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# Natural and Unnatural *A-seco* Terpenes from Pulegone: Synthesis of Galbanic Acid and Marneral Revisited

Andrei Corbu,<sup>[a]</sup> Maurizio Aquino,<sup>[a]</sup> Manuel Perez,<sup>[a]</sup> Zoila Gandara,<sup>[a]</sup> and Siméon Arseniyadis\*<sup>[a]</sup>

**Keywords:** Terpenoids / Natural products / Chiral pool / Mitsunobu etherification / Microwave chemistry

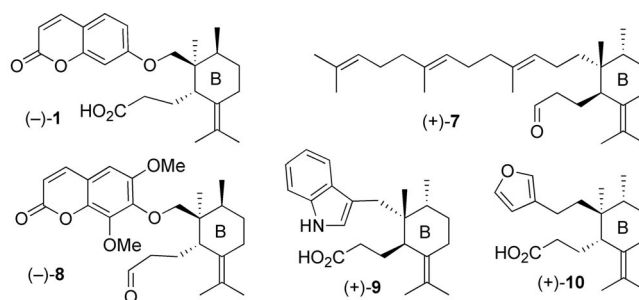
We describe herein an improved chiral-pool strategy for assembling the core structure **3** (both antipodes) of various *A-seco* terpenoids that have allowed us to prepare natural galbanic acid [(–)-**1**] from (*S*)-(–)-pulegone [(–)-**2**]. Furthermore, we were able to increase both the yield and step efficiency

of the synthesis of marneral [(+)-**7**] as well as to access higher homologues of *ent*-galbanic acid [(+)-**4**], *ent*-secodrial [(+)-**5**], and bis-*epi*-secochiliotrin (**6**) from (*R*)-(+)-pulegone [(+)-**2**]. (© Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH & Co. KGaA, 69451 Weinheim, Germany, 2009)

## Introduction

A range of secondary metabolites contain a *trans* or *cis* vic-dimethyl-substituted six-membered ring along with two side-chains in various stereochemical combinations. We initiated a program based on a chiral-pool approach to the synthesis of selected targets (**1** and **7–10**, Scheme 1) that represent several families of naturally occurring *A-seco* terpenes that have in common a central B-ring nucleus with three adjacent stereogenic centers, one of which is a quaternary carbon atom, and a three-carbon oxygenated side-chain and an exocyclic dimethyl olefin. Galbanic acid [(–)-**1**],<sup>[1]</sup> a sesquiterpene coumarin ether, shows a range of biological activities, such as antibiotic,<sup>[2]</sup> antibacterial, antithrombotic,<sup>[3]</sup> and hepatoprotective activities.<sup>[4]</sup> The compound is a potent antifertility and hormonal lead and it has also been demonstrated to synergize the activity of various antibiotics,<sup>[5]</sup> opening up promising applications for the treatment of MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) infections.<sup>[6]</sup> Very recently, methyl galbanate [(–)-**18**] and galbanic acid [(–)-**1**] were screened in an in vitro antiinfluenza A viral (H<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub>) assay with amantadine as a positive control. They are reported to show great potency against influenza A virus H<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub> (IC<sub>50</sub> = 0.26 and 0.45 μg/mL, respectively), with the C-3 methyl ester showing better potency than the corresponding free (galbanic) acid.<sup>[7]</sup> The sesquiterpene-isofraxidin ether secodrial (**8**)<sup>[8]</sup> differs from **1** only by the presence of two methoxy groups on the aro-

matic ring and the oxidation state at C-3. The indole isoprenoid suaveolindole (**9**), which shows activity against the Gram-positive bacteria *Bacillus subtilis* and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*,<sup>[9]</sup> and the hitherto not synthesized secochiliotrin (**10**)<sup>[10]</sup> bear an indole- and a furan-containing side-chain, respectively, the latter belonging to the diterpene family (Scheme 1). Marneral<sup>[11]</sup> [(+)-**7**], a monocyclic triterpene, which was hypothesized by Marner and co-workers to be the first carbocyclic precursor in the biosynthesis of triterpenoid iridals,<sup>[12]</sup> shares the same relative B-ring stereochemistry as suaveolindole [(+)-**9**], galbanic acid [(–)-**1**], and secodrial [(–)-**8**] (though antipodal).

