**Synthesis of Kapakahines B and F**

**Significance:** Kapakahines are metabolites of the sponge *Cribrochalina olemda*. Kapakahine B has modest antileukemic activity but kapakahine F is inactive. A salient feature of this short and efficient synthesis is the in situ kinetic trapping of the α-carboline which is in dynamic equilibrium with the pyrroloindoline.

**Comment:** Cyclization of the amino acid (participating atoms highlighted in red) gives a macrocycle (not shown) in 6% yield together with the desired α-carboline. All the steps leading up to H were performed on a gram scale.

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