

**Significance:** The natural product hybrid (−)-incarviatone A displays considerable potential for the treatment of depression and neurological disorders. It also features a complex polycyclic core structure with eight contiguous stereogenic centers. In this work, the authors report the first total synthesis relying on a striking biomimetic cascade reaction.

**Comment:** The synthesis commenced with ortho-C–H alkylation of A. Thereafter, trans-indane acid F was obtained by a chiral auxiliary mediated C–H insertion with diazo compound D. Phenolic aldol condensation between H and I and subsequent dearomatization set the stage for a biomimetic cascade that culminated in the total synthesis of (−)-incarviatone A.