

# Search for New Antibacterials Using Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

**David R Spring**  
spring@ch.cam.ac.uk

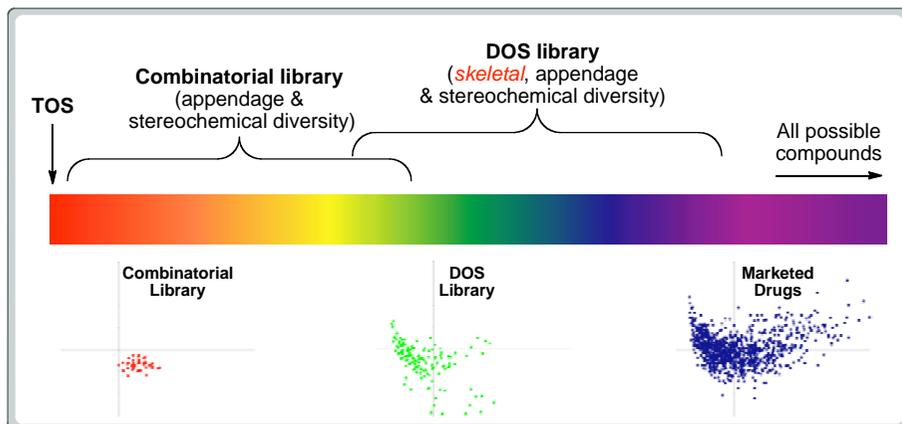
Department of  
Chemistry



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

# Spring Group Research

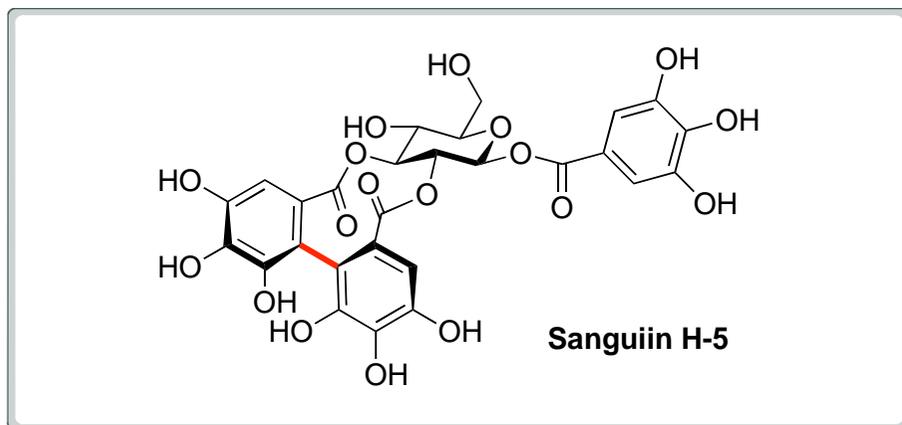
## Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



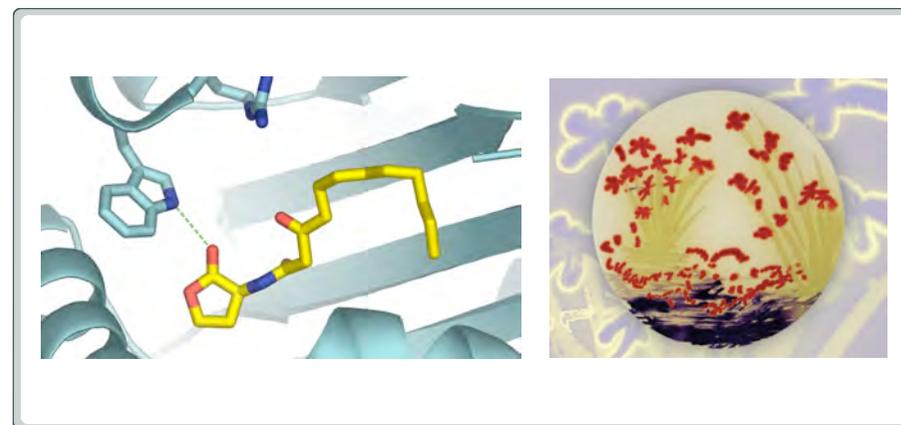
## High Throughput Synthesis & Screening



## New Methodology, Target-Oriented Synthesis

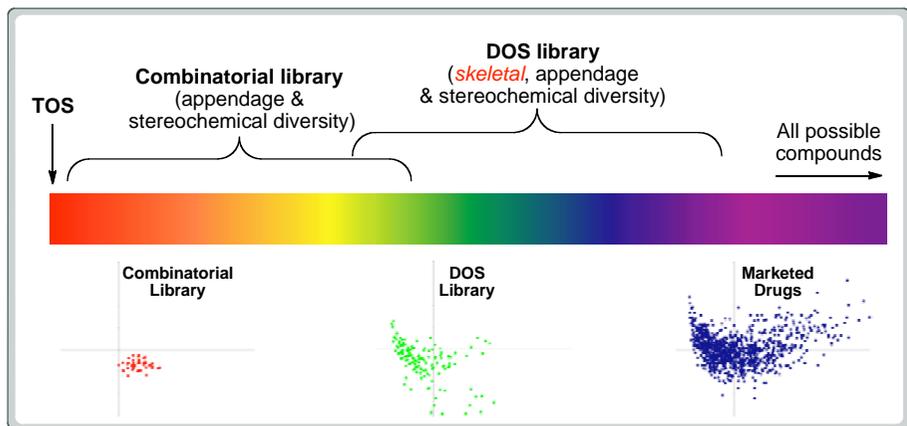


## Chemical Biology, Antibacterial Discovery



# Spring Group Research

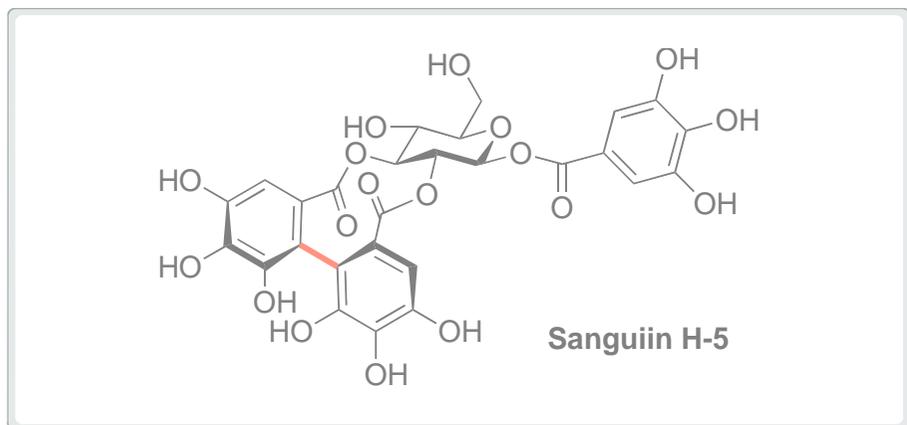
## Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



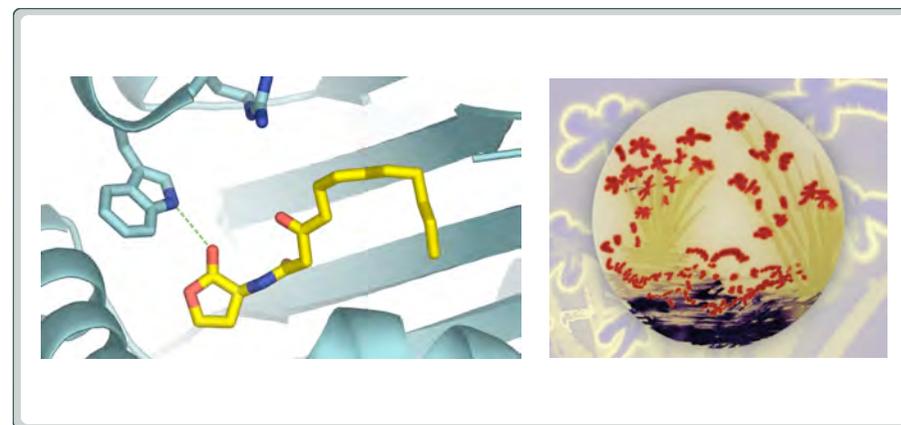
## High Throughput Synthesis & Screening



## New Methodology, Target-Oriented Synthesis



## Chemical Biology, Antibacterial Discovery



# HOSPITALS FEAR OVER SUPERBUG EPIDEMIC

# SUPERBUGS KILL 20,000 A YEAR

## Hospital halts transplants after killer virus strikes

BY JOHN VINCENT

THE death of a patient after the outbreak of a highly resistant wound infection has forced cancellation of the adult liver transplant programme at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

The MRSA virus, linked with dozens of hospital deaths

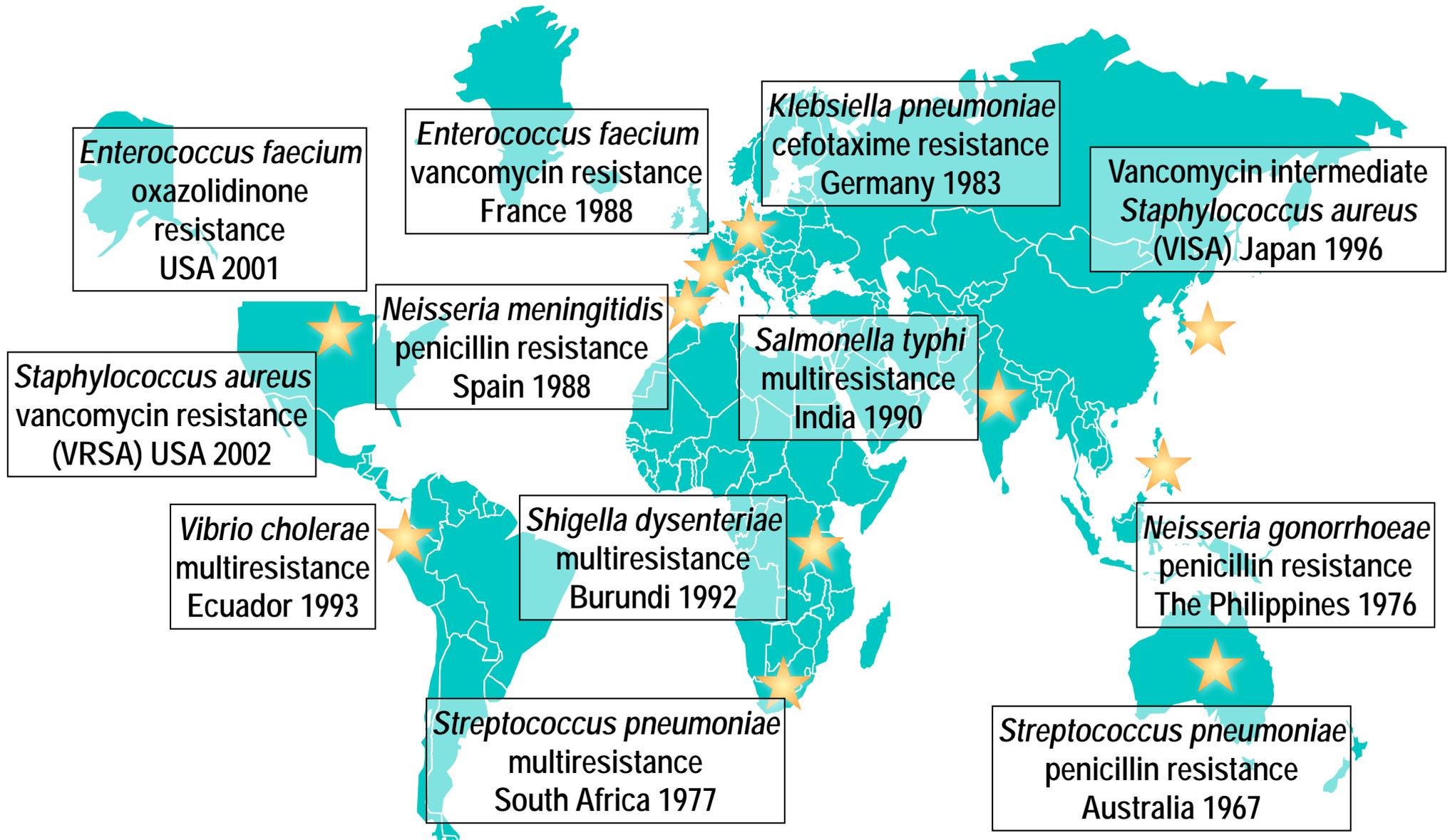
vulnerable after surgery. The MRSA virus contributed directly to the death but, according to doctors, a second patient's death could not be attributed directly to the virus. Keith Day, director of administration, said: "We would like to assure people



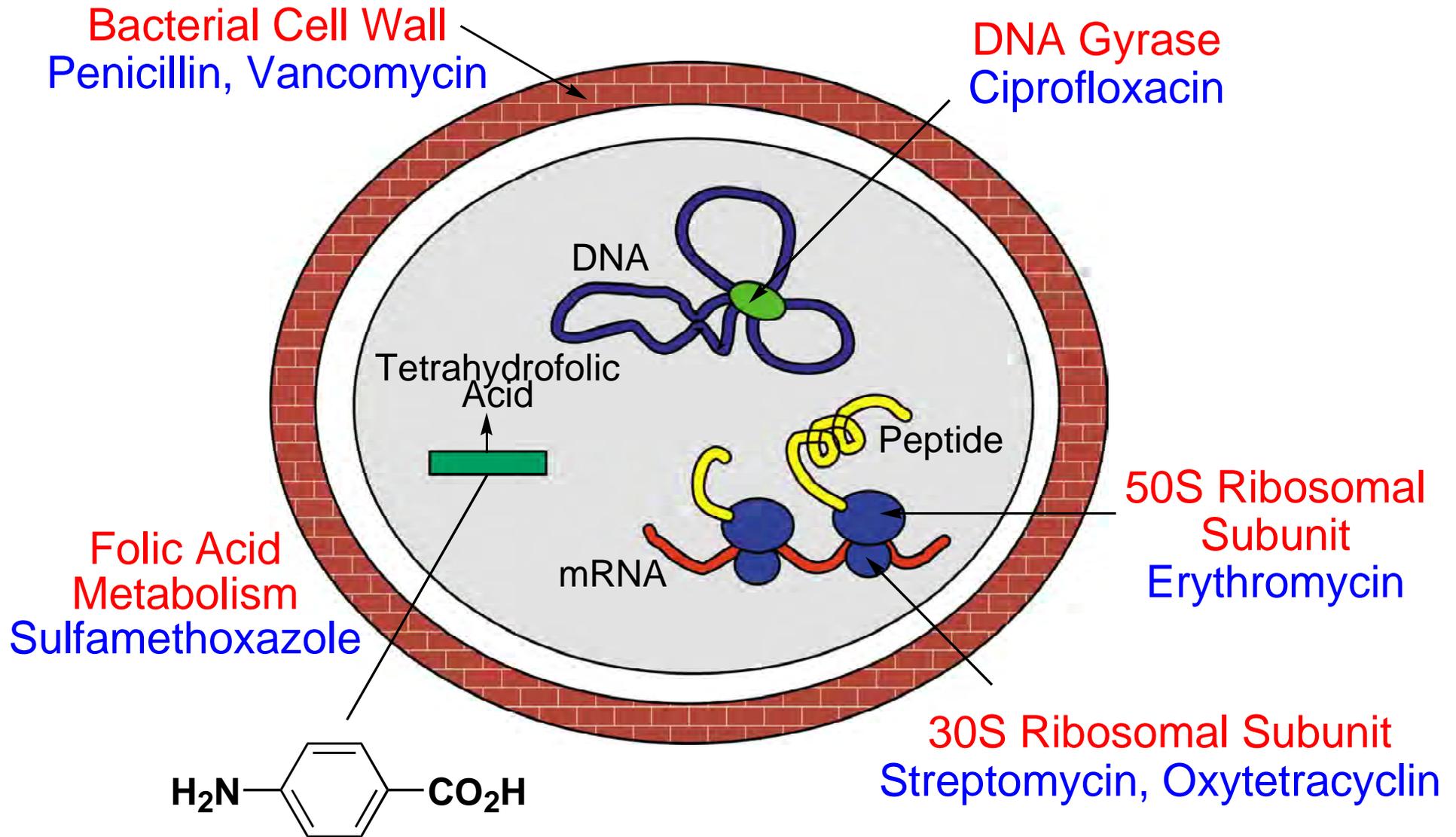
# JACKO HAS SUPERBUG

'MRSA' infection spreads all over his skin

# Global Antibiotic Resistance



# Current Antibacterials



# Current Antibacterials

Due to multidrug-resistant bacterial pathogens infectious disease mortality in the developed world is **increasing!**

Some pharmaceutical companies are not investing in research into *new* antibacterial agents.

