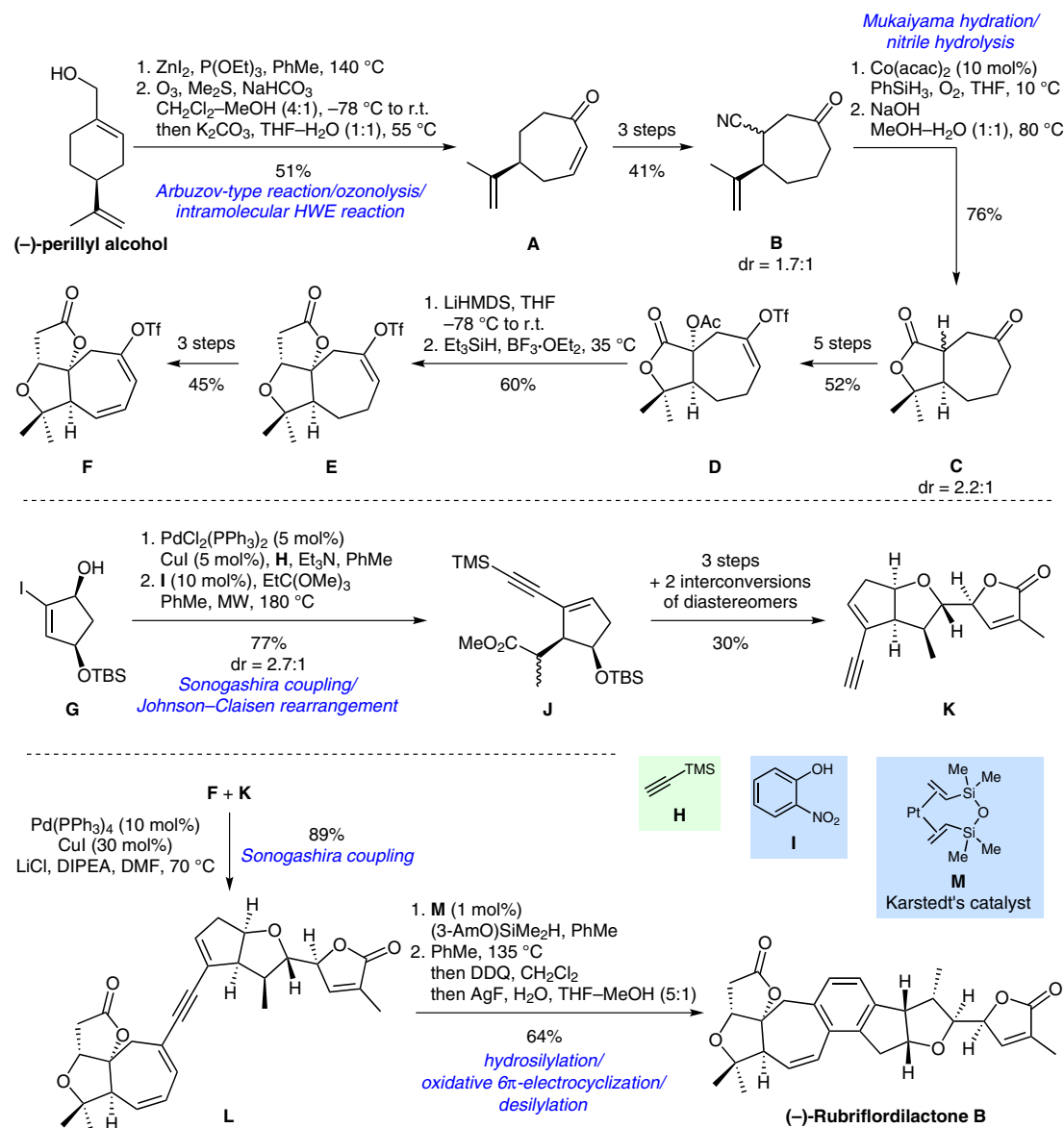


Synthesis of (-)-Rubrifordilactone B



Significance: Li and co-workers report the first total synthesis of (-)-rubrifordilactone 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. Hydrosilylation with Karstedt's catalyst was then followed by 6 π -electrocyclization and oxidation to form the aromatic ring, fusing the fragments of the natural product.