

## Concise Total Synthesis of (±)-Aloperine and *epi*-Aloperine

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### Experimental Section

**2-[(Methoxy-methyl-carbamoyl)-methyl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (8).** To a solution of carboxylic acid **7** (1 g, 4.11 mmol), *N,O*-dimethylhydroxylamine hydrochloride (401 mg, 4.11), DMPA (840 mg, 6.85 mmol) in THF (150 ml), DCC (850 mg, 4.13 mmol) dissolved in THF (20 ml) was added dropwise. After 17 h at room temperature the reaction mixture was filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The resulting oil was purified by column chromatography (EtOAc-hexane 1:2) to give **8** (834 mg, 71%).  $R_f$  (EtOAc-hexane, 1:1) 0.13;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.80 – 4.60 (1H, m), 3.99 (1H, bd,  $J$  = 13 Hz), 3.68 (3H, s), 3.13 (3H, s), 2.80 (1H, bt,  $J$  = 13 Hz), 2.62 (1H, A portion of AB system), 2.58 (1H, B portion of AB system), 1.68 – 1.55 (4H, m), 1.45 (9H, s), 1.54 – 1.33 (2H, m).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  155.0, 79.5, 60.5, 48.7, 47.6, 39.1, 34.1, 33.0, 28.4 (3C), 25.2, 18.9. Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ : C, 58.72; H, 9.16; N, 9.78. Found: C, 58.79. H, 9.22. N, 9.67.

**2-(2-Oxo-4-trimethylsilylanyl-but-3-ynyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (9) from 8.** A solution of trimethylsilylacetylene (372  $\mu\text{l}$ , 2.64 mmol) in THF (9 ml) was treated with *n*-BuLi (993  $\mu\text{l}$ , 2 mmol) at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ . After 30 minutes the resulting solution was added to a solution of amide **8** (300 mg, 1.05 mmol) in THF-MeOH (15 ml-414  $\mu\text{l}$ ) at  $-50^\circ\text{C}$ . After 1 h at  $-5^\circ\text{C}$  AcOH (90  $\mu\text{l}$ ) was added at  $-70^\circ\text{C}$ . After 5 minutes NaCl was added and the mixture was extracted with EtOAc. By column chromatography (EtOAc-hexane, 1:3) compound **9** (150 mg, 42%) was obtained as an oil.  $R_f$  (EtOAc-hexane, 1:3) 0.4;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.75-4.15 (1H, m), 3.98 (1H, bd,  $J$  = 13 Hz), 2.85-2.65 (3H, m), 1.75-1.30 (6H, m), 1.44 (9H, s), 0.29 (9H, s).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50.3 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  185.2, 154.4, 102.1, 97.9, 79.5, 47.5, 45.5, 39.0, 28.4, 28.2 (3C), 25.1, 18.8, -0.9 (3C). Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_3\text{Si}$ : C, 63.12; H, 9.04; N, 4.33. Found: C, 63.21. H, 9.10. N, 4.38.

### **2-(2-Oxo-but-3-ynyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (10)**

To a solution of compound **9** (112mg, 0.34 mmol) in THF-MeOH (5 ml-138  $\mu\text{l}$ ), TBAF (1M in THF, 130  $\mu\text{l}$ ) was added at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ . After 30 min,  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  solution was added and the solution was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Evaporation of the organic solvent, gave compound **10** as an oil (71mg, 84%).  $R_f$  (EtOAc-hexane, 1:4) 0.2;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.88-4.77 (1H, m), 4.08-3.93 (1H, bd,  $J$ =13 Hz), 2.90-2.65 (3H, m), 1.80-1.30 (7H, m), 1.45 (9H, s).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50.3 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  184.9, 154.5, 81.6, 79.8, 78.8, 47.3, 45.8, 39.2, 28.7, 28.3 (3C), 25.1, 18.8. Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_3$ : C, 66.91; H, 8.42; N, 5.57. Found: C, 66.85. H, 8.48. N, 5.50.

