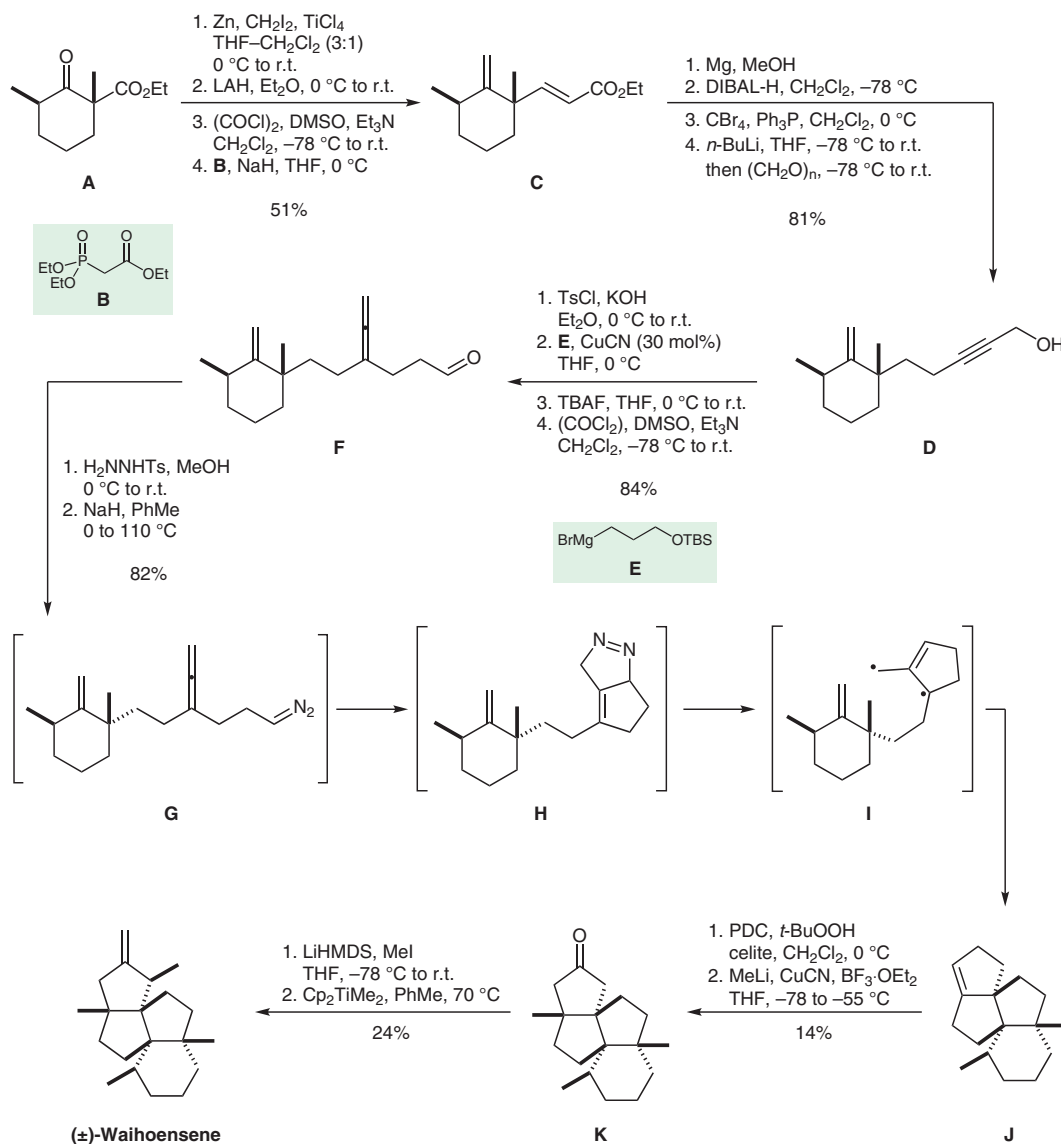


Synthesis of (±)-Waihoensene



Significance: Isolated from a New Zealand podocarp in 1997, waihoensene is a tetracyclic diterpene with four contiguous quaternary carbon centers. Lee and co-workers report the first total synthesis of the title compound by employing a trimethylenemethane cycloaddition.

Comment: Condensation of aldehyde **F** with tosylhydrazide followed by elimination, afforded diazoalkane **G**, which underwent the key tandem cycloaddition to afford tetracycle **J**. Four more steps completed the synthesis of (±)-waihoensene.