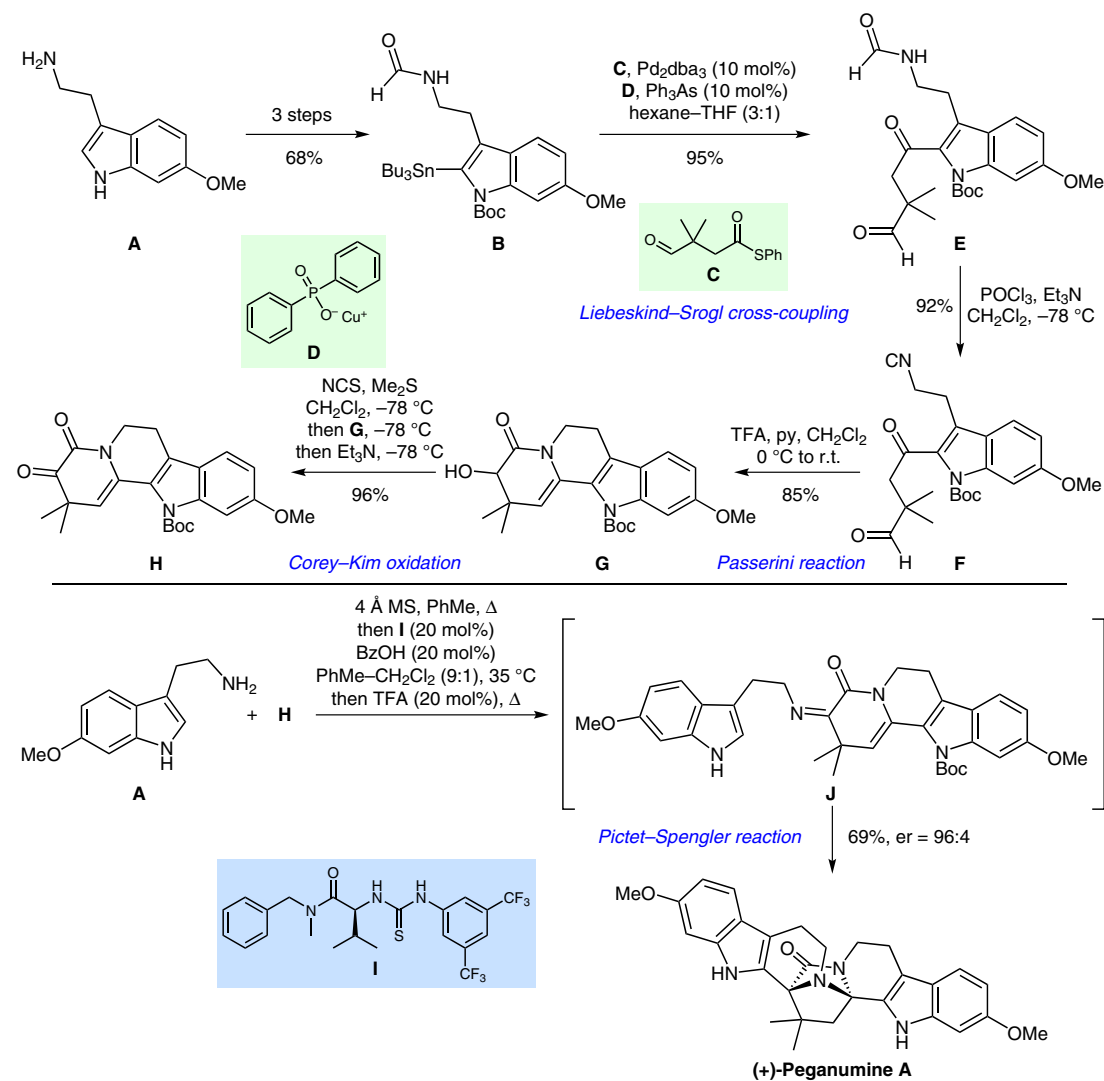


Total Synthesis of (+)-Peganumine A



Significance: (+)-Peganumine A, isolated from the seeds of *Peganum harmala* L., is a dimeric tetrahydro- β -carboline alkaloid displaying significant selective cytotoxic activity against HL-60 cells ($\text{IC}_{50} = 5.8 \mu\text{M}$). The first enantioselective synthesis by Zhu and co-workers relies on an early Liebeskind–Srogl cross-coupling and a thiourea-catalyzed Pictet–Spengler reaction to form the unprecedented octacyclic scaffold.

Comment: Liebeskind–Srogl cross-coupling of stannane **B** and thioester **C** provided *N*-formamide **E** in 95% yield. After dehydration, a three-center-two-component Passerini reaction followed by oxidation furnished tetracycle **H**. The synthesis was completed by an enantioselective Pictet–Spengler reaction of **H** and 6-methoxytryptamine (**A**) to give (+)-peganumine A in a total of 7 steps and 33% overall yield.

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Synfacts 2016, 12(11), 1113 Published online: 18.10.2016
DOI: 10.1055/s-0036-1589311; Reg-No.: C06216SF