**2-(2-Oxo-4-trimethylsilylanyl-but-3-ynyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (9) from 11.** Trimethylsilylacetylene (373 mg, 3.80 mmol) was added to a cold ( $0^\circ\text{C}$ ) solution of ethylmagnesiumbromide (506 mg, 3.80 mmol) dissolved in THF (10 ml). This solution was stirred for 1 h at  $5$ - $15^\circ\text{C}$  and for 15 min at room temperature. A solution of the aldehyde **11** (724 mg, 3.18 mmol) in THF (6 ml) was then added dropwise over a 30-min period. The reaction solution was allowed to stir for an additional 30 min before being quenched with  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}_{(\text{satd})}$  and concentrated.

The resulting mixture was extracted with AcOEt, the organic phase was washed with  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}_{(\text{satd})}$  and brine. The evaporation of the solvent gave a mixture of diastereoisomers **12** (890 mg, 86%) that were directly used for the next step. A DMSO solution (280  $\mu\text{l}$ , 3.91 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2 ml) was added to a solution of oxalyl chloride (170  $\mu\text{l}$ , 1.96 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (13 ml) at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  over a period of 5 min. After the mixture was stirred for 30 min, a solution of **12** (198 mg, 0.61 mmol) was added to the  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution and the reaction mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 90 min.  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (115  $\mu\text{l}$ , 8.15 mmol) was then added to the reaction mixture, which was gradually warmed to room temperature and diluted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution was washed with water and brine, dried and concentrated to dryness to give **9** as a brown oil (172 mg, 87%) that was directly used for the next step.

### **2-(2-Hydroxy-4-trimethylsilanyl-but-3-ynyl)-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**12**)**

A small amount of diastereomeric mixture **12** was purified by chromatography (AcOEt:cyclohexane 1:4). **12a**  $R_f$  (AcOEt:cyclohexane 1:4) 0.38;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.64 (1H, bs), 4.50–4.20 (1H, m), 4.17–4.13 (1H, m), 4.01–3.90 (1H, m), 2.75 (1H, td,  $J=10$ , 3 Hz), 2.28–2.15 (1H, td,  $J=10$ , 3 Hz), 1.80–1.39 (25H, m).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  154.5, 106.5, 80.8, 77.4 (tentatively assigned), 59.5, 46.5, 39.9, 39.0, 29.6, 28.8 (3C), 25.7, 19.6, 0.3 (3C). Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{31}\text{NO}_3\text{Si}$ : C, 62.72; H, 9.60; N, 4.30. Found: C, 62.68. H, 9.62. N, 4.27. **12b**  $R_f$  (AcOEt:cyclohexane 1:4) 0.30;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.82–4.77 (1H, bs), 4.62–4.39 (2H, m), 4.02–3.84 (1H, m), 2.98–2.80 (1H, m), 2.24 (1H, ddd,  $J=14$ , 11, 3 Hz), 1.74 (1H, ddd,  $J=15$ , 5, 4), 1.70–1.40 (24H, m).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  154.5, 106.5, 80.8, 77.4 (tentatively assigned), 60.2, 46.3, 39.9, 37.0, 29.9, 28.9 (3C), 25.9, 19.7, 0.4 (3C). Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{31}\text{NO}_3\text{Si}$ : C, 62.72; H, 9.60; N, 4.30. Found: C, 62.74. H, 9.58. N, 4.27.

