



**Significance:** The first total synthesis of haplophytine features a Friedel–Crafts alkylation to create the quaternary center in **D** and an oxidative rearrangement **F** → **G** → **H**.

**Comment:** The stereogenic center in tetrahydro-β-carboline **A** was installed via a Noyori asymmetric hydrogenation. The Fischer indole synthesis gave two regioisomers (5:3, **K** major).