



**Significance:** Aburatubolactam A was isolated from the culture broth of a *Streptomyces* sp. and displays a variety of biological activities such as cytotoxicity, antimicrobial activity and inhibition of superoxide generation. This synthesis features a ring-opening/ring-closing metathesis to construct the bicyclo[3.3.0]octane subunit and a late-stage macrolactamization.

**Comment:** A was synthesized by an organocatalytic, enantioselective Diels–Alder cycloaddition (*er* = 28:1). Allylation of D occurred with complete *exo* selectivity but gave predominantly the unwanted *trans*-diastereoisomer. Deprotonation/protonation led to a 2:1 mixture in favor of the desired *cis*-isomer which was separated after iodolactonization.