Concise Synthesis of the Alkaloid (±)-Aspergilline A

**Significance:** Aspergilline A was isolated from the fungus *Aspergillus versicolor* and possesses activity against the tobacco mosaic virus as well as anti-cancer activity. The Wood group reports a synthesis relying on an elegant pyrrolinone formation and a formal [3+2] cycloaddition.

**Comment:** Acylation followed by addition to an alkyne and double-bond isomerization transforms C into E. Mukaiyama aldol reaction creates the core structure in F. Imidate G undergoes formal cycloaddition with cyclopropenone to form I which is further transformed into the indole alkaloid aspergilline A through an oxidation–acetalization–decarboxylation sequence.

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