Significance: (±)-Meloscine is a Melodinus alkaloid containing an azabicyclo[3.3.0]octane core within a pentacyclic framework. The total synthesis was achieved here in 19 steps from 2-bromo-benzaldehyde.

Comment: Bicycle J was formed by a key allenyl azide cyclization cascade involving loss of nitrogen and a diradical recombination in I to construct a C–C bond. The final ring was synthesized using ring-closing metathesis.