67%

Scheme 47 Synthesis of diospongin A 356b.

yield. Adduct **348** was further reacted *via* several steps to synthesize fragment **349**. Fragments **345** and **349** were then coupled *via* a Nitro-Grela catalyst in DCE to obtain meayamycin B **350** in 20% yield (Scheme 46).

Pharmacologically important diospongin A and B are obtained from Dioscorea spongiosa. These are pyran containing molecules which inhibit the process of the breakage of bones. Various researchers have reported the total synthesis of these natural products by utilizing the oxa-Michael addition and Prins cyclization. However, the concise and efficient total synthesis of diospongin A was reported by Vaithegi et al. 149 in 2020 by using the Mukaiyama aldol reaction. For this purpose, they initiated the synthesis of the target molecule by obtaining β-alkoxy aldehyde 352 in 75% yield by reacting compound 351 through several steps. Chiral β-alkoxy aldehyde was further reacted with silyl ether 353 via a Lewis-acid catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction in DCM to obtain diastereomers 354 and 355 in 71% and 14% yields, respectively, with 77:23 and 79:21. Diastereomer 354 was reacted with CSA and methanol, which resulted in the synthesis of 5-epi-diospongin A 356a in 66% yield and diospongin A 356b in 18% yield. Similarly, diastereomer 355 was further reacted with trifluoroacetic acid in the presence of DCM to obtain 356a in 69% yield and diospongin A 356b in 19% yield. Later on, compound 356a underwent Mitsunobu inversion to synthesize diospongin A 356b in 67% yield (Scheme 47).

Kong et al.150 reported the efficient and concise total synthesis of grayanotoxin III with a highly enantioselective approach. For this purpose, they treated compound 357 with phosphorus tribromide in DMF and chloroform followed by its reaction with p-TsOH and  $HC(OMe)_3$  in the presence of methanol, which gave compound 358 in 54% yield. Compound 358 was then made to react with compound 359 and 360 in the presence of TMSOTf and MTBE at −78 °C via the Mukaiyama aldol reaction followed by the Hosomo-Sakurai reaction, which resulted in the synthesis of aldol adduct 361 in 58% yield. It was then transformed into compound 362 by undergoing a number of reactions. Compound 362 was further subjected to the O-Diels-Alder reaction upon treatment with compound 363, which led to the synthesis of compound 364 in 65% yield. Compound 364 was then finally treated over several steps, thereby giving target molecule 365 in 51% yield (Scheme 48).

Various natural products containing heterocyclic rings have been synthesized by numerous research groups and their evaluation against bacterial, fungal, viral and cancer cell lines has been carried out. In this regard, Moriyama *et al.*<sup>151</sup> in 2021 reported the chiral total synthesis of both enantiomers of naturally occurring polymuthipyranone B by employing the chiral BINOL reagent mediated Mukaiyama aldol reaction as key step. Moreover, they carried out the synthesis of their three synthetic counterparts. Biological evaluation of these naturally occurring compounds revealed that the enantiomers of

359, TMSOTf, 360, MTBE, -78 °C. triethylamine, MeOH, -78-0 °C MeO OMe 1. PBr<sub>3</sub>, DMF, Chloroform (Mukaiyama aldol reaction) Then, EtAlCl<sub>2</sub>, DCM-toluene, 58% 2. p-TsOH,HC(OMe)<sub>3</sub>, Methanol, 54% 357 TMSC 358 TMS 359 1. KHMDS, THF MeC 2. 363, O<sub>2</sub>, DCM, m-CPBA Steps 3. Zn, acetic acid, diethyl ether 63% 65% 362 361 Steps 51% 363 364 365 t-Bu

Scheme 48 Synthesis of grayanotoxin III 365.

polymuthipyranone B were highly active against both cell lines of bacteria *i.e.*, ATCC 43300 and ATCC 33591. The Mukaiyama aldol reaction was utilized for the synthesis of these biologically active scaffolds. Their synthetic scheme involved the reaction of decanal 366 with Chan's diene 367 via the Mukaiyama aldol reaction involving  $Ti(OiPr)_4$ , and (S)-BINOL in tetrahydrofuran, followed by treatment with HCl, which gave  $\beta$ -ketoester 368a in 78% yield with 98% enantiomeric excess. 368a was further hydrolyzed with potassium hydroxide followed by its reaction with carboxylic acid 370 to carry out the incorporation of the acyl group by using the EDCL reagent in the presence of dimethylaminopyridine and dichloromethane, which furnished the (R)-enantiomer of polymuthipyranone B 371a in 48% yield with 98% enantiomeric excess. Similarly, the (S)-enantiomer of polymuthipyranone B 371b was synthesized in 50% yield with

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more than 98% enantiomeric excess *via* similar steps and by employing (*R*)-BINOL involving Mukaiyama aldol reaction (Scheme 49).

Pyran substituted compounds are generally found in nature, <sup>152</sup> involving members of kavalactone family and (–)-pestalotin. Kimura and Tamura's group for the first time, isolated (–)-pestalotin from *Pesalotia cryptomeriaecola* and found that (–)-pestalotin work in harmony with gibberellin to promote the growth of plants. Owing to their remarkable usage, there have been numerous reports on the total synthesis of naturally occurring (–)-pestalotin. Moriyama *et al.* <sup>153</sup> in 2020 reported the chiral synthesis of naturally occurring (–)-pestalotin diastereomers by using readily accessible chiral (*R*)-glycidol as the starting reagent. They devised two synthetic routes for the synthesis of this naturally occurring molecule which