### **2-[2-Benzyl-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-pyridin-3-yl]-2-oxo-ethyl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (**13**)**

Benzylamine (354  $\mu\text{l}$ , 3.25 mmol) was added to a solution of **10** (743 mg, 2.96 mmol) at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . After the solution was warmed to room temperature, stirring was maintained for 18 h. Acryloyl chloride (263  $\mu\text{l}$ , 3.25 mmol) was added at room temperature. After being heated for 18 h at reflux, the solution was washed with a saturated aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  and the organic layer extracted with EtOAc. Evaporation of the solvent and column chromatography (AcOEt-cyclohexane, 1:3) gave a yellow oil (683 mg, 56%).  $R_f$  (EtOAc) 0.55;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.70–7.20 (6H, m), 4.92 (1H, A portion of AB system), 4.68 (1H, B portion of AB system), 4.60–4.52 (1H, m), 3.90 (1H, bd,  $J=13$  Hz), 2.82–2.65 (5H, m), 2.57 (2H, bs), 1.98–1.40 (6H, m), 1.45 (9H, s).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  195.8, 169.8, 155.1, 136.6, 128.8 (2C), 128.0, 127.8 (3C), 118.5, 79.6, 50.2, 49.1, 39.8, 38.4, 30.7, 28.4 (3C), 27.5, 25.1, 18.8, 18.6. Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4$ : C, 69.88; H, 7.82; N, 6.79. Found: C, 69.93. H, 7.80. N, 6.82. EIMS 412 (6%), 356 (10%), 339 (16%), 312 (100%), 214 (80%).

### **1-Benzyl-6-(1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-piperidin-2-yl)-2-oxo-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-octahydro-quinoline-8-carboxylic acid methyl ester (**16** and **17**)**

To a solution of **13** (424 mg, 1.03 mmol) in THF-MeOH (1:2, 30 ml),  $\text{NaBH}_4$  (56 mg, 1.48 mmol) was added at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . After 2 h, the reaction mixture was poured into a  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}_{(\text{satd})}$  and extracted with AcOEt. The crude **14** was directly dissolved in toluene (10 ml) and refluxed in presence of pTSA (8 mg, 0.043 mmol) and methyl acrylate (6 ml, 66.7 mmol). After 10 days, the solution was concentrated in vacuum and the residue was purified by chromatography (AcOEt-hexane, 1:1) to give **16** (280 mg, 56%) and **17** (140 mg, 28%). **16**:  $R_f$  (AcOEt-hexane 1:1) 0.22;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.35–7.10 (5H, m), 5.50 (1H, bs), 5.42 (1H, A portion of AB system), 4.05 (1H, bd,  $J=11$  Hz), 4.02 (1H, B portion of AB system), 3.92–3.82 (1H, m), 3.59 (3H, s), 3.22–3.12 (1H, m), 2.90–2.80 (1H, m), 2.54–2.30 (8H, m), 1.85–1.70 (2H, m), 1.70–1.45 (4H, m), 1.45 (9H, s).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR

(75.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.9, 172.0, 155.0, 137.0, 135.5, 128.6-126.8 (5C), 123.2, 79.2, 55.9, 51.8, 46.1, 42.8, 40.0, 39.0, 34.6, 32.2, 29.5, 28.7, 28.3 (3C), 25.8, 25.3, 18.8. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>38</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 69.78; H, 7.94; N, 5.80. Found: C, 69.84. H, 7.91. N, 5.76. **17**: R<sub>f</sub> (EtOAc) 0.19; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40-7.15 (5H, m), 5.42 (1H, bs), 5.31 (1H, A portion of AB system), 4.15-3.85 (3H, m), 3.59 (3H, s), 3.15-3.05 (1H, m), 2.75-2.25 (9H, m), 1.95-1.20 (6H, m), 1.45 (9H, s). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.9, 172.0, 155.0, 137.0, 135.5, 128.6-126.8 (5C), 122.8, 77.4, 56.4, 53.4, 46.5, 42.3, 40.0, 39.8, 32.6, 29.6, 28.5 (3C), 25.9, 25.3, 18.7. Anal. Found. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>38</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 69.83. H, 7.90. N, 5.79.