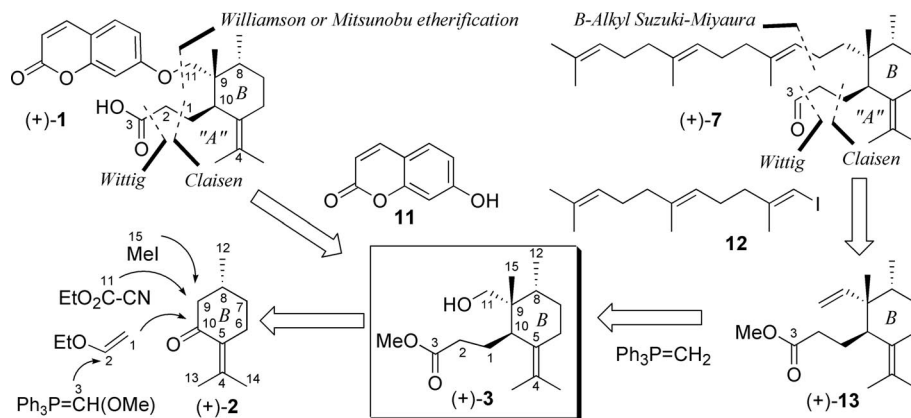


Scheme 1. Structures of representative *A-seco* terpenes bearing structurally similar B-ring moieties.

Recently we published the first synthesis of two structurally similar *A-seco* terpenes, *ent*-galbanic acid [(+)-**1**] and marneral [(+)-**7**] from (*R*)-(+)-pulegone.<sup>[13]</sup> The key feature of the synthetic route was a highly selective Claisen rearrangement that secured the stereochemical arrangement of both targets. This work allowed the determination of galbanic acid's absolute structure by comparison of the final

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Scheme 2. Divergent synthesis of *ent*-galbanic acid and Marneral from the common intermediate (+)-3.

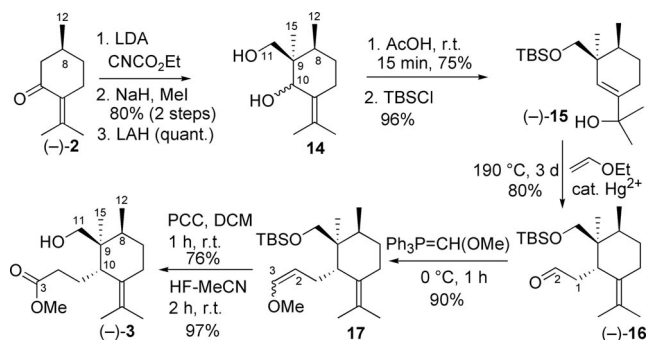
product with natural galbanic acid,<sup>[14]</sup> thereby resolving the controversy regarding its relative stereochemistry.<sup>[15]</sup> Because the absolute stereochemistry of natural galbanic acid [(−)-1] has not been proven before, we first carried out the total synthesis by using the more accessible enantiomer (*R*)-pulegone. Starting from the key intermediate (+)-3, common to both targets and prepared in nine steps from (*R*)-(+)-pulegone, the targeted products (+)-1 and (+)-7 could be accessed by using the appropriate sequence of steps. The retrosynthetic scheme to which we were attracted involved the disconnection of the strategic bonds indicated in Scheme 2. Despite the inefficient segment coupling, the synthesis of the antipodal 1 in this work secured both the relative and absolute stereochemistry attributed to natural galbanic acid.

Although the quantities of *ent*-(+)-galbanic acid prepared by the above sequence were sufficient to complete the characterization of the target molecule, we were disappointed with the inefficiency of both the elaboration of the quaternary carbon center at C-9 and the segment coupling. We detail herein a full account of our results of the revised chiral-pool strategy that partially overcomes these problems while still permitting large-scale synthesis of the requisite trisubstituted cyclohexane framework 3 (both antipodes) for coupling with the aromatic partners and farnesyl chain precursors. In this work, the B-ring chiral fragment gains its asymmetry from (*S*)-(−)-pulegone for galbanic acid and from (*R*)-(+)-pulegone for an improved synthesis of marneral as well as galbanic acid, secodriol, and secochiliotrin analogues.

## Results and Discussion

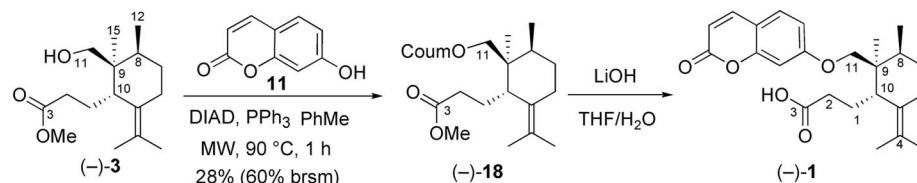
As described in our previous article,<sup>[13]</sup> (−)-14 was obtained from (−)-2, but despite extensive experiments, the yield-decreasing enol carbonate formation during the first step could not be avoided. We therefore studied other alternatives with the hope that the C-9 quaternary center could be installed more efficiently. After further study, key intermediate 14 was more conveniently obtained by an alternative route simply by using ethyl cyanofornate instead of