# Current Antibacterials

*How to tackle multidrug-resistant bacterial pathogens?*

***1. Target resistance mechanisms***

***2. Search for new antibacterial agents  
with novel modes of action***

# Current Antibacterials

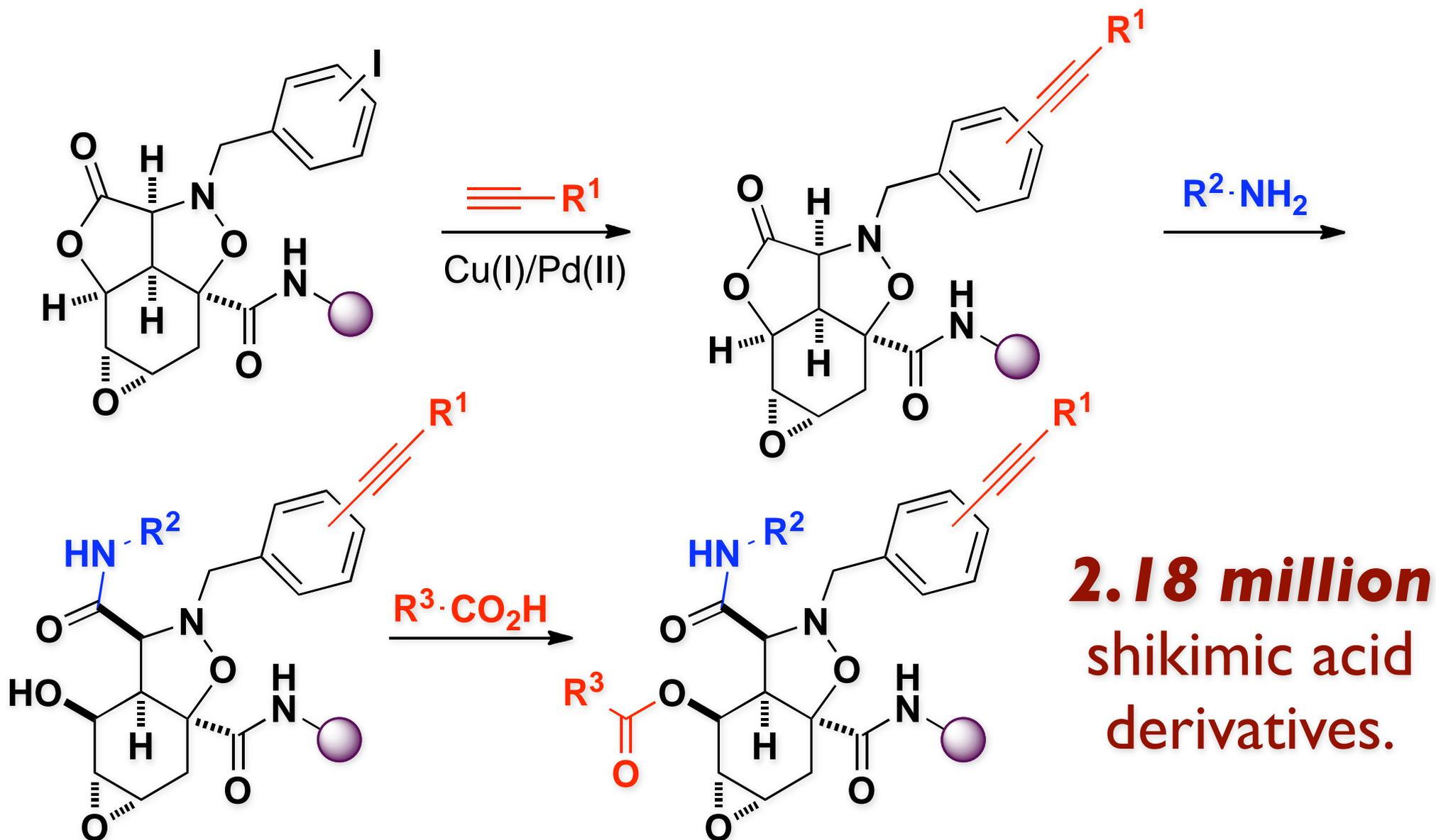
*How to tackle multidrug-resistant bacterial pathogens?*

*1. Target resistance mechanisms*

**2. Search for new antibacterial agents  
with novel modes of action**

**We need a source of small molecules**

# Split-Pool Combinatorial Synthesis



# Small Molecule Challenge

*The number of possible “drug-like” molecules  
has been calculated to be*

# Small Molecule Challenge

*The number of possible “drug-like” molecules  
has been calculated to be*

***astronomic!***

*( $10^{62}$  to  $10^{200}$ )*

# Small Molecule Challenge

- **Quality** and, but not just, quantity counts.
- Display functional groups in **three dimensions**.
- There are **many answers** to every (biological) problem.

**Structurally-Diverse**  
Small Molecule Collections

# Structurally Diverse Small Molecule Collections

- Natural Products
- Commercial Collections
- Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

# Small Molecule Collections

## Natural Products

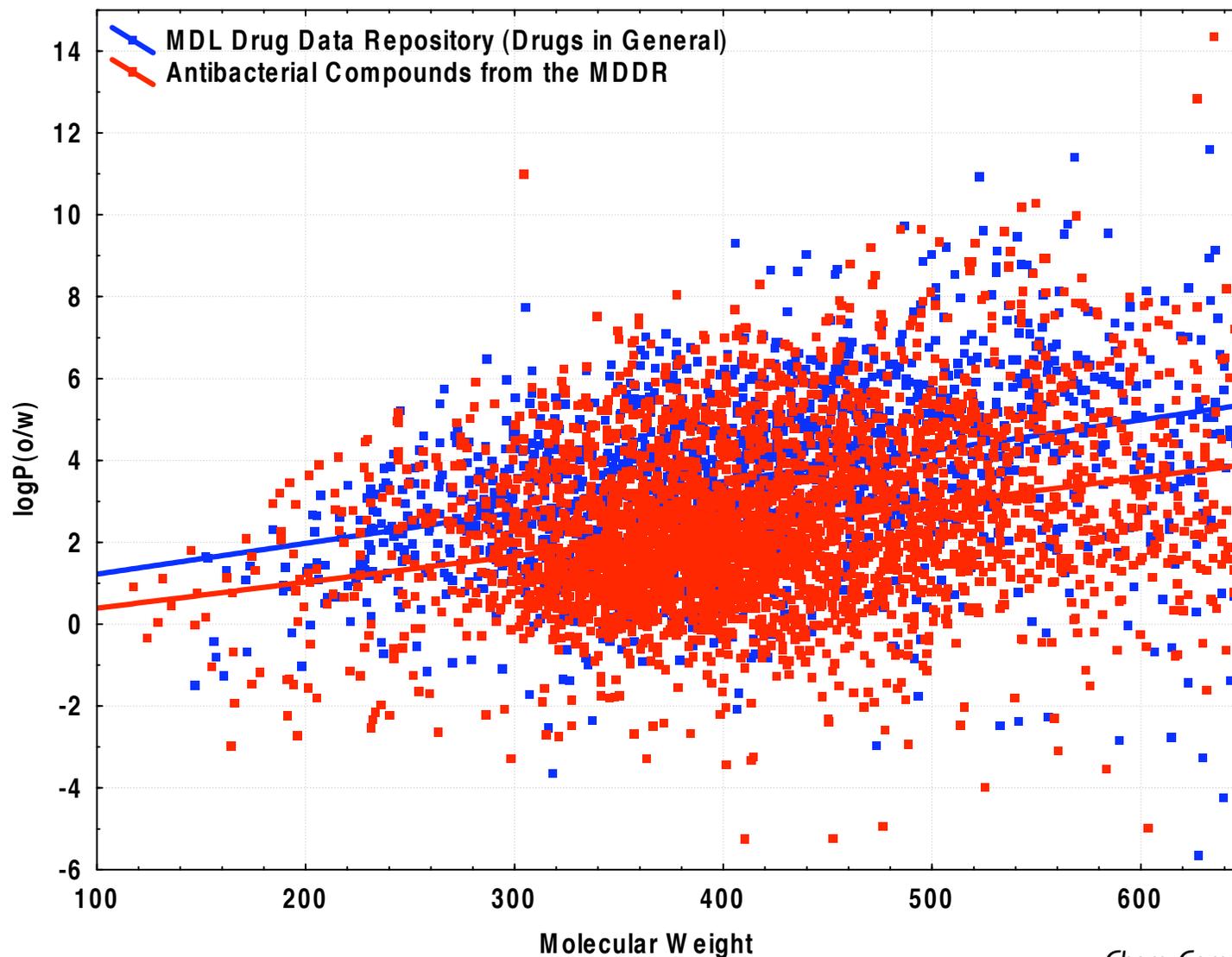
- Often mixtures, supply problem
- Identify active component
- Chemical derivatization difficult

## Commercial Collections

- e.g. ChemBridge & ChemDiv
- Low molecular weight (*ca.* 350 Da)
- Few stereocentres

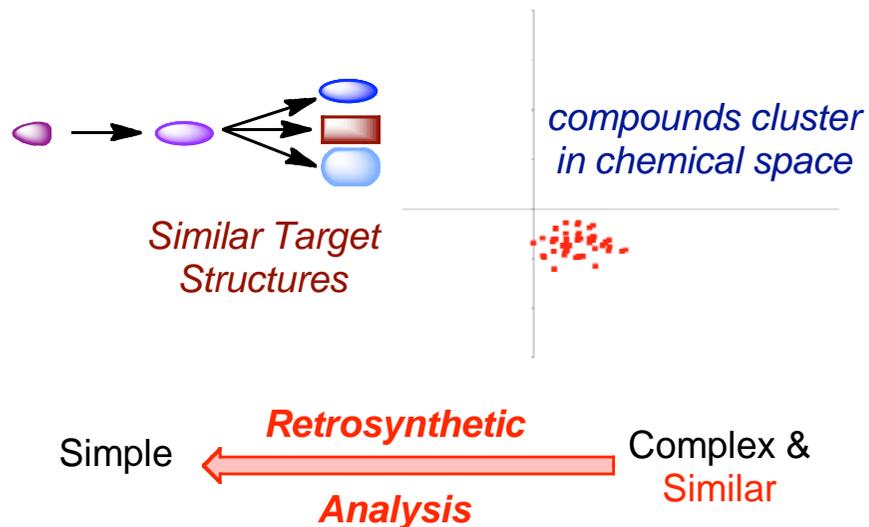
# Small Molecule Collections

*Antibacterials are different*

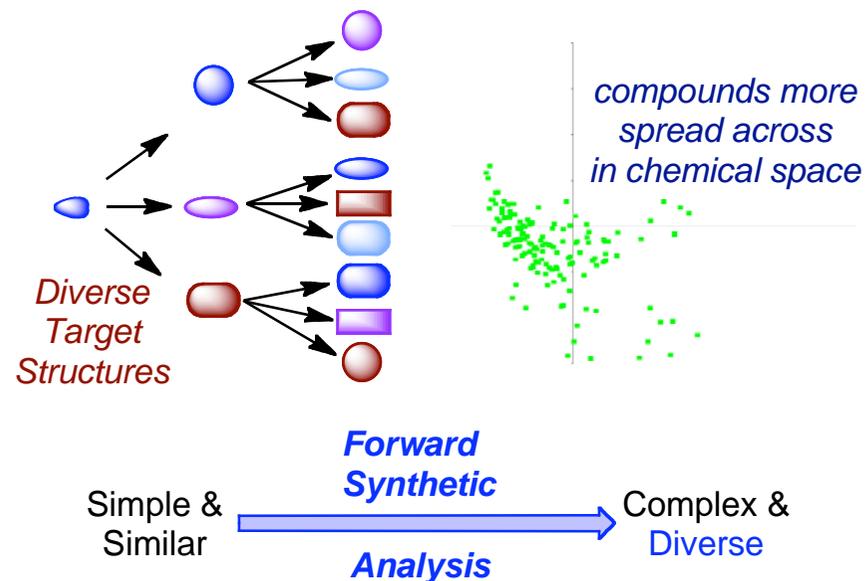


# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

## Combinatorial Library Synthesis



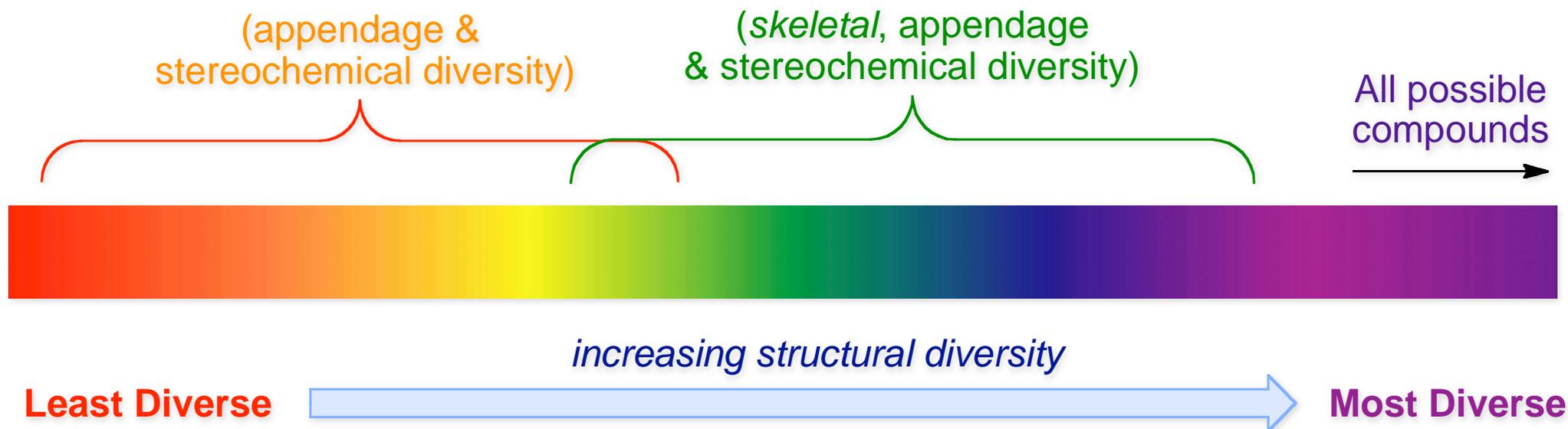
## Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