**2-[2-Benzyl-6-oxo-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-pyridin-3-yl]-vinyl]-piperidine-1-carboxylic acid *tert*-butyl ester (15).** A solution of **14** (50 mg, 0.13 mmol) in toluene (3 ml) was heated at 70°C. After 30 min, the solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by chromatography (AcOEt:hexane 1:1) to give **15** (45 mg, 88%). **15** (AcOEt-cyhexane, 1:1. R<sub>f</sub> = 0.32). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.55 - 7.15 (5H, m), 6.05 (1H, s), 5.96 (1H, d, J=16 Hz), 5.45 (1H, dd, J=16, 5 Hz), 4.84 (1H, m), 4.70 (2H, s), 3.92 (1H, bd, J=12Hz), 2.81 (1H, bt, J=12 Hz), 2.62 (2H, t, J=9 Hz), 2.47 (2H, t, J=9 Hz), 1.82 - 1.50 (6H, m), 1.40 (9H, s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50.2 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  179.2, 155.5, 136.7, 130.9, 128.6 (5C), 127.5, 125.5, 117.8, 79.5, 52.0, 49.1, 39.7, 30.7, 29.5, 28.3 (3C), 25.4, 20.5, 19.5. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 72.70; H, 8.13; N, 7.06. Found: C, 72.68. H, 8.17. N, 7.04.

**1-Benzyl-2-oxo-6-piperidin-2-yl -1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-octahydro-quinoline-8-carboxylic acid methyl ester (18)**

**1-Benzyl-2-oxo-6-piperidin-2-yl -1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-octahydro-quinoline-8-carboxylic acid methyl ester (19)**

To a solution of **16** or **17** (150 mg, 0.27 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (9 ml), CF<sub>3</sub>COOH (2.1 ml, 27 mmol) was added. After 2 h at room temperature, water was added and the solution was basified with NH<sub>4</sub>OH. Evaporation of the organic layer gave **18** or **19** in quantitative yield. **18**: R<sub>f</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:EtOH-NH<sub>4</sub>OH conc. 5% 4:1) 0.5; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40-7.05 (5H, m), 5.50 (1H, bs), 5.20 (1H, A portion of AB system), 4.31 (1H, B portion of AB system), 3.92-3.83 (1H, m), 3.56 (3H, s), 3.12-2.95 (2H, m), 2.70-0.85 (16H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.7, 172.2, 137.2, 133.6, 128.6 (2C), 127.8 (2C), 127.3, 123.1, 59.8, 56.7, 51.5, 47.2, 46.6, 39.3, 38.1, 32.7, 30.4, 29.3, 26.3, 26.1, 25.4. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: C, 72.22; H, 7.91; N, 7.32. Found: C, 72.27. H, 7.95. N, 7.32. EIMS 382 (23%), 322 (48%), 299 (100%). **19**: R<sub>f</sub> (AcOEt: MeOH: Et<sub>3</sub>N 15:1:2) 0.45; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35-7.05 (5H, m), 5.64 (1H, bs), 5.24 (1H, A portion of AB system), 4.09 (1H, B portion of AB system), 3.90-3.85 (1H, m), 3.54 (3H, s), 3.12-3.01 (2H, m), 2.65-0.85 (16H, m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.7, 172.2, 137.1, 133.3, 129.6 (2C), 127.6 (2C), 127.3, 122.4, 60.4, 56.4, 51.5, 47.5, 46.5, 39.4, 37.9, 32.6, 30.7, 29.2, 26.7, 26.2, 24.1. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: Found: C, 72.28. H, 7.95. N, 7.30.

**1-Benzyl-8-hydroxymethyl-6-piperidin-2-yl-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-octahydro-1*H*-quinoline (20)**