ethyl chloroformate as the C-9 side-chain precursor. Functional group manipulation of diol 14 derived from the three-step reaction sequence cleanly afforded the conveniently substituted cyclohexane skeleton found in target sesquiterpene frameworks. The three-step transformation of allyl alcohol 14 into the desired  $\gamma,\delta$ -unsaturated aldehyde 16 was achieved by a Claisen rearrangement<sup>[16]</sup> and was followed by homologation of the aldehyde to furnish enol ether 17 in 90% yield as a mixture of *E/Z* isomers, which was subsequently converted into the required ester 3 by using the Piancatelli protocol (Scheme 3).<sup>[17]</sup> The targeted ester alcohol 3 (both antipodes) is a potentially flexible compound because it contains the requisite absolute chirality at C-8, C-9, and C-10, as well as appropriate functional handles for introducing the remaining substituents to complete the side-chains of sesquiterpene-coumarin ethers galbanic acid, secodriol, and higher homologues, as well as the *A-seco* triterpene marneral (7) and the diterpene bis-*epi*-secochiliotrin (6).



Scheme 3. Synthesis of the key intermediate (−)-3.

In our previous synthesis, coupling, though in very low yield, was carried out by treatment of commercially available umbelliferone (11) with the neopentyl tosylate obtained from (+)-3. Applying the Raymond protocol<sup>[18]</sup> to the etherification in the presence of 18-crown-6 under microwave irradiation gave (+)-18. Much effort was expended to generate the desired coumarin ether 18 in better yields by



Scheme 4. Coumarin appendage by Mitsunobu etherification.

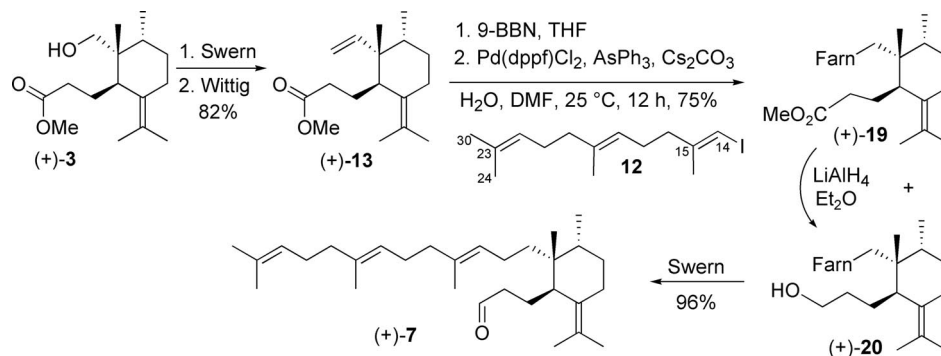
using different conditions (triflate instead of tosylate, higher temperatures, and longer microwave irradiation), but all failed. In the hope of overcoming the aforementioned difficulty, several other options were envisaged, and finally the Mitsunobu route (Scheme 4) was adopted. As expected, coupling of the precursor alcohol **3** with umbelliferone (**11**) under conventional Mitsunobu conditions (DIAD, PPh<sub>3</sub>, and ROH)<sup>[19]</sup> proved ineffective due to steric crowding, yielding only the starting materials.<sup>[20]</sup> However, microwave-assisted<sup>[21]</sup> coupling applying the Mitsunobu etherification conditions resulted in a clean transformation, affording the desired coupling of **11** and **3**, although in a modest yield (28%, along with 40% of recovered starting material). Nevertheless, this concise route allows for a rapid entry into coumarin sesquiterpene ether **(-)-1** and constitutes the first synthesis of methyl galbanate [**(-)-18**], which is also a natural product and shows greater potency against influenza A virus H<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub> than galbanic acid [**(-)-1**] and three-fold increased potency relative to that of amantadine.<sup>[7]</sup>

Note that the improved method reported here allows all three stereogenic centers of the precursor molecule **3** to be assembled with complete stereocontrol from pulegone in nine straightforward steps and, moreover, introduces chemoselectivity at the two desired sites (C-3/C-11). Although the preparation of the stereo-defined cyclic backbone was a simple undertaking, the most difficult part of the venture was the late-stage manipulation required to produce segment coupling  $\alpha$  to a quaternary center.<sup>[22]</sup>

