Synthesis of (+)-Haplophytine

**Significance:** The first of the five quaternary centers in haplophytine was installed by an oxidative coupling reaction (A $\rightarrow$ B $\rightarrow$ C) mediated by phenyliodonium bis(trifluoroacetate) (PIFA).

**Comment:** The oxidative semi-pinacol rearrangement (D $\rightarrow$ E) was also used in Fukuyama’s synthesis of haplophytine (Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2009, 48, 7600; Synfacts 2010, 3). The lactone ring was created by an oxidative cyclization mediated by K$_3$[Fe(CN)$_6$].

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