 $Ti(OiPr)_4$ , (S)-BINOL, LiCl, Tetrahydrofuran, 20-25 °C, 4 h **OTMS** TMSO (Mukaiyama aldol reaction) COOMe OMe Then, 1 M HCl, THF, 20-25 °C. 366 367 78%, 98% ee 368a OH 1 M KOH, Methanol. 370, EDCI·HCI, DMAP 20-25 °C, 3 h, 93% DCM, 48%, 98% ee COOH 371a 369a 370  $Ti(OiPr)_4$ , (R)-BINOL, LiCl, Tetrahydrofuran, 20-25 °C, 4 h **OTMS** (Mukaiyama aldol reaction) COOMe Then, 1 M HCl, THF, 20-25 °C OMe 367 368b 366 71%, 98% ee 1. 1 M KOH, Methanol, 20-25 °C, 3 hours 2. **370**, EDCI:HCI, DMAP. DCM, > 98% ee, 50% 371b OH OH 371a 371b Exhibit antibacterial activity against ATCC 43300 and ATCC 33591 ranging between

Scheme 49 Synthesis of enantiomers of polymuthipyranone B 371a and 371b.

2 and 16 and 4 and 16 µg/mL respectively

involved the catalytic asymmetric Mukaiyama aldol reaction and the catalytic diastereoselective Mukaiyama aldol reaction. The synthetic scheme began with the synthesis of (S)- $\alpha$ -benzyloxy aldehyde 373 from (R)-glycidol by undergoing several steps. Benzyloxy aldehyde 373 was then reacted with Chan's diene 374 via the catalytic asymmetric Mukaiyama aldol reaction by using  $Ti(iOPr)_4$ , (S)-BINOL and lithium chloride, which resulted in the synthesis of aldol adducts 375a and 375b in 31% yield with high dr = 93:7. Diastereomer 375a was further reacted with potassium hydroxide–methanol–water followed by treatment with  $Me_2SO_4$  and acetone to obtain (1S,6S)-376 in 88% yield with a 91:9 diastereoselectivity ratio. Compound 376 was then reacted with hydrogen and palladium hydroxide/C catalyst to obtain the target molecule i.e., pestalotin 377a in 60% yield

along with unnatural diastereomer 377**b** in trace amounts. Similarly, (–)-pestalotin was synthesized by employing the titanium chloride catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction using DCM as solvent. The Mukaiyama aldol adducts 376a and 376b were then subjected to deprotection in similar conditions to synthesize pestalotin 377a (Scheme 50).

Huffman *et al.*<sup>154</sup> in 2021 attempted to report the total synthesis of merilactone A by carefully controlling chirality over the attached ring system. Fused rings having tetrahedral bridgeheads are used in the synthesis of various natural products. The concise and efficient total synthesis of naturally occurring merilactone A was reported by Huffmann *et al.* in 2021 by employing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction as one of its key steps. The synthesis began with the heterodimerization

1. **374**, Ti(*i*OPr)<sub>4</sub>, (S)-BINOL, LiCl, THF,20-25 °C, 14 h COOMe Steps (Mukaiyama aldol reaction)

Synthesis of (-)-pestalotin 377a

reaction between thioester butenolide 378 with lithium furan-2olate 379 in tetrahydrofuran, which gave the product in a 95:5 diastereoselectivity ratio. The next step involved the reaction with TIPSOTf in the presence of trimethylamine and DCM followed by methylation, which was carried out by using potassium carbonate and acetone, thus giving compound 380 in 80% yield. Compound 380 was further treated with methyl vinyl ketone (MVK) via a titanium chloride catalyzed Mukaiyama-Michael reaction in the presence of dichloromethane, which led to the synthesis of compound 381 in 58% yield with a diastereoselectivity ratio of more than 20:1. Compound 381 was then reacted over a number of reactions to synthesize target molecule 382 (Scheme 51).

G-protein incorporated receptor 40 cells are found to be highly demonstrative in pancreatic cells, thus playing an important role in combating diabetes. MK-2305 has been found

to play a leading role in the G-protein incorporated receptor 40.155 Considering the significance of MK-2305, Zhong et al.156 in 2022, reported an efficient and concise route towards its total synthesis. The first step involved the reaction between 3-chloro-4-fluorobenzotriflouride 383 and resorcinol 384 in the presence of potassium hydroxide and dimethylsulfoxide, which gave the phenol substituted compound 385 in 99% yield. Then, compound 385 was made to react with acrylonitrile by using potassium carbonate and tert-butanol via an oxy-Michael addition reaction. It was followed by treatment with trifluoroacetic acid in the presence of water via the Hoeben-Hoesch reaction, which led to the synthesis of chromanone 386 in 80% yield. Chromanone 386 was further subjected to the titanium chloride catalyzed Mukaiyama aldol reaction/elimination array, on reacting with silyl enol ether 387, which furnished compound

Scheme 51 Synthesis of merilactone A 382

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Scheme 52 Synthesis of MK-2305 389

388 in 70% yield. It was then reacted over a number of steps, thus leading to the synthesis of MK-2305 389 (Scheme 52).

## 3. Conclusions

This review provides a broad overview of the syntheses of a diverse range of natural products, which involve the Mukaiyama aldol reaction as a major step in their synthetic methodologies, reported in the literature during the period 2020–2023. The aldol reaction is a Lewis-acid catalyzed reaction between silyl enol ether and carbonyl compounds which results in the synthesis of aldol adducts that are highly diastereoselective in nature and are generated in enantiomeric excess. The resulting aldol adducts are then utilized to carry out the

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total synthesis of various natural products. Here, a summary of the total synthesis of macrolides, polyketides, alkaloids, metabolites, terpenoids and depsipeptides, etc. utilizing the Mukaiyama aldol reaction is reported. We anticipate that our review will inspire researchers to advance further regarding the development of the Mukaiyama aldol reaction to carry out its beneficial aspects in organic synthesis.

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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