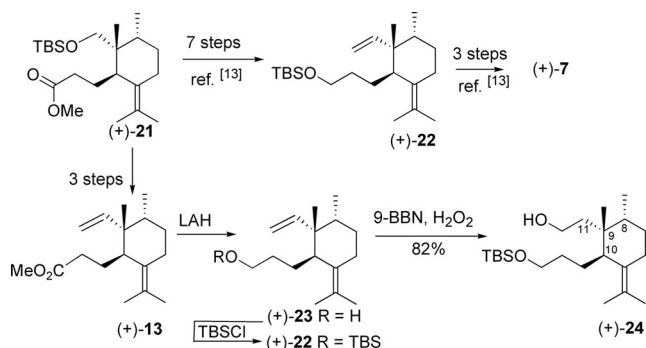
In view of the relevance of iridals as biologically active compounds, there still exists a need for the design of a practical route to marneral, the biogenetic precursor of all iridal representatives, with the ultimate goal to search for a chemobiological approach towards several members of the iridal family, mimicking Nature, and maximize flexibility with respect to analogue preparation. The common inter-

mediate **(+)-3**, prepared on a large-scale using our improved route (this work), was elaborated to the alkylborane precursor **(+)-13** by Swern oxidation and subsequent Wittig olefination. Having reached this stage it was expected that exposure of **(+)-13** first to 9-BBN then to vinyl iodide **12** in the presence of the bis(diphenylphosphanyl)ferrocenepalladium(II) catalyst with the required co-ligand triphenylarsine and base would lead to the desired formation of marneric acid methyl ester (**19**) along with its reduced counterpart marnerol (**20**). Indeed, the *B*-alkyl Suzuki–Miyaura coupling,<sup>[23]</sup> carried out according to the Johnson–Braun modification<sup>[24]</sup> using 3 equiv. of 9-BBN provided marnerol (**20**) along with the corresponding carboxylic ester **19** in a 1.2:1 ratio, respectively. Attempts to increase the marnerol content of the reaction mixture by increasing the amount of 9-BBN or extending the reaction time were unsuccessful because a nearly unchanged ratio of ester **19** and alcohol **20** was reproducibly obtained. In the end, the ester was easily transformed into marnerol [**(+)-20**] by a lithium aluminium hydride reduction. As portrayed in Scheme 5, direct coupling of the olefin ester **(+)-13**, obtained in 11 straightforward steps from (*R*)-**(+)-pulegone**, with the farnesyl chain precursor **12**, paved the way for an improved enantioselective synthesis of marnerol [**(+)-20**] and marneral [**(+)-7**].

Our previously published approach was four steps longer, hampered by a sequence of protecting group modifications required by the series of operations that effected the conversion of **(+)-21** into **(+)-22** (Scheme 6). Apart from providing a highly convergent synthetic plan, the current protocol also offers the added benefit of sequence flexibility in the final stages of the synthesis. For example, a suitably functionalized B-ring segment could first be converted into **(+)-22** or **(+)-24** and then joined to the remaining farnesyl portion should problems be encountered in the original sequence of events.

Scheme 5. Improved synthesis of marneral [**(+)-3**] (Farn represents the C13–C30 farnesyl chain, squalene numbering).

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Scheme 6. Preparation of the coupling partners for iridals, homogalbanic acid, and homo-secodrial.

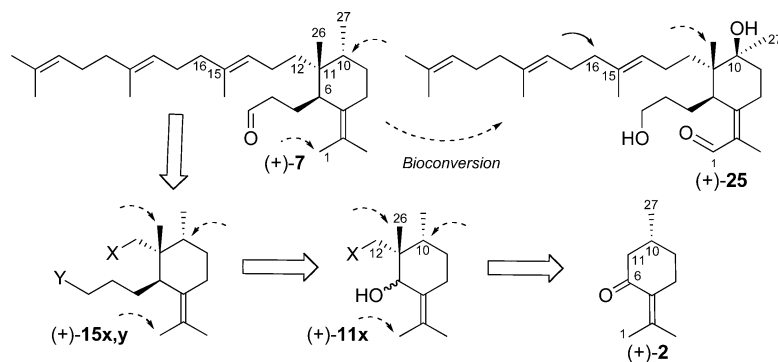
Through the success achieved in improving the marneral [(+)-7] synthesis, the stage was set to test the planned bioconversion to the iridal parent molecule (+)-25 and several representatives of the iridal family (Scheme 7) with the ultimate goal to shorten our domino-based route<sup>[25]</sup> by more than 10 linear steps before coupling. The characterization of cytochrome P450 in *Iris rhizomes*<sup>[26]</sup> and the known reactivity of this monooxygenase towards the iridal parent molecule leading to 16-hydroxy-iridal,<sup>[27]</sup> along with the recently reported bioinspired rigid iron catalyst [Fe(pdp)],<sup>[28]</sup>

which could be used as a mimic of P450 enzymes, provides an insight that should help to define the guidelines for the possible routes to follow.

