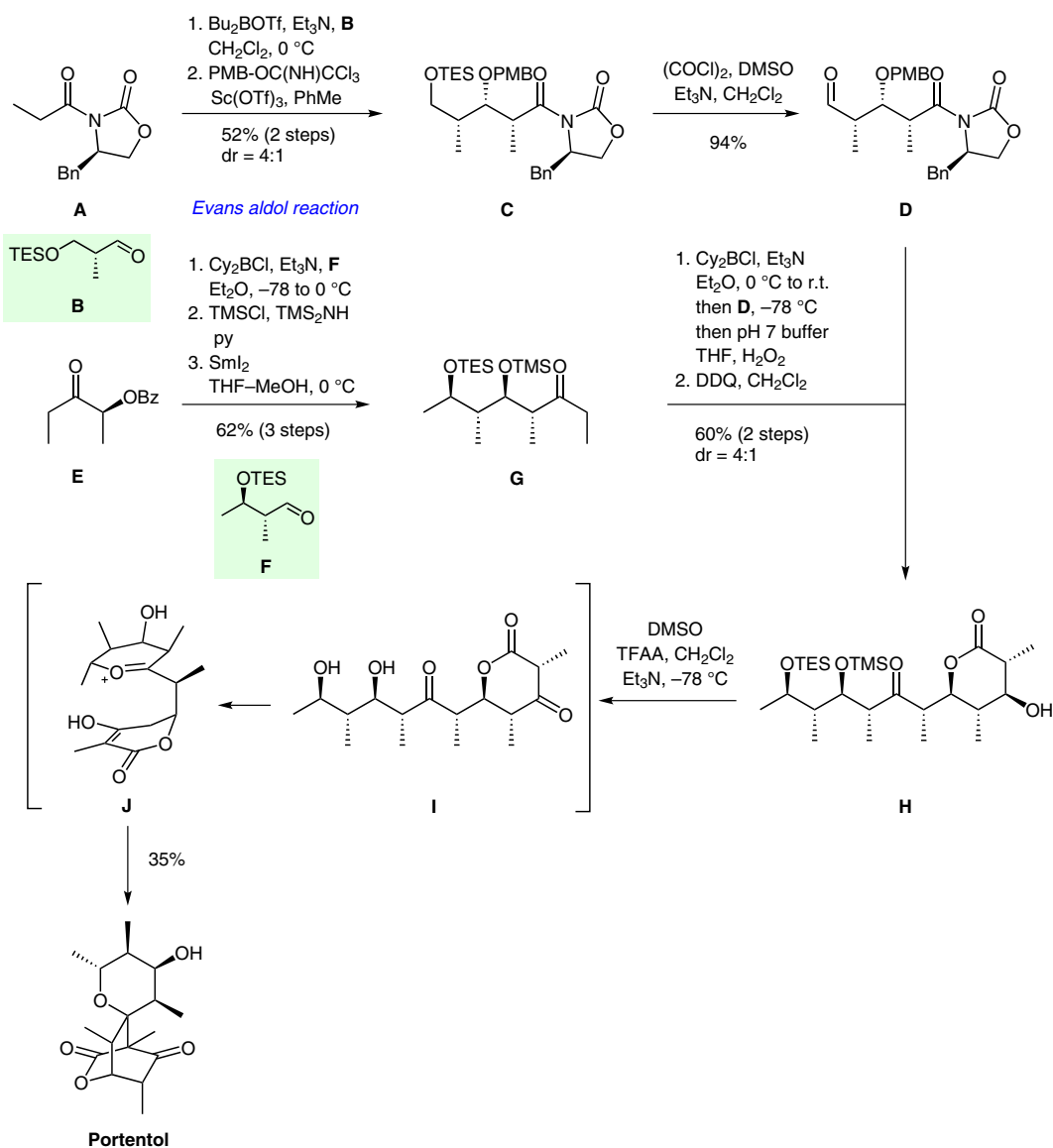


Synthesis of Portentol



Significance: Cheng and Trauner report the asymmetric total synthesis of the polyketide portentol, isolated in 1967 from lichen *Roccella Portentosa*. The synthesis relies on a cascade sequence, mimicking the hypothetical biosynthesis.

Comment: Fragment **C** was synthesized by means of an Evans aldol reaction. Oxidation of the primary alcohol, followed by aldol reaction with ketone **G** and deprotection, gave lactone **H**, which underwent oxidation, oxonium ion formation, and aldol reaction upon treatment with DMSO and TFAA.