**Combinatorial Library Synthesis**

**Diversity-Oriented Synthesis**



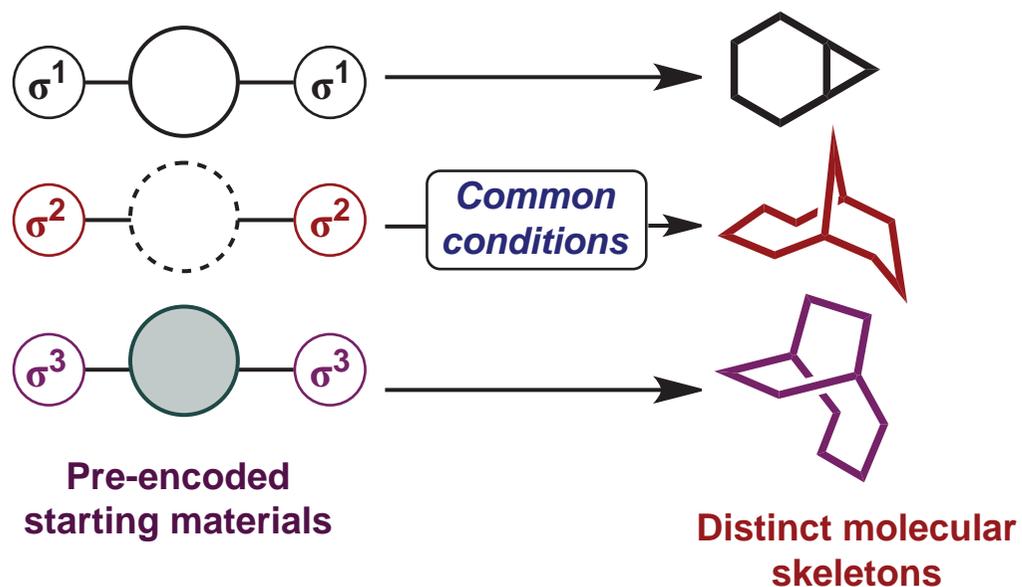
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

## Generating Scaffold Diversity

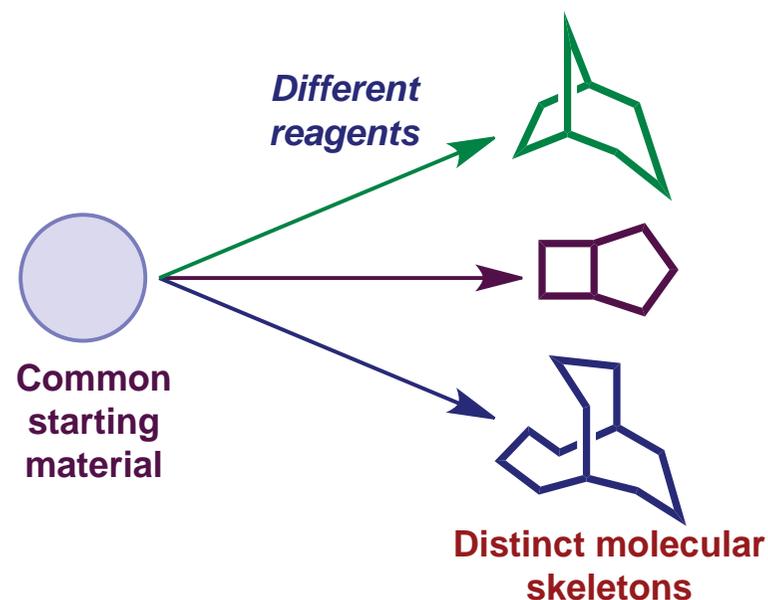
- Substrate-Based Approach
- Reagent-Based Approach

# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

## Generating Scaffold Diversity



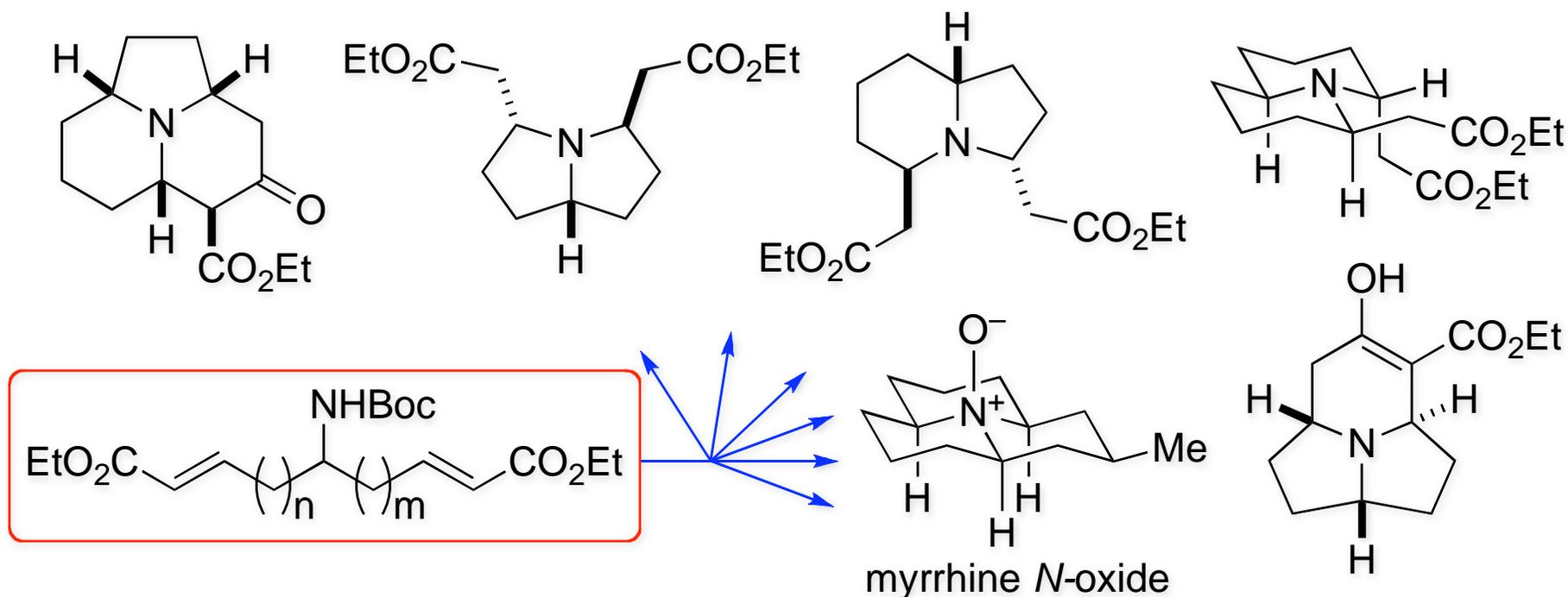
Substrate-Based Approach



Reagent-Based Approach

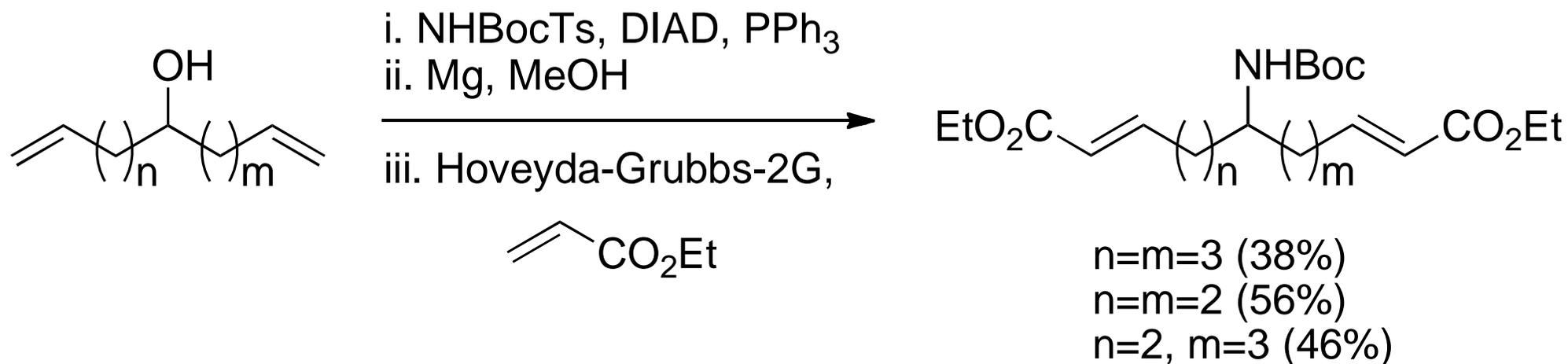
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

- Substrate-Based Approach



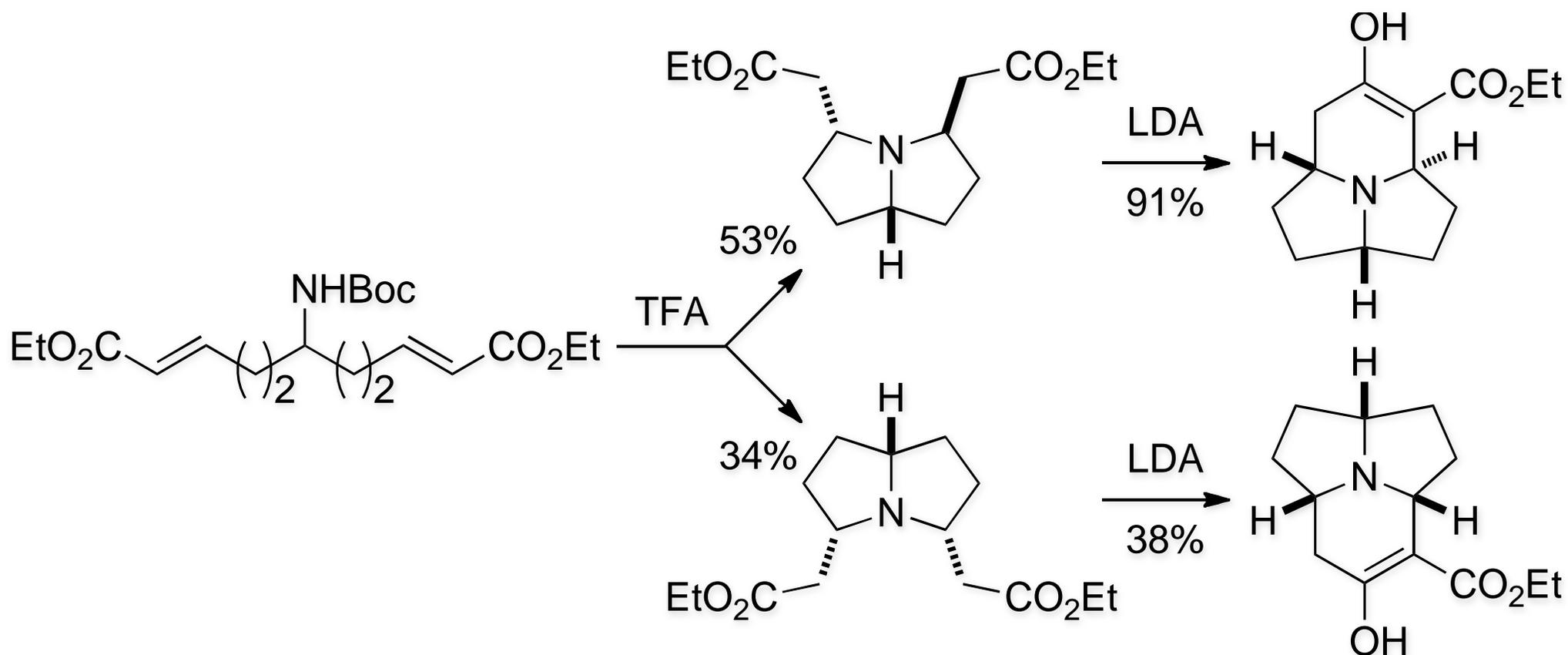
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

- Substrate-Based Approach



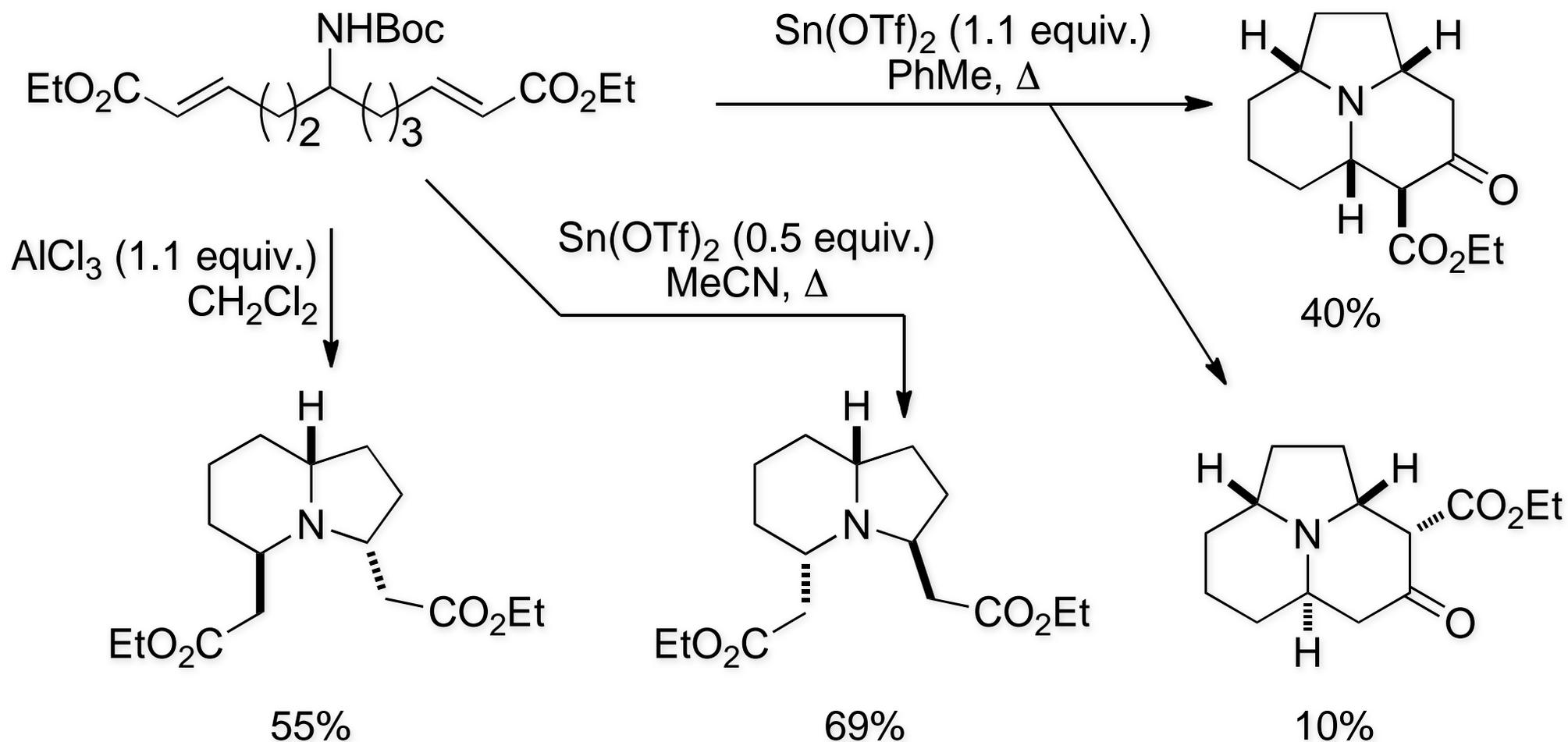
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- Substrate-Based Approach