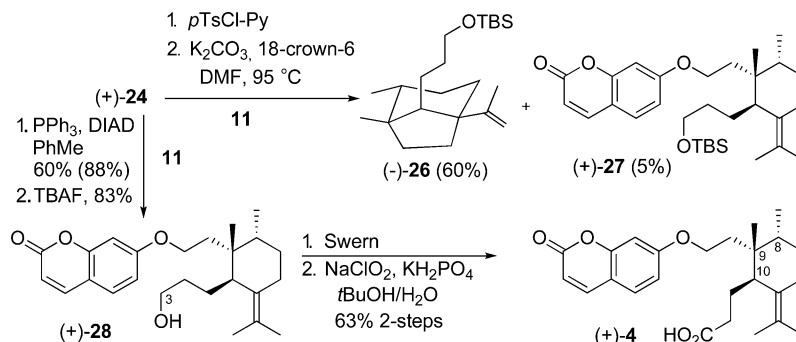
The availability of (+)-7 is encouraging, however, several of its precursor molecules of the type (+)-15x,y and (+)-11x could well be substrates that bypass competition issues arising from the farnesyl side-chain.<sup>[29]</sup>

### Chiral-Pool-Derived Analogues

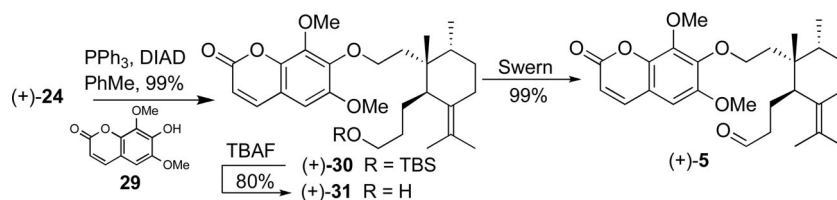
With an effective preparation of (+)-13 in hand, it was a straightforward matter to convert it into the one-carbon homologated coupling partner **24** (Scheme 6) and assess its ability to meet our requirements. Thus, lithium aluminium hydride reduction followed by TBS protection and subsequent hydroboration/oxidation of the terminal olefin (+)-13 afforded the C-11 homologated alcohol (+)-24, which served as a common intermediate for the synthesis of targeted analogues **4**, **5**, and **6**. A variety of segment coupling protocols were screened as coupling proved to be more difficult than had been expected. Williamson etherification using the Reymond protocol<sup>[18]</sup> with coumarin **11** and the tosylate corresponding to the precursor alcohol **24** was first tried as shown in Scheme 8, but proved fruitless. Most unexpected was the finding that the side-product **26** predominated, in contrast to the C-10 epimeric analogue, which un-



Scheme 7. Projected combined chiral-pool/chemobiological approach mimicking Nature (dashed arrows indicate desired oxygenation sites at any stage and the plain arrow refers to P450-mediated hydroxylation, as described in ref.<sup>[26]</sup>).



Scheme 8. Initial attempt to synthesize (+)-4 by Williamson etherification and the successful Mitsunobu coupling.



Scheme 9. Completion of the synthesis of the secodrial analogue (+)-26.

der the same conditions smoothly gave the corresponding coumarin ether (conversion of **25** to **26** in Scheme 7 of ref.<sup>[13]</sup>). As a result, the conventional Mitsunobu etherification was investigated, which afforded the desired adduct in good yields. We then completed the synthesis of the analogue (+)-4 by a fluoride-promoted deprotection and adjustment of the oxidation state at C-3 by using standard literature conditions.

Coupling of the homologated alcohol (+)-24 with the commercially available isofraxidin (**29**) under conventional Mitsunobu conditions (DIAD, PPh<sub>3</sub>, and ROH) proceeded well, yielding a nearly quantitative yield of *homo*-secodriol precursor (+)-30. Deprotection of the TBS ether as above provided *homo*-secodriol [(+)-31] in 80% yield, which was converted into *homo*-secodrial [(+)-5] by Swern oxidation (Scheme 9).

In summary, although the congested Mitsunobu etherification of **3** with umbelliferone (**11**) (Scheme 4) needs further effort, both etherifications with isofraxidine (**29**) and umbelliferone (**11**) proceed nearly quantitatively to give the higher homologues of galbanic acid (**1**), secodriol (**31**), and secodrial (**5**), respectively.

