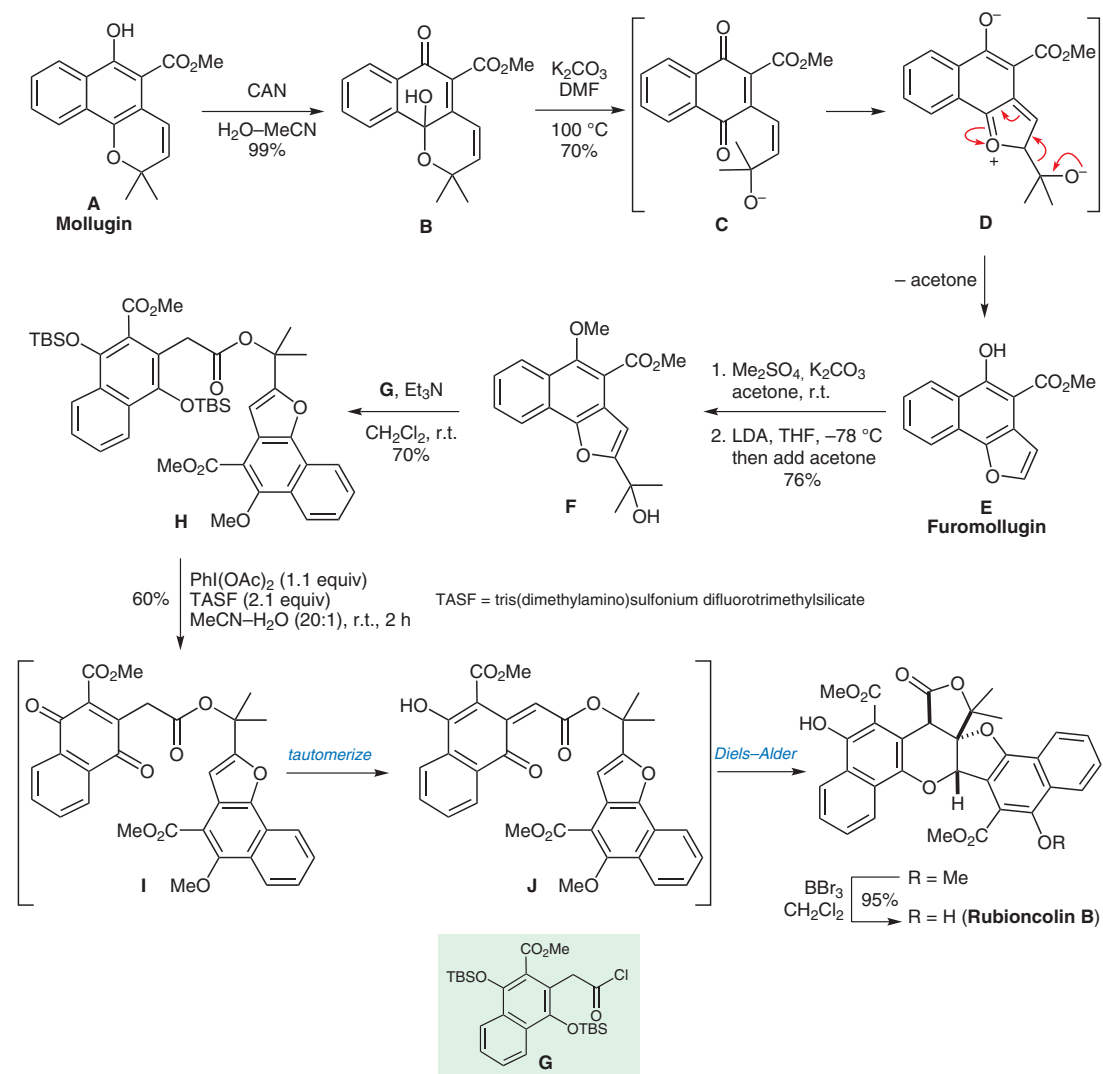


Synthesis of Rubioncolin B



Significance: Rubioncolin B is isolated from the roots of *Rubia* species which are administered in Chinese medicine. The short synthesis depicted features the tautomerization of the *p*-quinone **I** to the *o*-quinone methide **J** which then undergoes an intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction to give the complex ring system of the target.

Comment: Natural rubioncolin B is racemic and the authors postulate that the tautomerization of *p*-quinone **I** to the *o*-quinone methide **J** and a subsequent Diels-Alder reaction may explain its biogenesis.