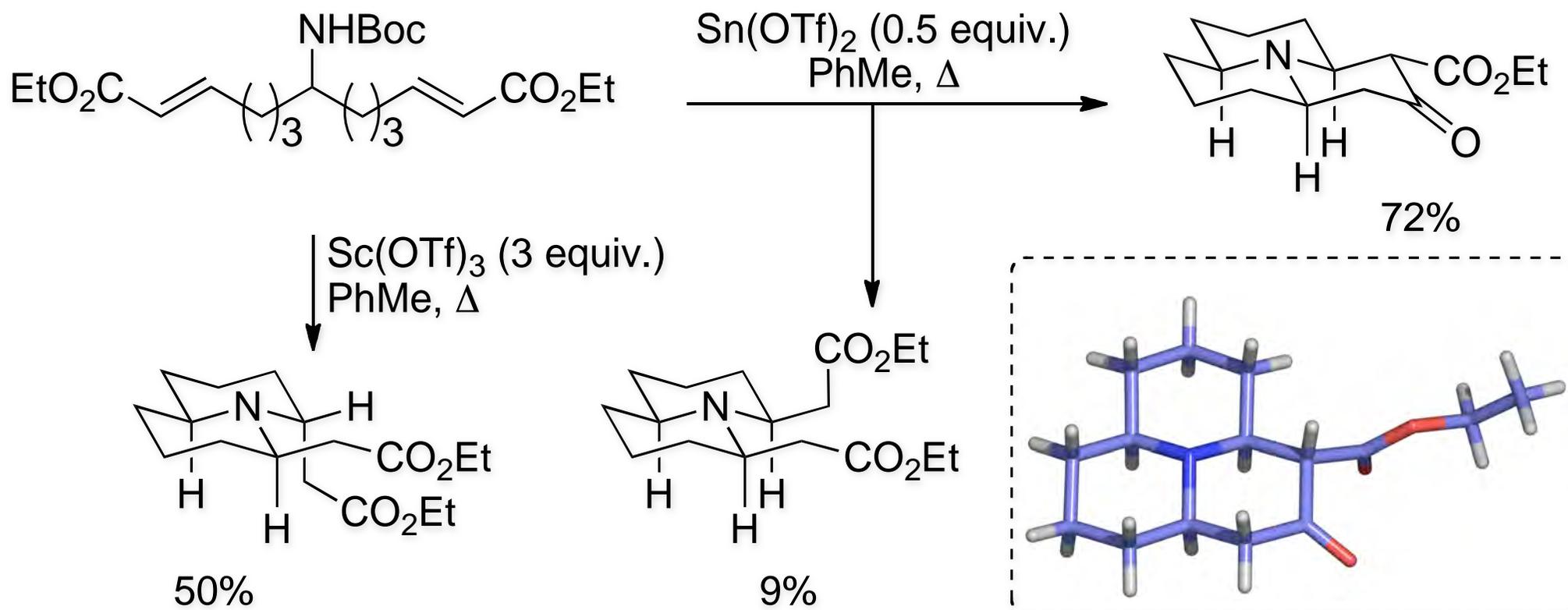
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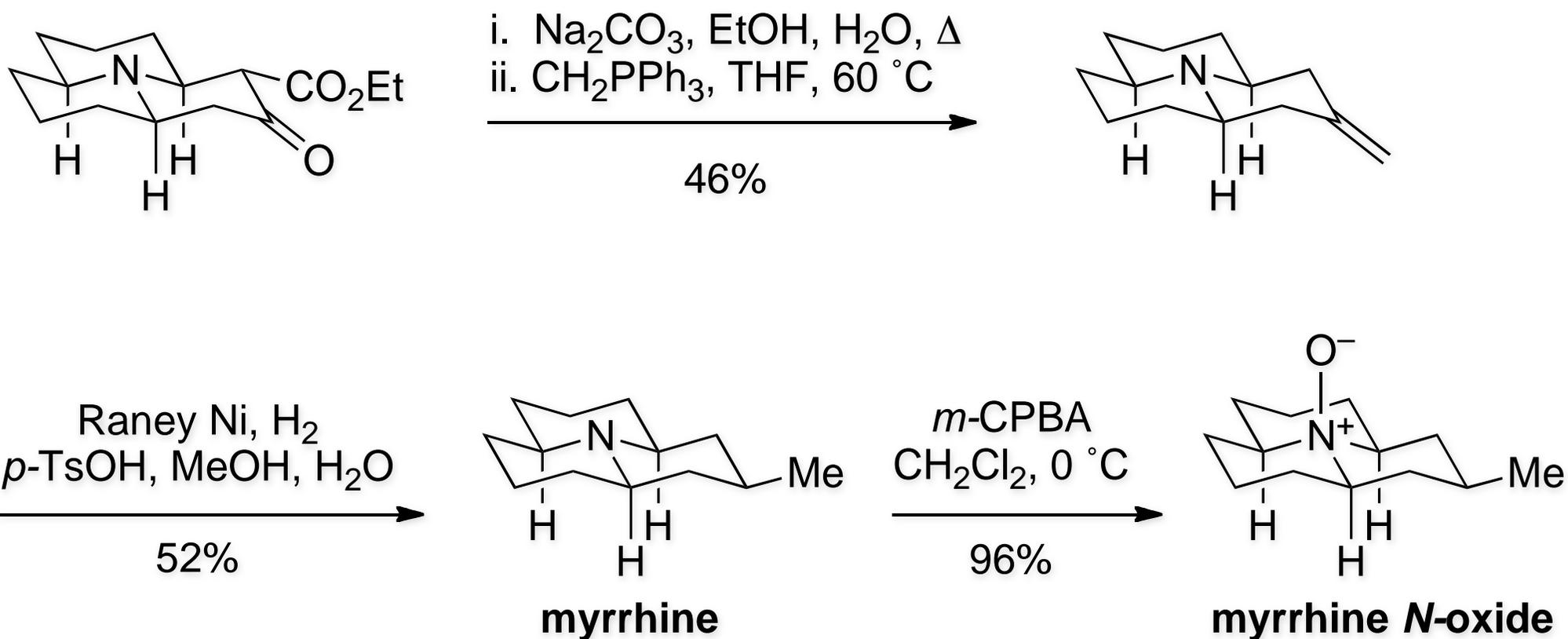
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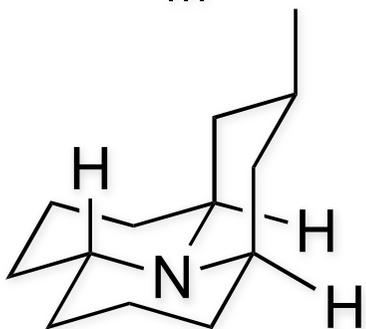
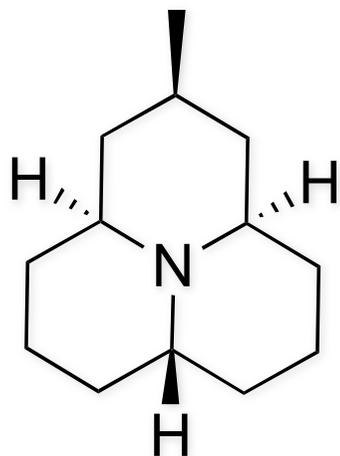


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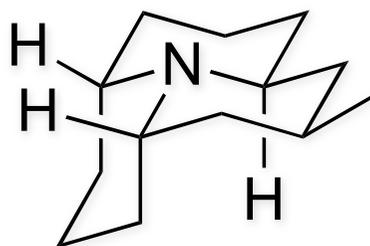
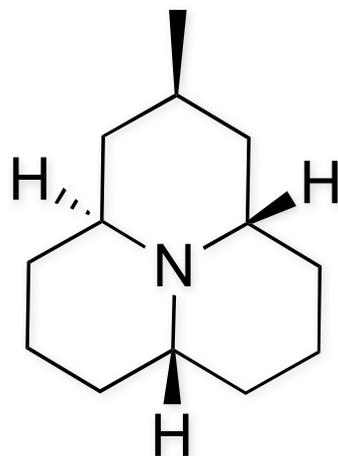
- Substrate-Based Approach



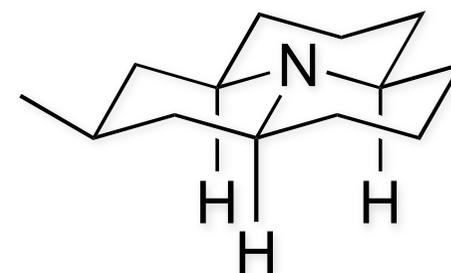
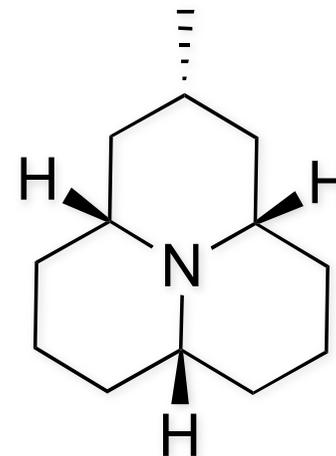
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



Precoccinelline  
N-Oxide: Coccinelline



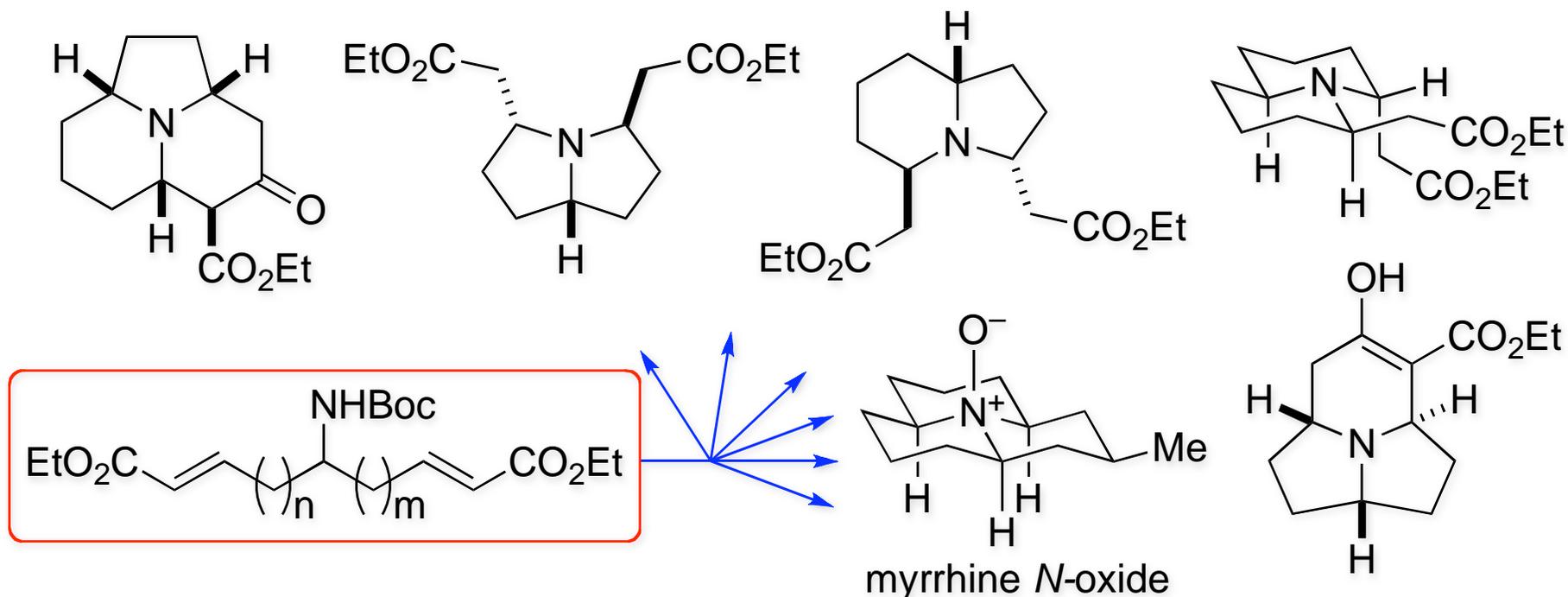
Hippodamine  
N-Oxide: Convergine



Myrrhine  
N-Oxide: Unknown

# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

- Substrate-Based Approach



14 compounds, 7 molecular scaffolds, synthesized in 23 steps  
**‘Steps per scaffold efficiency’ = 3.3 steps per scaffold**

# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

## Generating Scaffold Diversity

- Substrate-Based Approach
- Reagent-Based Approach

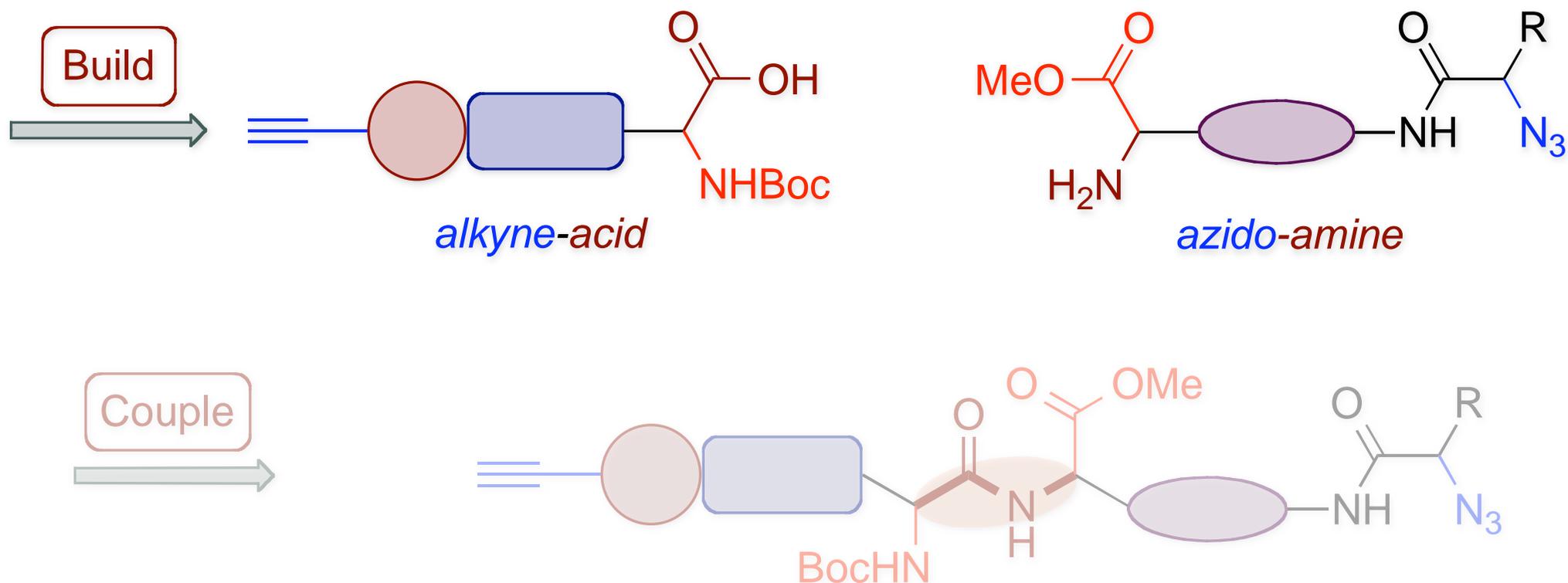
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

- Reagent-Based Approach
  - Densely Functionalized Molecule
  - Pluripotent Functional Group