Alongside the work just described, we also pushed towards a bis-*epi*-secochiliotrin analogue **6**, which contains two adjacent stereogenic centers on the six-membered ring in the epimeric 9*R*,10*S* disposition [required: 9*S*,10*R* for natural secochiliotrin (**10**)], as summarized in Scheme 10. The assembly of the diastereomeric monocyclic diterpene secochiliotrin skeleton proceeds through the lithiation of 3-bromofuran followed by addition to the aldehyde derived

from the common B-ring unit **24**.<sup>[30]</sup> The remaining steps consist of deoxygenation at C-12 and readjustment of the oxidation state at C-3.

The synthesis of (+)-6 was completed by the oxidation of the primary alcohol **33** with Dess–Martin periodinane (DMP) to yield the corresponding aldehyde, which in turn was converted into the required carboxylic acid in 65% yield from the alcohol. The synthetic scheme described herein represents a straightforward route to these compounds and the nonoptimized yields of the target molecules are good to high. Furthermore, the insignificant level of cytotoxicity (see Exp. Sect. in the Supporting Information) shown by all the synthesized products makes them potentially useful as biological probes.

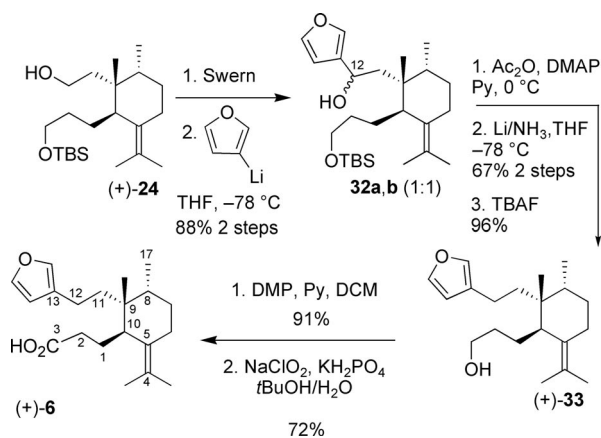
## Conclusions

The modified protocol reported herein allows the large-scale synthesis of the key B-ring building block of various *A-seco* terpene frameworks in a step-efficient and stereocontrolled fashion. Our initial approach to introduce the C-9 quaternary center was considerably improved by replacing ethyl chloroformate by ethyl cyanoformate. Even though the original obstacles associated with the segment coupling for the construction of galbanic acid still leave room for improvement, the synthetic scheme is general and broadens the scope of the chiral-pool-based sequence as a tool for the preparation of various natural and unnatural terpenoid ring systems in substantial enough amounts to support biological assays. Finally, the significant improvements in yield and step efficiency for the marnerol/marneral synthesis opens the way for a search aimed at raising the oxidation states on the ring (C-10, iridal numbering) and at C-26 and the olefinic methyl through hydroxylating enzymes.

## Experimental Section

**General:** For general methods and standard procedures see the Supporting Information. Experimental descriptions for the synthesis of compounds (+)-13–(+)-18, (+)-1, and (+)-3 are available in the Supporting Information of our article on the *ent*-galbanic acid synthesis.<sup>[13]</sup> Spectral data are identical to those obtained in the preparation of the unnatural enantiomers from (*R*)-pulegone.

**Synthesis of Natural Galbanic Acid [(–)-1]:** A microwave tube was charged with umbelliferone (**11**; 60 mg, 0.37 mmol), (–)-3 (50 mg, 0.18 mmol), DIAD (75 mg, 0.37 mmol), and PPh<sub>3</sub> (98 mg, 0.37 mmol) in toluene (0.5 mL) and the tube was inserted inside the microwave cavity. The reaction mixture was magnetically stirred

Scheme 10. Completion of the synthesis of diterpenoid bis-*epi*-secochiliotrin [(+)-6].

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for 30 min ( $P = 100$  W,  $T = 130$  °C). The reaction mixture was evaporated and the resulting crude was purified by silica gel flash chromatography (heptane/EtOAc, 9:1) to yield 20 mg (28%) of methyl galbanate (–)-**18**, which was used in the saponification reaction directly. LiOH (6 mg, 0.23 mmol) was added to a solution of methyl galbanate [(–)-**18**; 19 mg, 0.046 mmol] in THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (0.5 mL/0.1 mL). After stirring for 24 h, the reaction was acidified to pH 2 with 1 N HCl, extracted five times with EtOAc, and worked up as usual. The crude was purified by silica gel column chromatography (heptane/EtOAc, 1:1) to yield 12 mg (69%) of (–)-galbanic acid [(–)-**1**]. This compound was spectroscopically identical to the synthesized enantiomer, only the optical rotation was of the opposite sign.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -25$  ( $c = 1.0$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>).<sup>[13]</sup>