**1-Benzyl-8-hydroxymethyl-6-piperidin-2-yl-1,2,3,4,6,7,8,8a-octahydro-1*H*-quinoline (21)**

To a suspension of LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (115mg, 3.03 mmol) in THF (15 ml), a solution of **18** or **19** (430 mg, 1.12 mmol) was added dropwise at 0°C. The reaction mixture was maintained at 0°C for 6 h. LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (402 mg, 10.58 mmol) was added in several portions and after 4 days at room temperature the reaction was concluded. AcOEt was added and after 2 h the reaction mixture was poured into water. The organic layer was concentrated to give a yellow oil (361 mg, 94%) that was directly used in the next step. A little amount was purified by chromatography (AcOEt:MeOH:Et<sub>3</sub>N 15:1:1). **20**: R<sub>f</sub> (AcOEt: MeOH: Et<sub>3</sub>N 15:1:1) 0.13; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.55-7.10 (5H, m), 5.51 (1H, bs), 4.00 (1H, A portion of AB system), 3.91 (1H, dd, J=12.5, 10 Hz), 3.65 (1H, dd, J=12.5, 10 Hz), 3.31 (1H, B portion of AB system), 3.22 (1H, bd, J=7.5 Hz), 3.13 (1H, bd, J=12.5 Hz), 2.88-2.75

(1H, m), 2.70-1.22 (19H, m).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  139.2, 135.9, 128.8 (2C), 128.7 (2C), 127.3, 124.4, 63.3, 61.6, 60.9, 51.6, 47.2, 39.9, 36.4, 34.4 (2C), 31.0, 30.1, 26.3, 24.9, 23.4. Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : C, 77.60; H, 9.47; N, 8.23. Found: C, 77.62; H, 9.49; N, 8.20. **21**:  $R_f$  (AcOEt: MeOH:  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  15:1:1) 0.23;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.40-7.15 (5H, m), 5.61 (1H, bs), 3.90 (1H, dd,  $J=12.5$ , 10 Hz), 3.88 (1H, A portion of AB system), 3.69 (1H, dd,  $J=12.5$ , 10 Hz), 3.52 (1H, B portion of AB system), 3.41-3.35 (1H, m), 3.18-3.08 (1H, m), 2.85-2.71 (1H, m), 2.70-2.55 (1H, m), 2.50-1.15 (18H, m).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  139.4, 135.1, 128.8 (2C), 128.4 (2C), 127.1, 123.1, 64.0, 61.3, 60.3, 54.5, 50.0, 47.0, 39.7, 36.6, 33.7, 29.6, 25.9, 25.7, 24.7, 21.6. Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{32}\text{N}_2\text{O}$ : Found: C, 77.64; H, 9.51; N, 8.25.

**Formation and reduction of N-C6 imine from compound 18.** NCS (19 mg, 0.141 mmol) was stirred in THF (2 ml) at 0 °C and a solution of **18** (50 mg, 0.130 mmol) in THF (1 ml) was added. After 1.5 h water was added and the organic layer was concentrated to give the crude N-Cl derivative as a colorless oil. The crude product was dissolved in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (2 ml) and DBU (0.169 mmol, 26 mg, 26  $\mu\text{l}$ ) was added. After 8 h the solvent was evaporated, the crude mixture containing the imine product was directly dissolved in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and  $\text{NaBH}_3\text{CN}$  (16 mg, 0.25 mmol) was added. After 1 h the reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  to give a mixture containing compounds **18** and **19**.

