Significance: Li and co-workers report the first total synthesis of (−)-rubriflordilactone B. They obtained the Schisandraceae triterpenoid in a convergent approach by retrosynthetic cleavage of the aromatic ring.

Comment: Fragments F and K were joined by a Sonogashira cross-coupling. Hydroislylation with Karstedt’s catalyst was then followed by 6π-electrocyclization and oxidation to form the aromatic ring, fusing the fragments of the natural product.