**Methyl Marnerate (19):** A solution of 9-BBN (2.6 mL, 0.5 M in THF) was added to the ester olefin **13** (111 mg, 0.42 mmol) and the solution was stirred at 25 °C for 2 h. This solution was transferred by cannula to a separate flask containing a mixture of the vinyl iodide **12** (165 mg, 0.52 mmol), [Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub>] (34 mg, 0.04 mmol), AsPh<sub>3</sub> (19 mg, 0.06 mmol), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (410 mg, 1.26 mmol), and water (0.3 mL, 15.12 mmol) in DMF (6 mL). After 12 h the brown reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted three times with diethyl ether. The organic layer was worked up as usual. The crude was purified by silica gel flash chromatography (heptane/EtOAc, 99:1) to yield 74 mg (41%) of (+)-**20** and 65 mg (34%) of (+)-**19** as a colorless oil.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = 85$  ( $c = 1.0$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>). IR (film):  $\tilde{\nu} = 2960, 2916, 2857, 1739, 1434, 1372, 1255, 1166, 726, 696$  cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.71$  (d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 3 H), 0.86 (s, 3 H), 0.98–1.05 (m, 1 H), 1.17–1.31 (m, 2 H), 1.37–1.43 (m, 1 H), 1.51 (s, 3 H), 1.54 (s, 6 H), 1.60 (s, 3 H), 1.62 (s, 3 H), 1.68 (s, 3 H), 1.52 (d,  $J = 1.9$  Hz, 3 H), 1.61 (d,  $J = 1.1$  Hz, 3 H), 1.69–1.82 (m, 6 H), 1.86–2.02 (m, 4 H), 2.39 (m, 1 H), 2.50 (dd,  $J = 4.8, 11.1$  Hz, 1 H), 3.58 (s, 3 H), 4.85 (m, 3 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 15.6, 15.9, 16.0, 17.6, 20.2, 20.7, 22.3, 22.5, 24.2, 24.7, 25.7, 26.6, 26.7, 29.7, 30.9, 32.2, 36.1, 39.0, 39.7, 43.8, 51.3, 124.2, 124.4, 125.5, 130.8, 131.1, 134.2, 133.7, 134.2, 134.8, 174.7$  ppm. MS (ESI, MeOH + CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $m/z$  (%) = 479.4 (100) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>52</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na 479.3865; found 479.3869.

**Homogalbanic Acid (4):** Oxalyl chloride (0.17 mL, 2 M in DCM, 0.34 mmol) was added to a solution of dry DMSO (0.05 mL, 0.68 mmol) in dry DCM (3 mL) at –60 °C under argon. The mixture was stirred for 30 min and a solution of the primary alcohol (+)-**28** (45 mg, 0.11 mmol) in dry DCM (1 mL) was added. Upon 1 h of additional stirring at –60 °C, Et<sub>3</sub>N (0.15 mL) was added and the mixture was warmed to 0 °C, stirred for a further 20 min, and poured into ice-cold water, diluted with DCM, washed with 1 N HCl and aqueous saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, and worked up as usual. The crude obtained was used directly in the next oxidation step. 2-Methylbut-2-ene (0.12 mL, 1.13 mmol) and a solution of NaClO<sub>2</sub> (13 mg, 0.15 mmol) and KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (20 mg, 0.15 mmol) in water (0.5 mL) were added to a solution of the previously obtained aldehyde in *t*BuOH (1 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at 25 °C and was finally quenched with brine and extracted four times with EtOAc. The organic layer was worked up as usual. The crude obtained was purified by silica gel flash chromatography (heptane/EtOAc, 2:1) to yield 29 mg (63% over two steps) of the acid (+)-**4** as a glassy solid.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = 7$  ( $c = 1.0$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>). IR (film):  $\tilde{\nu} = 3210, 1734, 1702, 1610, 1278, 1229, 1121, 1011, 833, 753$  cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.83$  (d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3 H), 1.03 (s, 3 H), 1.20–1.24 (m, 1 H), 1.45–1.50 (m, 1 H), 1.60 (dt,  $J = 7.6, 14.0$  Hz, 1 H), 1.66 (d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, 3 H), 1.70 (s, 3 H), 1.76–1.90 (m, 5 H), 2.12–2.26 (m, 2 H), 2.51 (br. d,  $J = 14.0$  Hz, 1 H), 2.59 (dd,  $J = 4.61, 11.5$  Hz, 1 H), 4.03 (dd,  $J = 7.1, 8.1$  Hz, 2 H), 6.24

(d,  $J = 9.4$  Hz, 1 H), 6.79–6.82 (m, 2 H), 7.35 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1 H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 9.5$  Hz, 1 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 15.6, 20.2, 20.7, 22.2, 24.1, 24.6, 30.8, 30.9, 31.9, 36.0, 38.8, 44.9, 66.3, 101.3, 112.4, 112.9, 113.0, 125.6, 128.7, 130.3, 143.4, 155.9, 161.3, 162.4, 179.7$  ppm. MS (ESI, MeOH + CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $m/z$  (%) = 435.2 (100) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na 435.2147; found 435.2153.

