

Edited by
David Goldsmith
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THE TOTAL SYNTHESIS OF NATURAL PRODUCTS

Volume 11

**A Sesquidecade of Sesquiterpenes:
Total Synthesis, 1980–1994**

Part B: Bicyclic and Tricyclic Sesquiterpenes

**Michael C. Pirrung, Andrew T. Morehead, Jr.,
and Bruce G. Young**

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INTRODUCTION

This book completes the review of sesquiterpenes synthesized in the time period 1979–1994, a sesquidecade. Because of the magnitude of this literature, a smaller portion was published in 1997¹ as Chapters I and II, focusing only on the acyclic and monocyclic sesquiterpenes. This book comprises Chapters III and IV, including the bicyclic and tricyclic sesquiterpenes (counting only carbocyclic rings, not including cyclopropanes).

In keeping with the title of this series, a natural product must be prepared for a synthesis to be included. We are sorry to omit the significant quantity of fine work addressing intricate natural ring systems or compounds whose structures were misassigned (as discovered by the synthesis of the erroneous structure), but the size of the literature in which natural products *were* prepared necessitates limiting our scope. If another sesquiterpene is the starting material, a change of carbon skeleton must occur for a synthesis to be included. We present multiple syntheses of the same compound in chronological order so that the evolution of synthetic strategy can be easily seen. In providing legends for the schemes, syntheses of racemates are not specifically marked. Legends for synthesis schemes producing optically active compounds include either absolute configurations, signs of optical rotation, or both. Each scheme is also identified by the senior author (or the institution at which the work was conducted). This policy is not intended to underemphasize the important and valuable contribution of junior authors to the work. Indeed, many have gone on to achieve significant syntheses of sesquiterpenes in their independent careers.

Since Part A of this book was published in 1997, a new review article on sesquiterpene synthesis has appeared summarizing approaches to triquinanes.²

We look forward to seeing the progress synthetic organic chemistry has made when 2004 or 2009 arrives and it is time for another author to undertake the compilation of sesquiterpene total syntheses.