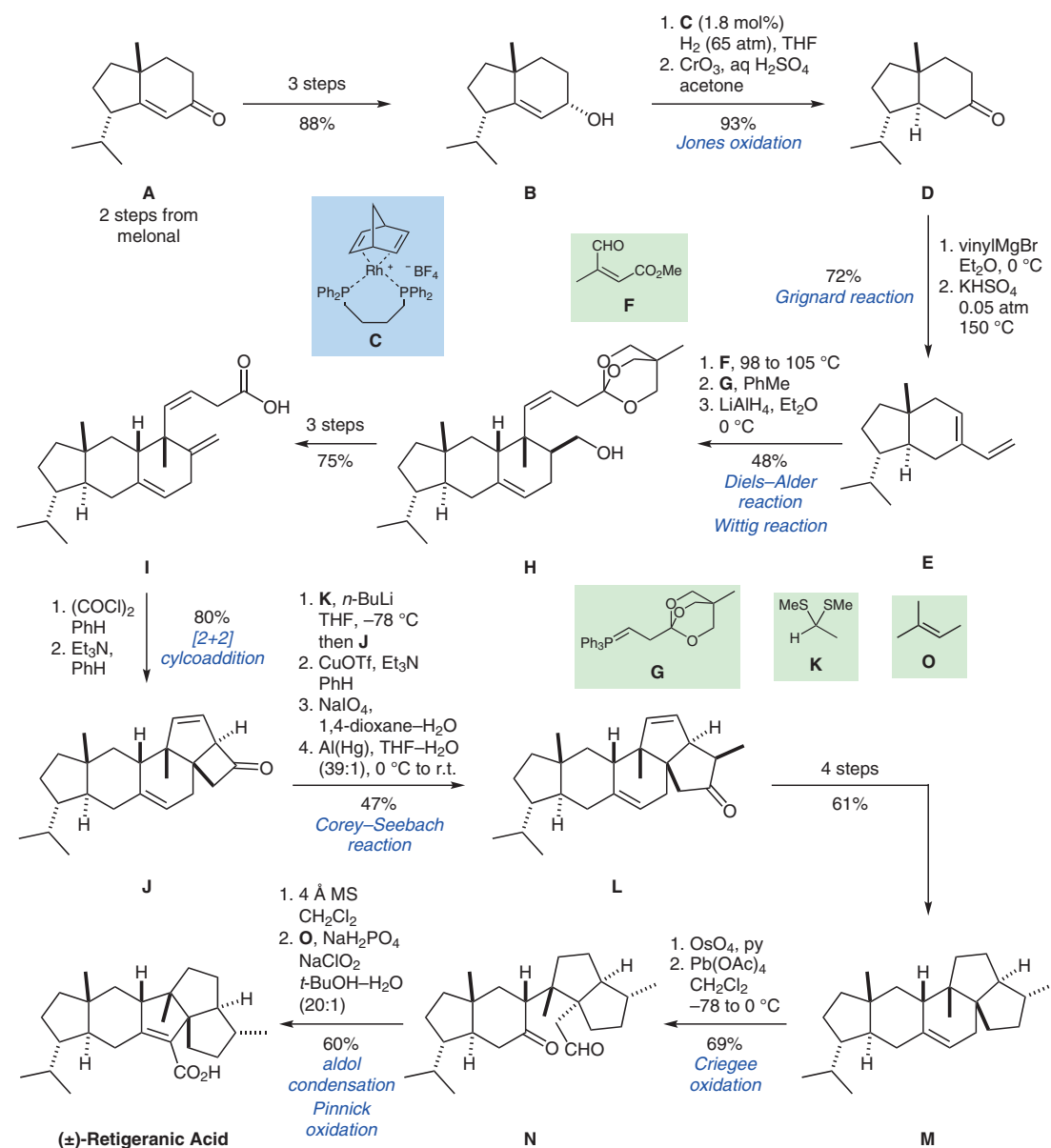


# First Synthesis of (±)-Retigeranic Acid



**Significance:** In 1985, Corey and co-workers reported the first racemic total synthesis of (±)-retigeranic acid. The pentacyclic sesterterpene has eight stereocenters. The key to their synthetic strategy was the construction of the central five-membered ring through a ring contraction sequence.

**Comment:** Carboxylic acid I was converted into the acyl chloride and after treatment with base, a [2+2] cycloaddition gave the ketone J. Cyclopentanone L was accessed by a ring expansion thereby assembling the carbon skeleton of (±)-retigeranic acid.