**Synthesis of (±)-Waihoensene**

**Significance:** Isolated from a New Zealand podocarp in 1997, waihoensene is a tetracyclic diterpene with four contiguous quaternary carbon centers. Lee and co-workers report the first total synthesis of the title compound by employing a trimethylenemethane cycloaddition.

**Comment:** Condensation of aldehyde F with tosylhydrazide followed by elimination, afforded diazooalkane G, which underwent the key tandem cycloaddition to afford tetracycle J. Four more steps completed the synthesis of (±)-waihoensene.

**Key words**
- (±)-waihoensene
- tetracyclic diterpenes
- trimethylene-methane
tandem cycloaddition