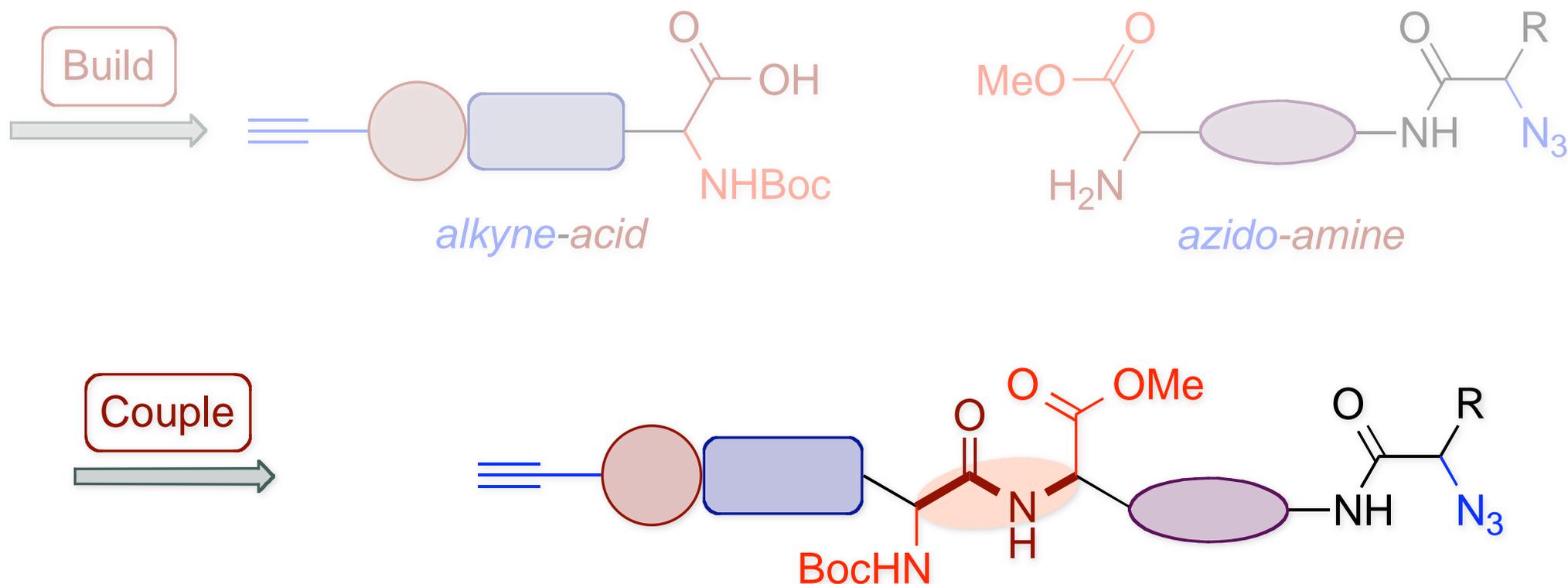
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

- Densely Functionalized Molecule Strategy



# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

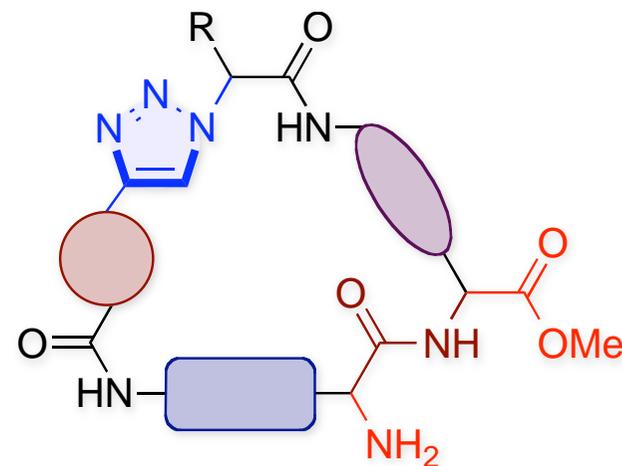
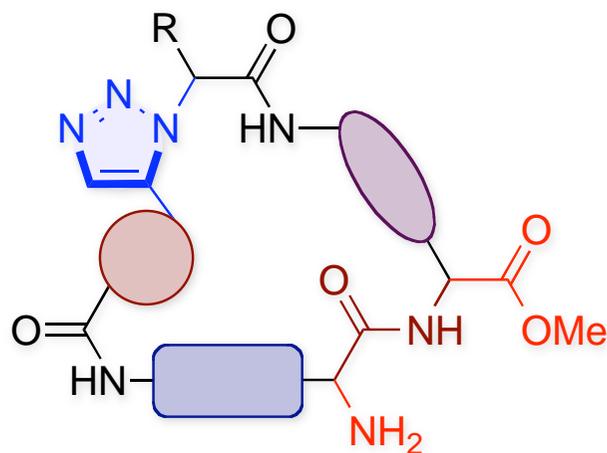
- Densely Functionalized Molecule Strategy



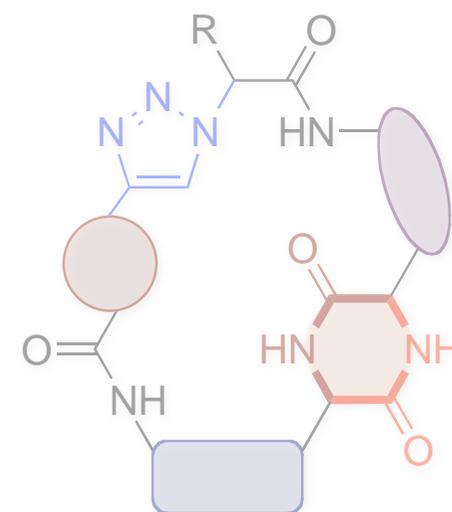
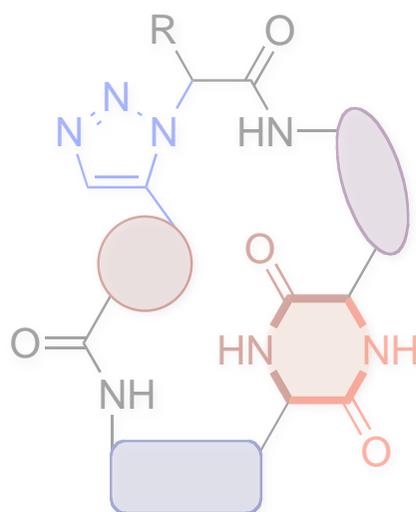
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

- Densely Functionalized Molecule Strategy

Pair  
→  
1,3-dipolar  
cycloaddition



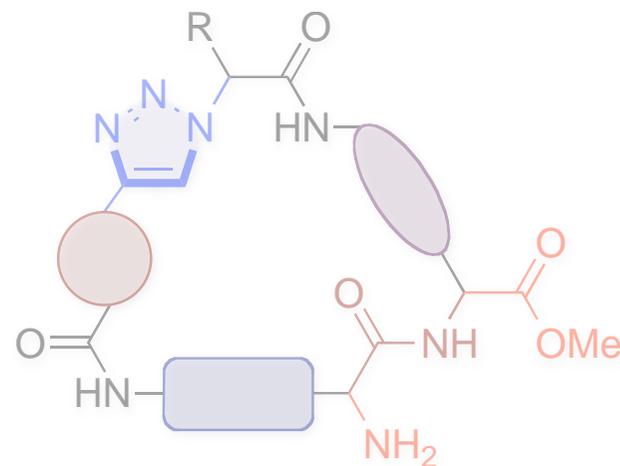
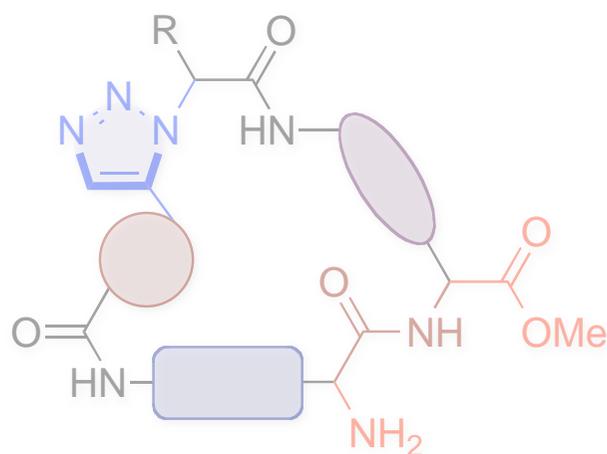
Pair  
→  
DKP  
formation



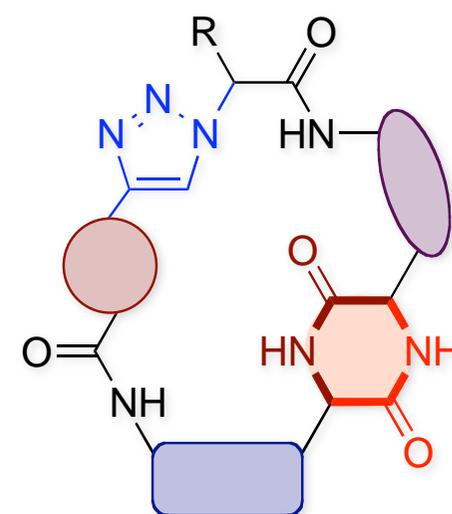
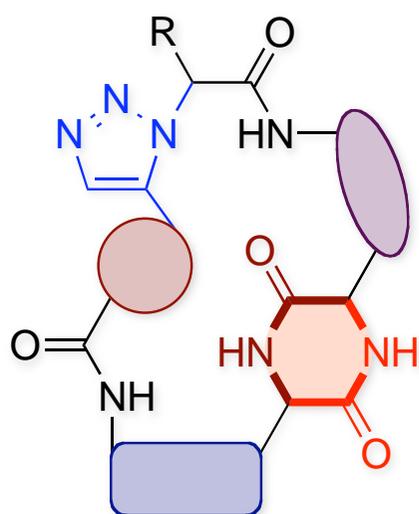
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- Densely Functionalized Molecule Strategy

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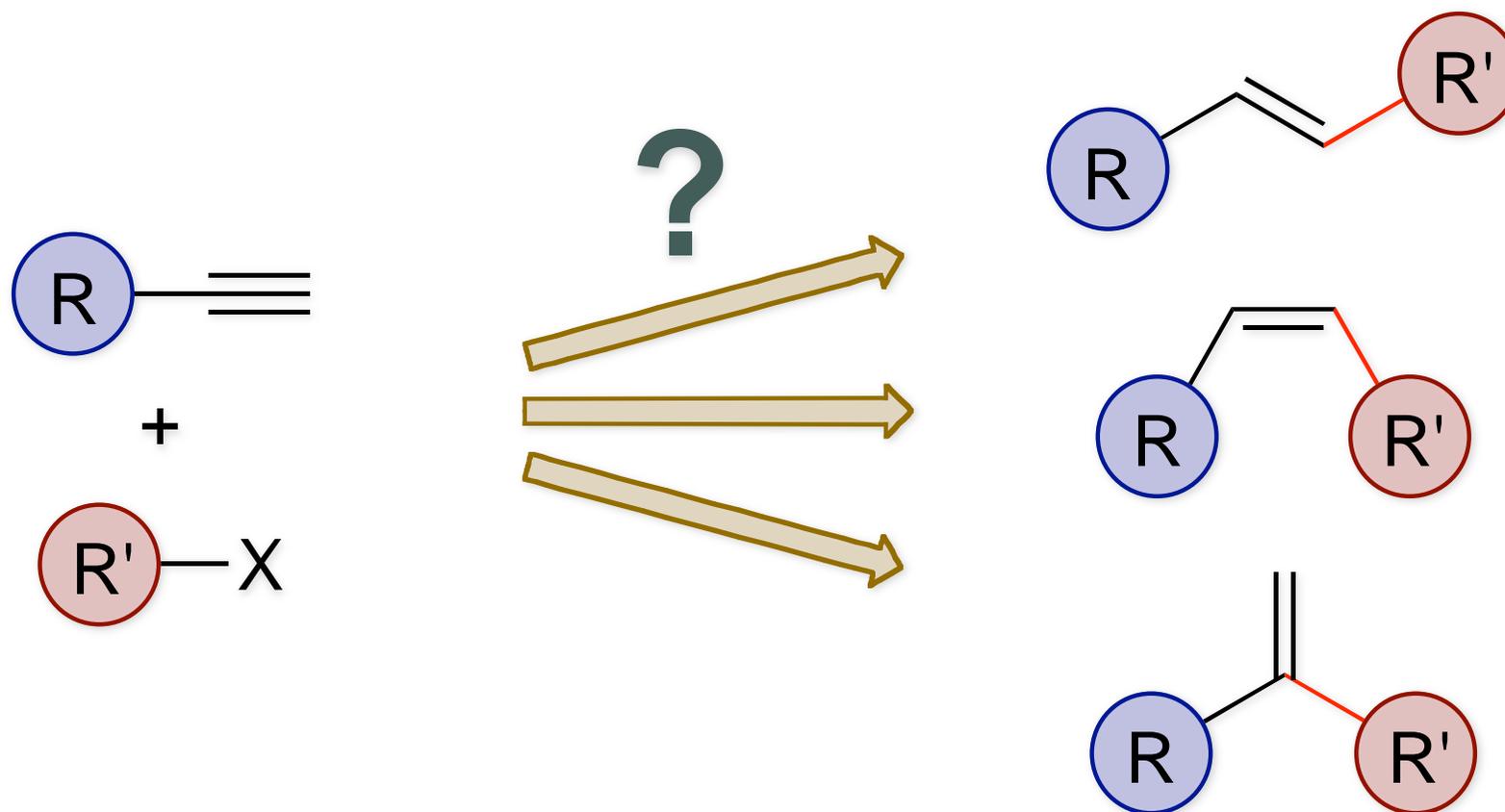


# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

- Reagent-Based Approach
  - Densely Functionalized Molecule
  - Pluripotent Functional Group