#### N-Benzyl-aloperine (**22**)

##### 1-Benzyl-1,3,4,6,6a,7,8,9,10,12,13,13a-dodecahydro-2H-6,13-methano-dipyrido[1,2-a,3',2'-e]azocine (**23**)

To a solution of **20** or **21** (361 mg, 1.06 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (40 ml),  $\text{PPh}_3$  (695 mg, 2.65 mmol) and  $\text{CBr}_4$  (421 mg, 1.27 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. Dry  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (361  $\mu\text{l}$ , 2.60 mmol) was added and, after 15h, the solution was poured into HCl 1N. The aqueous solution was basified with  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  conc. and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Evaporation of the solvent and chromatographic purification (hexane:  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  30:1) gave respectively **22** (153 mg, 45%) or **23** (143 mg, 42%). **22**:  $R_f$  (AcOEt: hexane:  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  15:10:1) 0.48;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.40-7.11 (5H, m), 5.58 (1H, d,  $J=4.5$  Hz), 4.12 (1H, A portion of AB system), 3.01 (1H, B portion of AB system), 2.98-1.25 (22H, m).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  139.6, 133.8, 128.6 (2C), 128.1 (2C), 127.9, 126.6, 65.6, 65.1, 57.8, 55.8, 52.5, 51.7, 35.7, 33.7, 32.6, 29.6, 25.6 (2C), 25.2, 23.5. Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2$ : C, 81.93; H, 9.38; N, 8.69. Found: C, 81.90. H, 9.41. N, 8.73. EIMS 322 (25%), 231 (100%). **23**:  $R_f$  (AcOEt: hexane:  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  10:15:1) 0.7;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.40-7.11 (5H, m), 5.45 (1H, d,  $J=5$  Hz), 4.14 (1H, A portion of AB system), 3.20 (1H, d,  $J=10$  Hz), 2.90 (1H, B portion of AB system), 3.00-2.70 (2H, m), 2.32-2.15 (1H, m), 2.10-1.15 (18H, m).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  139.7, 138.4, 128.7 (2C), 128.2 (2C), 126.6, 122.4, 65.9, 64.8, 58.2, 56.4, 56.3, 53.4, 35.6, 34.4, 32.8, 31.1, 30.5, 25.9, 25.6, 25.0. Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2$ . Found: C, 81.94. H, 9.39. N, 8.71.

#### (±)-Aloperine (**1**)

##### 1,3,4,6,6a,7,8,9,10,12,13,13a-dodecahydro-2H-6,13-methano-dipyrido[1,2-a,3',2'-e]azocine (**24**)

To a solution of **22** or **23** (50 mg, 0.15 mmol) in THF (600  $\mu\text{l}$ ) maintained at room temperature,  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (1.20 ml), lithium (53 mg, 7.57 mmol) and ethylenediamine (redistilled from Na, 123  $\mu\text{l}$ , 1.82 mmol) were added. After 2 h, THF (600  $\mu\text{l}$ ),  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (1.20 ml) and ethylenediamine (123  $\mu\text{l}$ ) were added. After 3 h,  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  5% (5 ml) and water (5 ml) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min. The aqueous layer was basified with  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  and extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . After evaporation of organic layer, a yellow oil was obtained. Chromatography purification (AcOEt: MeOH:  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  15 :5 :2) gave respectively **1** (28 mg, 80%) or **24** (29 mg, 83%). **1**:  $R_f$  (AcOEt: MeOH:  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  15 :5 :2) 0.15;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{COCD}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.50 (1H, d,  $J=6.5$  Hz), 3.22 (1H, d,  $J=5.8$

Hz), 3.15-3.05 (1H, m), 2.90 (1H, dd,  $J=11.4, 6$  Hz), 2.87-2.75 (1H, m), 2.68 (1H, td,  $J=12.1, 2.8$  Hz), 2.65-2.45 (2H, m), 2.40-1.15 (16H, m).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  136.1, 126.9, 60.1, 58.1, 55.1, 47.6, 46.0, 34.9, 32.5, 31.6, 29.6, 27.1, 25.4 (2C), 20.2. Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2$ : C, 77.53; H, 10.42; N, 12.05. Found: C, 77.58. H, 10.42. N, 12.02. **24**:  $R_f$  (AcOEt: MeOH:  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  15 :5 :2) 0.21;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{COCD}_3$ )  $\delta$  5.45 (1H, d,  $J=6.6$  Hz), 3.18 (1H, d,  $J=6$  Hz), 3.15-3.04 (1H, m), 2.98-2.86 (1H, m), 2.75-2.60 (2H, m), 2.38-2.25 (1H, m), 2.20-1.10 (17H, m).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  140.7, 121.5, 66.6, 58.4, 57.6, 56.3, 47.2, 35.6, 33.8, 33.4, 32.7, 30.8, 30.4, 26.0, 24.9. Anal. Calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2$ : C, 77.53; H, 10.42; N, 12.05. Found: C, 77.57. H, 10.38. N, 12.03.