Total Synthesis of (±)-Alstilobanine A

**Significance:** Monoterpene indole alkaloids usually consist of a tryptamine residue attached to a monoterpoid unit. (±)-Alstilobanine A, however, features an intriguing rearranged skeleton. The authors based their concise synthesis on the conjugate addition of ester enolate $F$ to an in situ-generated nitrosoalkene and the formation of $\beta$-lactam $L$ via an intramolecular formal ketene–ketone [2+2] cycloaddition developed by Romo and co-workers (*Org. Lett.* 2006, 8, 4363).

**Comment:** The intermolecular conjugate addition of ester enolate $F$ onto nitrosoalkene $G$, generated in situ from $\alpha$-chlorooxime $E$, proceeded efficiently to give $H$. This transformation highlights an interesting method to construct 1,4-dicarbonyl frameworks. Both C16-diastereomers could be used to access $I$, which then underwent a formal [2+2] cycloaddition to afford the desired syn-2-azadecalin $L$ in excellent yield and diastereoselectivity. The synthesis was completed in eight steps from $L$ to generate the natural product in an impressive 14% overall yield.