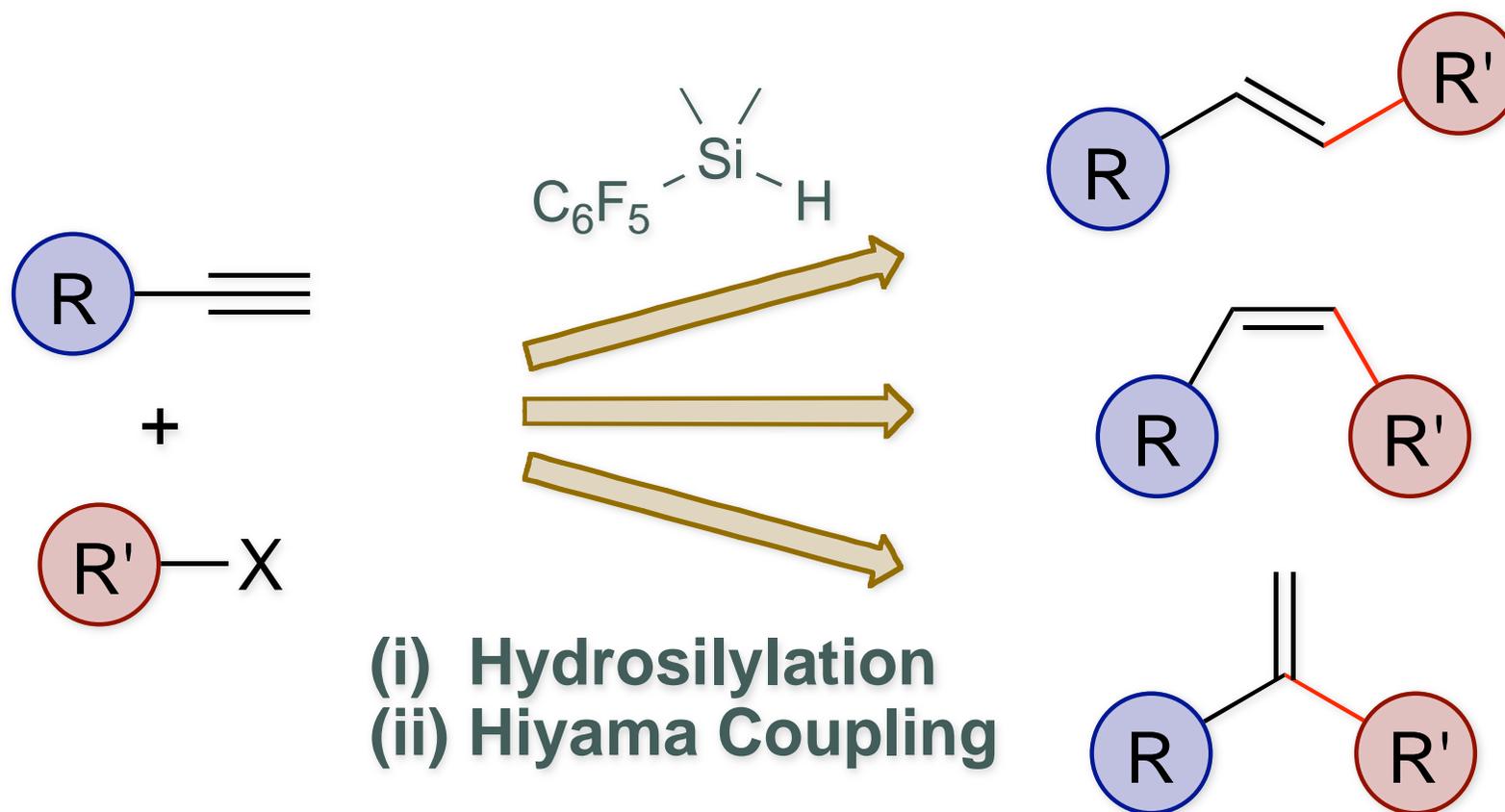
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

- Pluripotent Functional Group Strategy



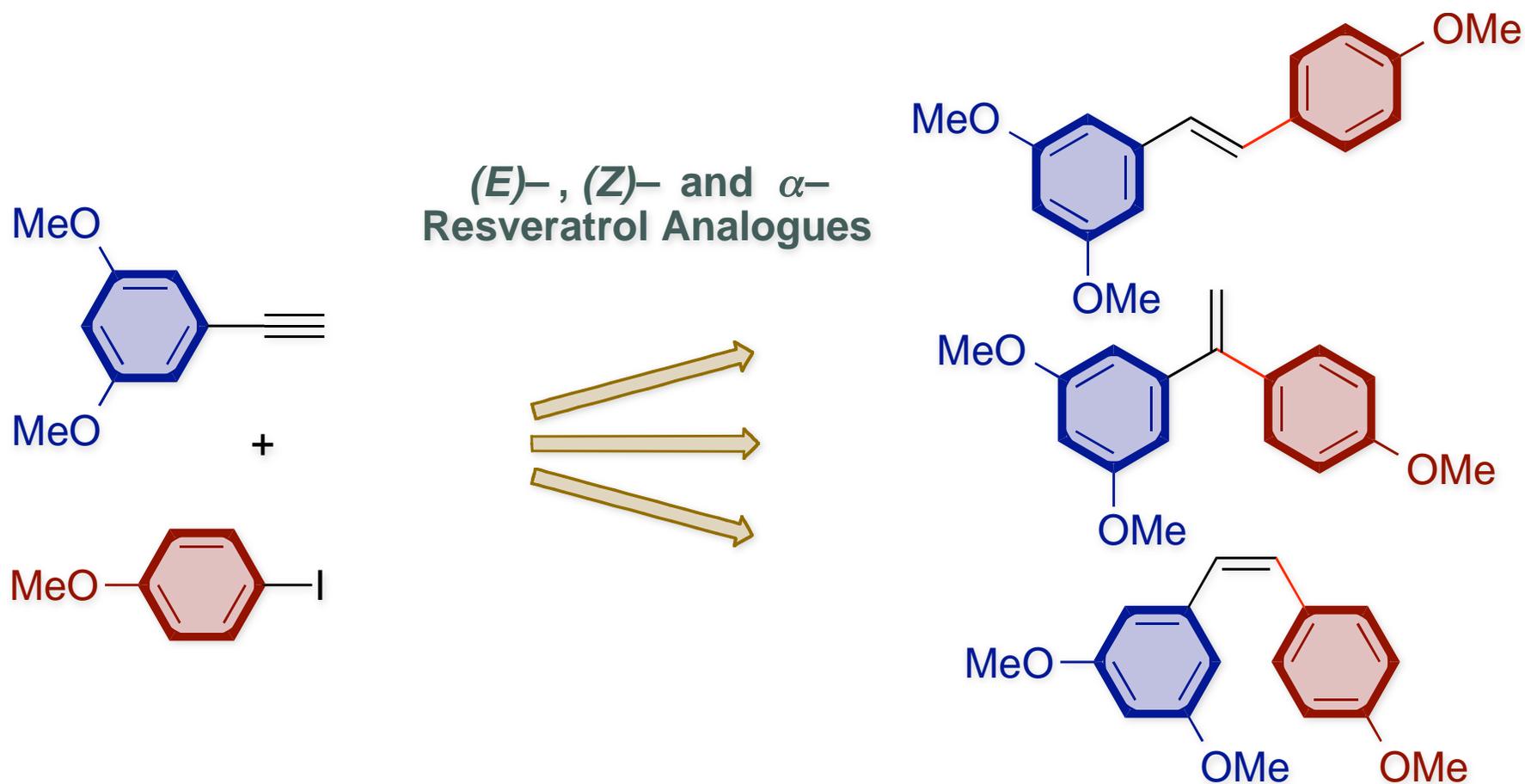
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

- Pluripotent Functional Group Strategy



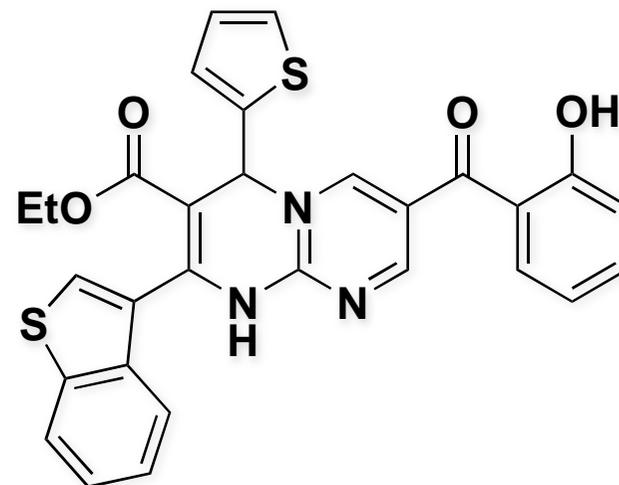
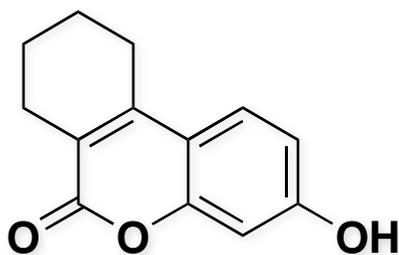
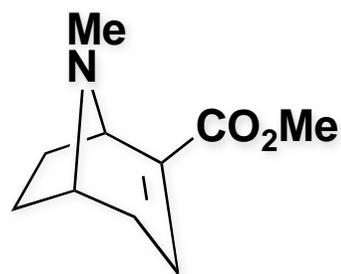
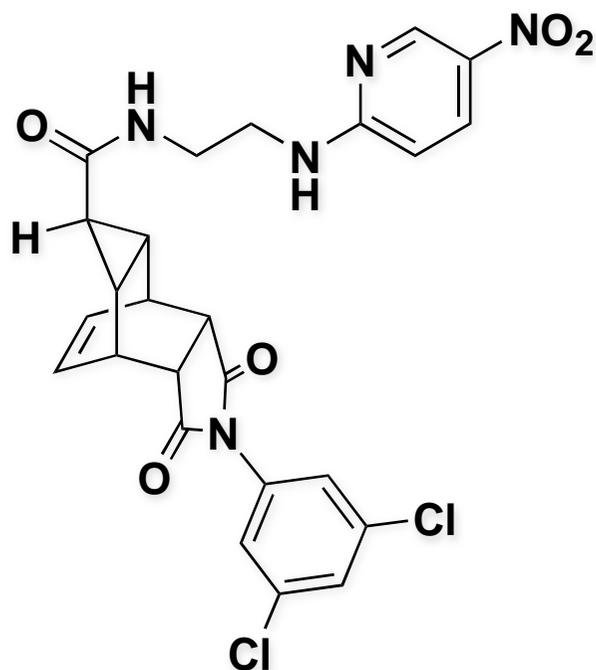
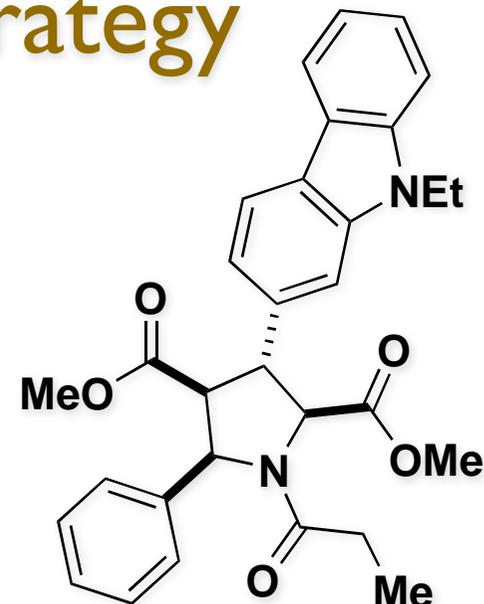
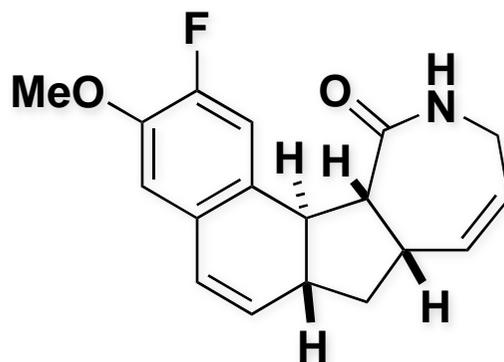
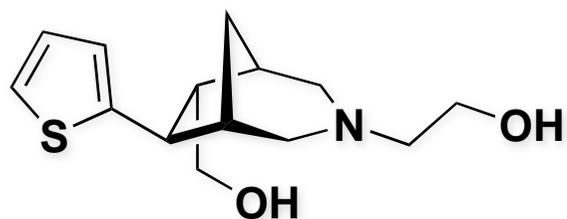
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- Pluripotent Functional Group Strategy



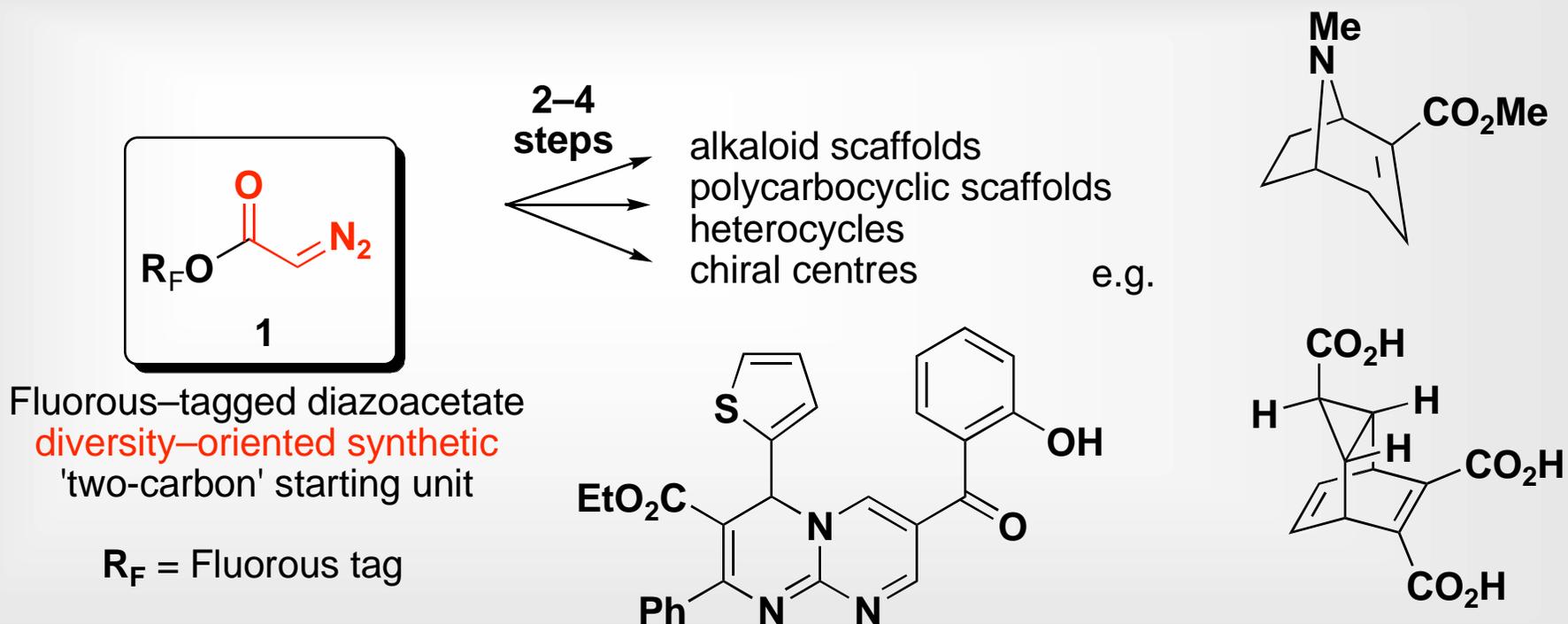
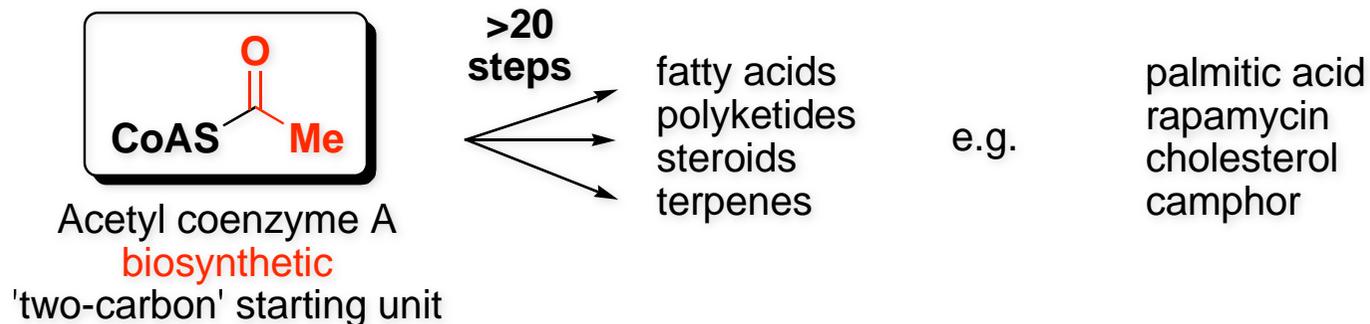
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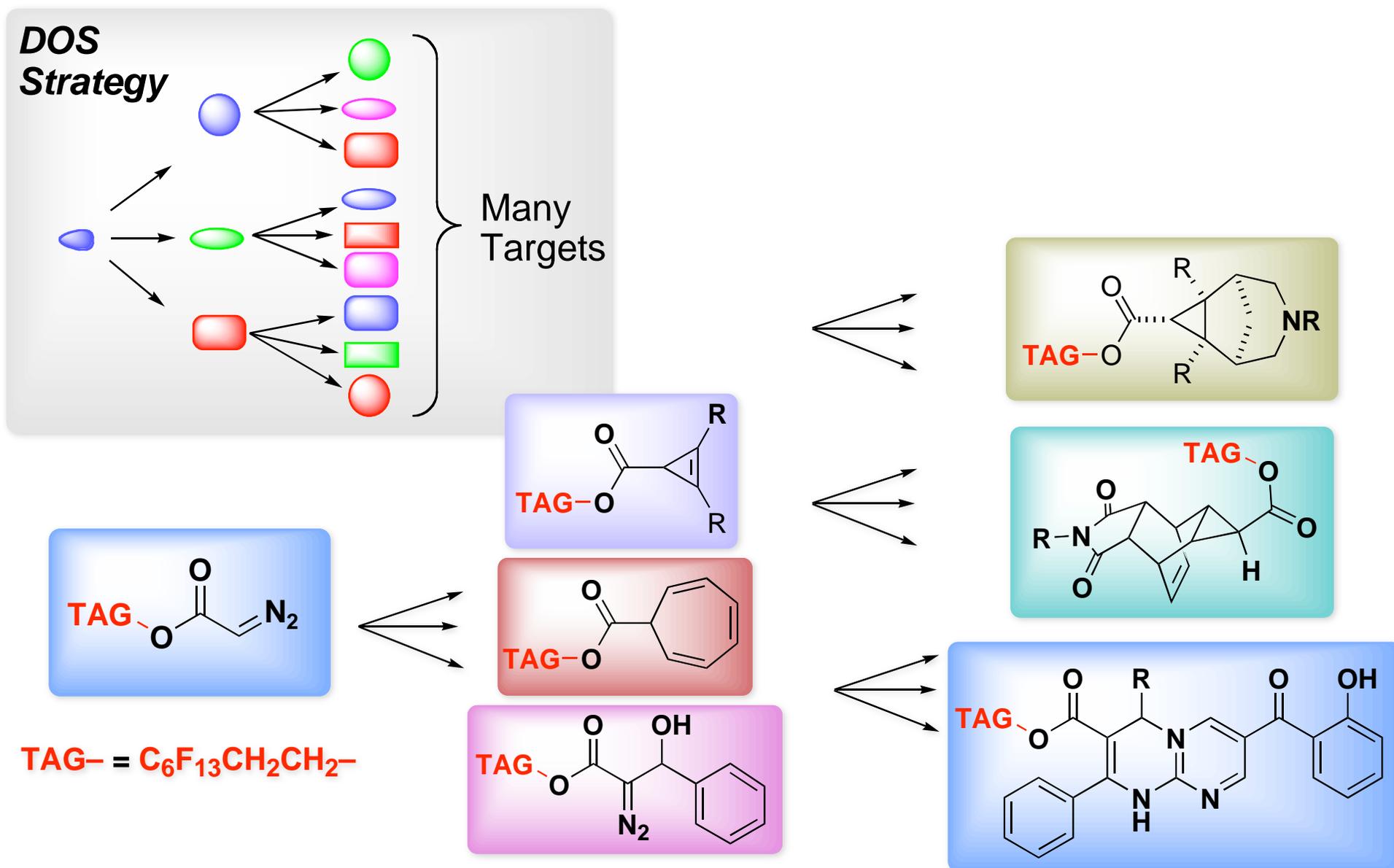




