Synthesis of the Indole Core of MK-3281

![Chemical Structure]

**Significance:** MK-3281 inhibits hepatitis C RNA polymerase NS5B. A synthesis starting from the indole fragment \( I \) was recently described: J. P. Scott et al. *Org. Process Res. Dev.* 2011, 15, 1116. In this paper a large scale synthesis of the MK-3281 fragment \( I \) is described that features a Truce–Smiles rearrangement.

**Comment:** The highly telescoped synthesis of the indole fragment \( I \) depicted was accomplished on a >50 kg scale and delivered the target indole in 55% overall yield in five steps. All of the yields are assay yields. For the discovery synthesis of MK-3281, see: F. Narjes et al. *J. Med. Chem.* 2011, 54, 289.