Synthesis of ent-Seragakinone A

**Significance:** Seragakinone A was isolated from an unidentified marine fungus, which is in symbiosis with rhodophyta *Ceratoctyton spongiosum*, and was shown to exhibit both antifungal and antibacterial properties. The relative structure was determined using X-ray crystal structure analysis and extensive spectroscopic studies; however, the absolute stereochemical configuration was not determined.

**Comment:** Installation of the stereogenic center at C5a ($\text{D} \rightarrow \text{E}$) was obtained via a pinacol-type rearrangement, which proceeded rapidly in high yield and with efficient transfer of stereochemistry. The benzoin cyclization to afford ketol $\text{J}$ installed the stereocenter at C* with excellent diastereoselectivity, which was verified by X-ray crystal structure analysis.