**Bis-epi-secochiliotrin [(+)-6]:** Dess–Martin periodinane (DMP, 136 mg, 0.32 mmol) was added to a solution of the alcohol (+)-**33** (33 mg, 0.11 mmol) in DCM (0.5 mL) and pyridine (0.1 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h. The solution was diluted with heptane (white precipitate appeared) and the suspension was subjected directly to column chromatography (heptane/EtOAc, 14:1) to yield 30 mg (91%) of the desired aldehyde. 2-Methylbut-2-ene (0.11 mL, 0.99 mmol) and a solution of NaClO<sub>2</sub> (12 mg, 0.13 mmol) and KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (18 mg, 0.13 mmol) in water (0.5 mL) were added to a solution of the aldehyde thus obtained in *t*BuOH (0.2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h at 25 °C and was finally quenched with brine and extracted four times with EtOAc. The organic layer was worked up as usual. The crude obtained was purified by silica gel flash chromatography (heptane/EtOAc, 4:1) to yield 22 mg (72%) of the acid (+)-**6** as a colorless oil.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = 38$  ( $c = 1.0$ , CHCl<sub>3</sub>). IR (film):  $\tilde{\nu} = 3391$  (b), 1706, 1452, 1374, 1259, 1025, 873, 801 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 0.79$  (d,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3 H), 0.97 (s, 3 H), 1.20 (qd,  $J = 4.5, 13.2$  Hz, 1 H), 1.28–1.33 (m, 1 H), 1.39–1.44 (m, 1 H), 1.48–1.55 (m, 1 H), 1.68 (br. s, 6 H), 1.75–1.81 (m, 2 H), 1.83–1.90 (m, 2 H), 2.12–2.24 (m, 2 H), 2.27–2.31 (m, 2 H), 2.47 (br. d,  $J = 14.5$  Hz, 1 H), 2.66 (dd,  $J = 4.8, 11.5$  Hz, 1 H), 6.21 (s, 1 H), 7.17 (s, 1 H), 7.33 (s, 1 H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 15.56, 19.3, 20.2, 20.8, 22.3, 24.0, 24.7, 30.9, 31.9, 32.5, 36.1, 39.2, 43.8, 111.0, 124.9, 126.1, 130.6, 138.4, 142.6, 178.9$  ppm. MS (ESI, MeOH):  $m/z$  (%) = 317.2 (100) [M – H]<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (ESI, MeOH): calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>29</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 317.2117; found 317.2113.

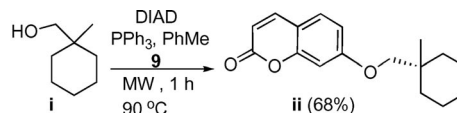
**Supporting Information** (see also the footnote on the first page of this article): Complete characterization data and <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra for compounds **3**, **13**, **6**, and **19–33**.

## Acknowledgments

Financial support from the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and fellowship awards from the Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles (ICSN) are gratefully acknowledged.

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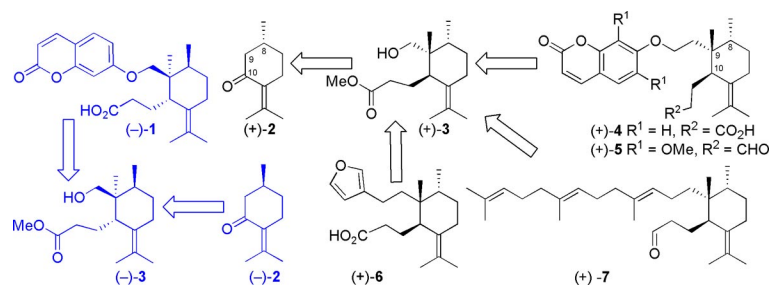


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A-*seco* Terpenes

From readily available pulegone **2** (*Mentha pulegium*, *Pennyroyal*), galbanic acid (*Ferula asafetida*), iridals (*Iris germanica*),

and various analogues have been synthesized via a common intermediate **3** by using the appropriate antipodes.

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Z. Gandara, S. Arseniyadis\* ..... 1–8

Natural and Unnatural A-*seco* Terpenes from Pulegone: Synthesis of Galbanic Acid and Marneral Revisited

**Keywords:** Terpenoids / Natural products / Chiral pool / Mitsunobu etherification / Microwave chemistry