Synthesis of (−)-Himandrine

Significance: (−)-Himandrine was isolated from the bark of the tree Galbulimima belgraveana. Eight of the ten stereogenic centers were created by diastereoselective processes starting from just two stereogenic centers in fragments B and H.

Comment: The 2-azetidinone moiety at C16 served a dual role: it facilitated the Diels–Alder reaction by providing a 2-N-acylaminodiene E with a greater preference for the s-cis conformation and it served as a latent C16 carbonyl (J → K).