



Significance: (-)-Himandrine was isolated from the bark of the tree *Galbulimima belgraveana*. Eight of the ten stereogenic centers were created by diastereoselective processes starting from just two stereogenic centers in fragments **B** and **H**.

Comment: The 2-azetidinone moiety at C16 served a dual role: it facilitated the Diels–Alder reaction by providing a 2-N-acylaminodiene **E** with a greater preference for the s-cis conformation and it served as a latent C16 carbonyl (**J** → **K**).