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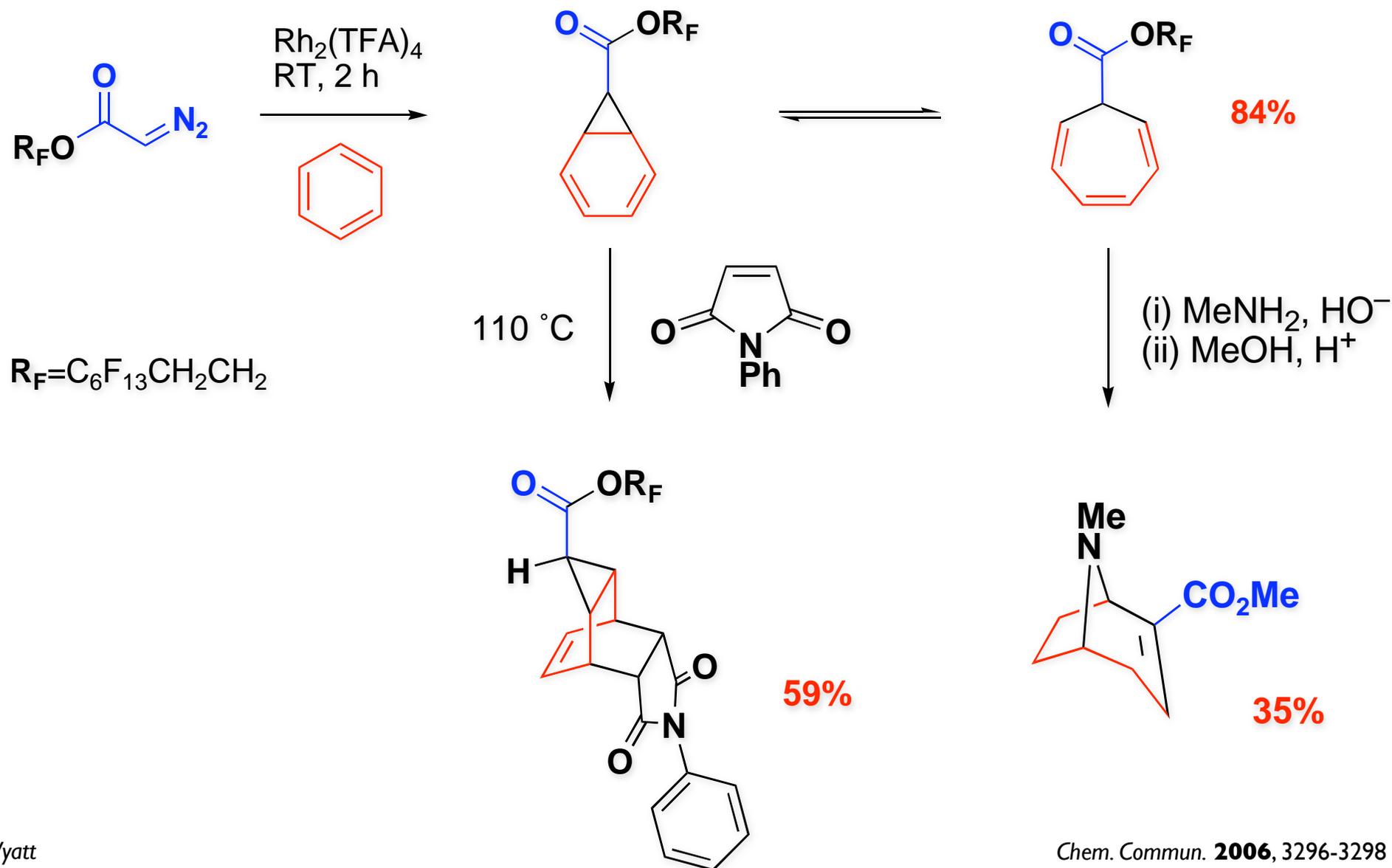


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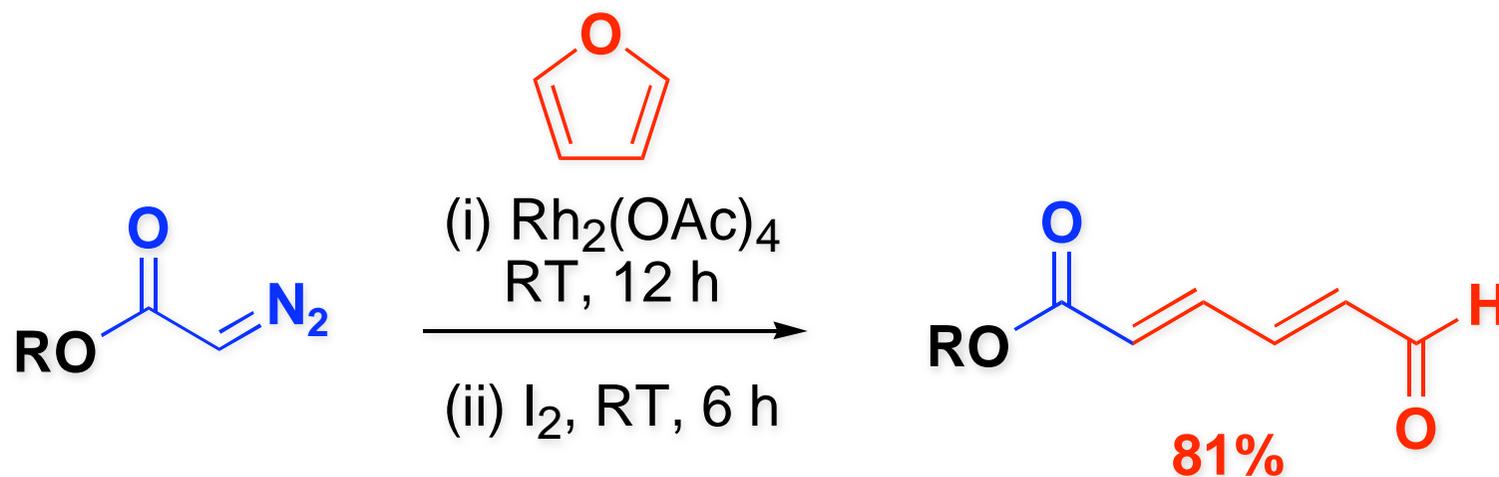
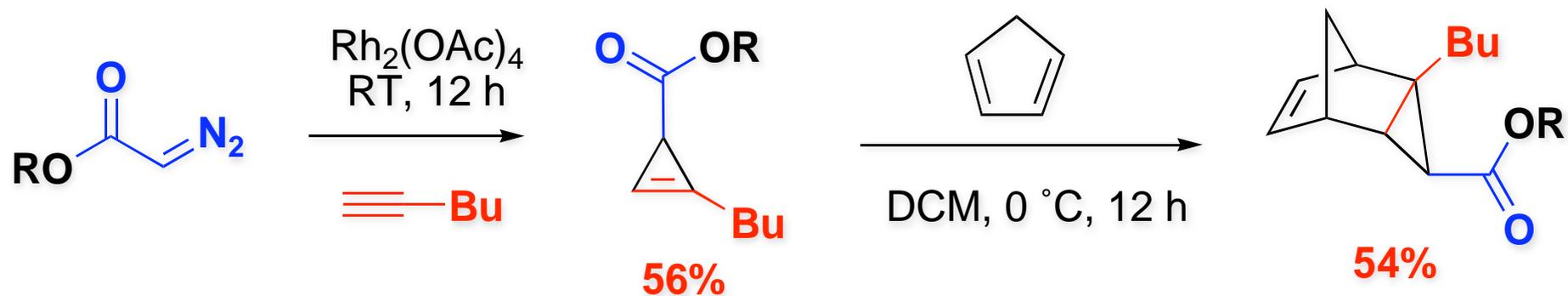




