Biogenetically Inspired Synthesis of Indole Alkaloids

Significance: Oguri and co-workers report elegant and concise syntheses of several types of indole alkaloids. Their biogenetically inspired strategy relies on the use of a dihydropyridine intermediate that enables access to five skeletally distinct scaffolds.

Comment: The key and multipotent intermediate D was prepared from C by copper-catalyzed dihydropyridine formation. By judicious choice of conditions, D could be converted into three structurally distinct natural products in very few steps.