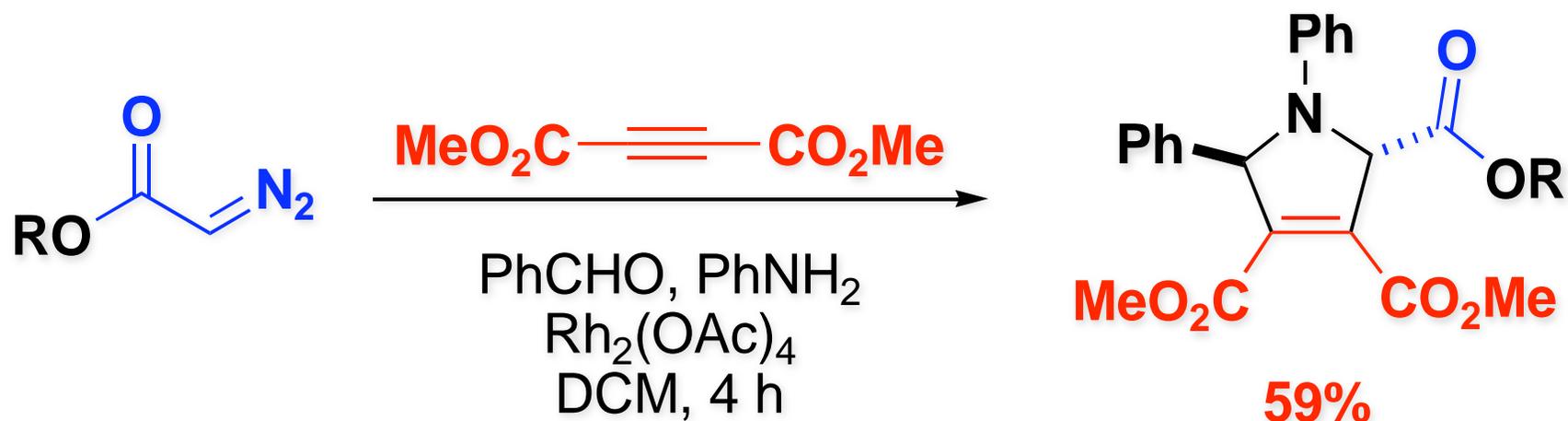
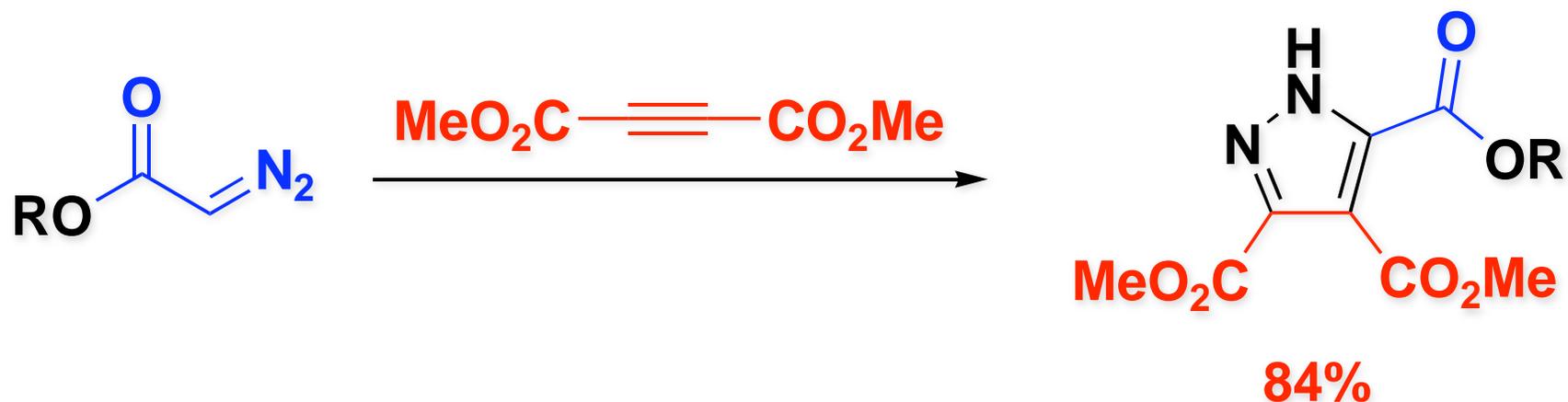
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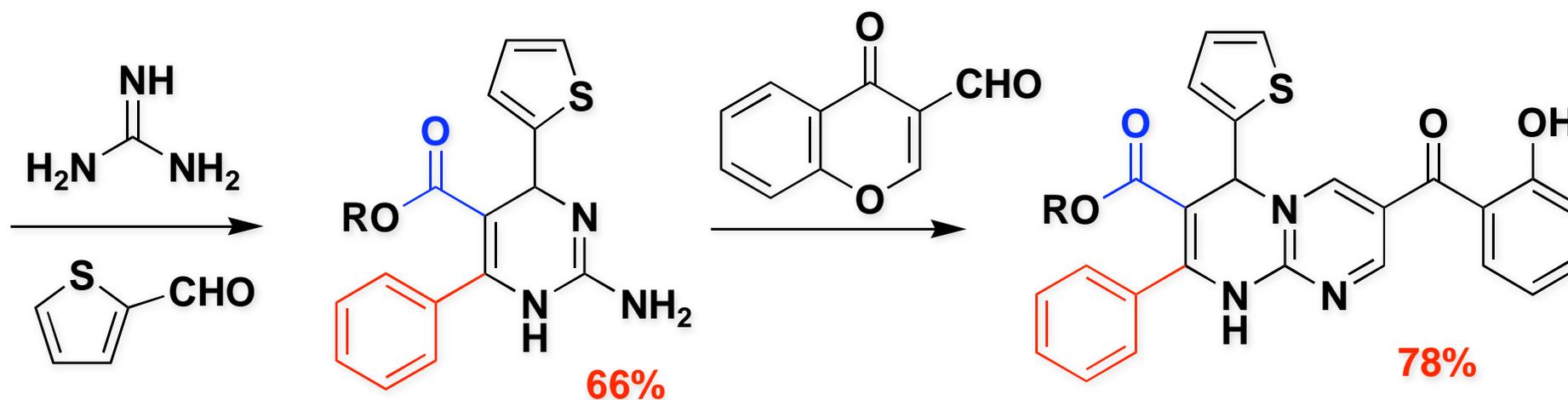
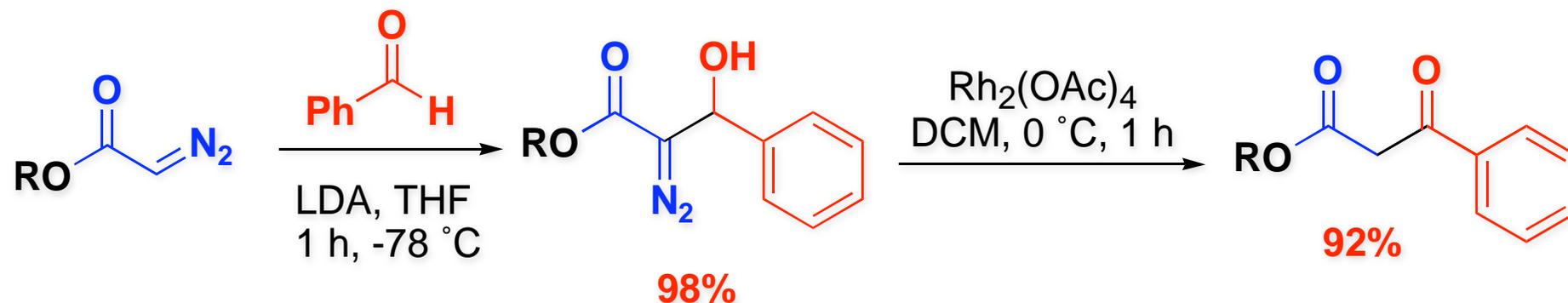
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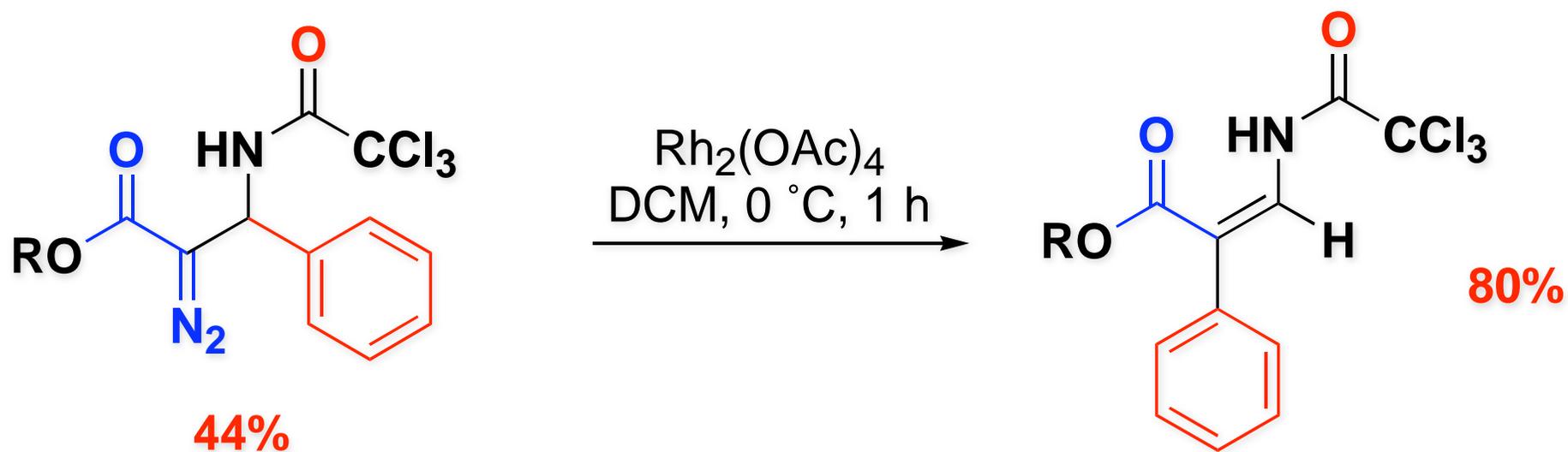
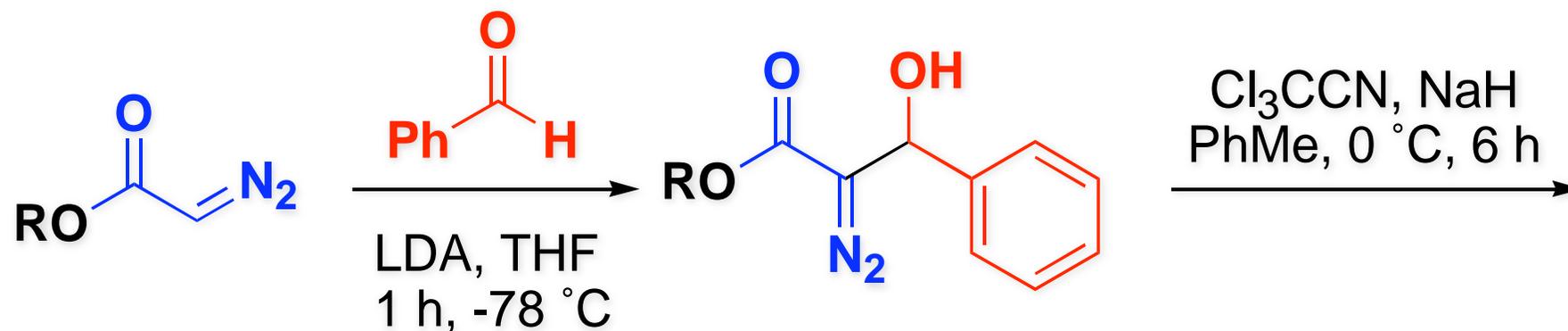
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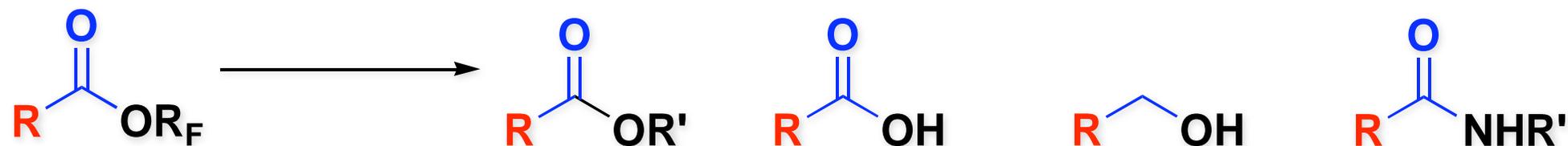
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



Parallel library synthesis of **223** compounds

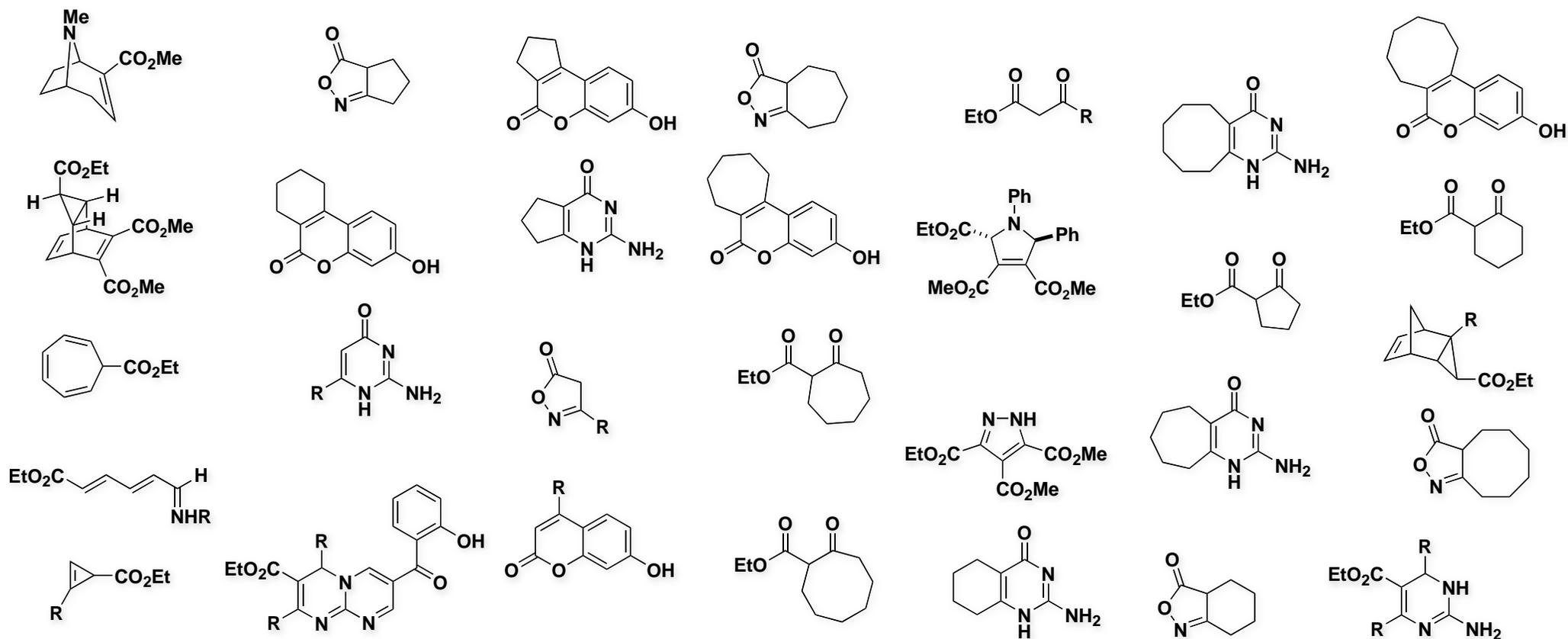
quantity range **2-15 mg**

MW range **140-614**

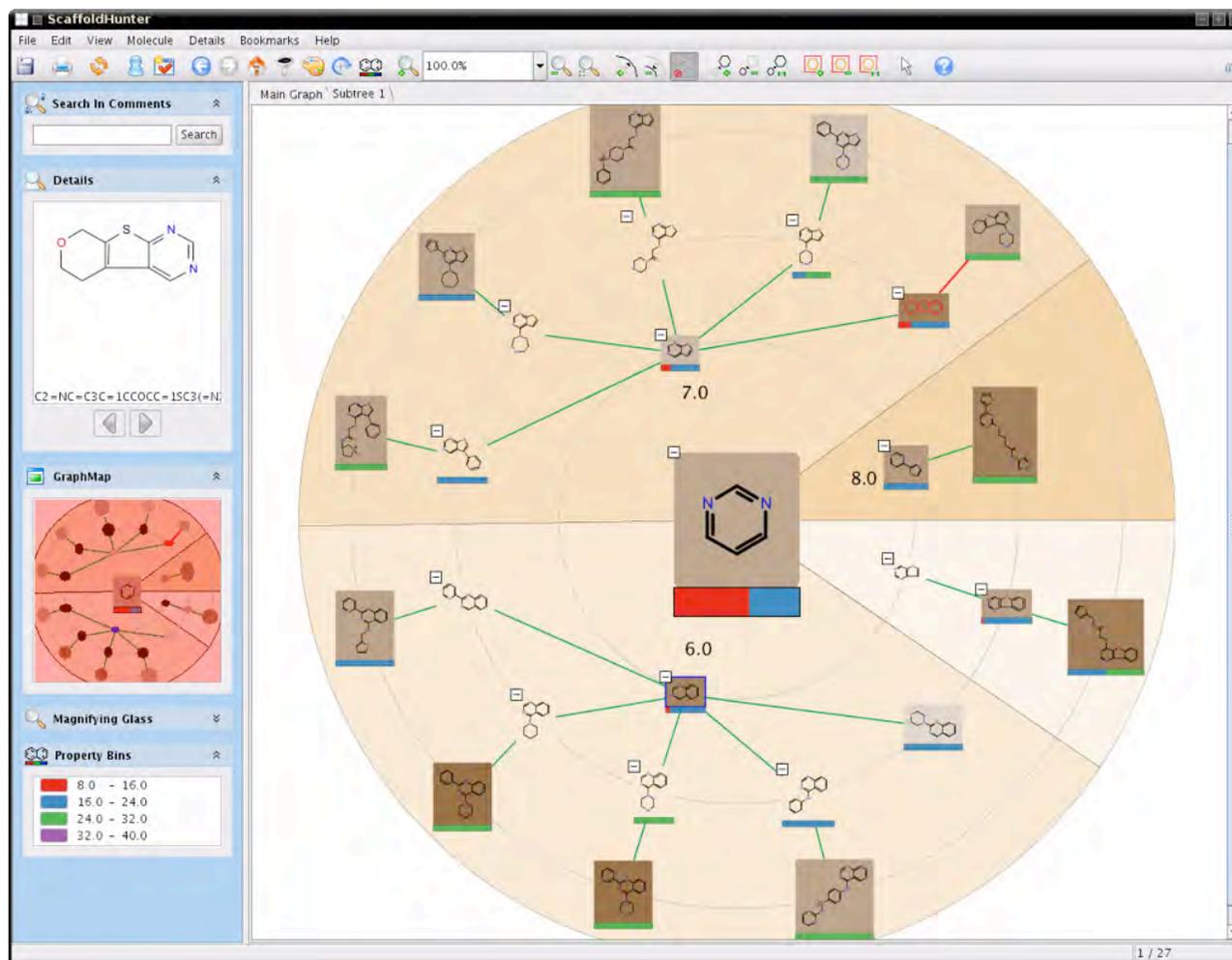
purity > **90%**

# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

Library of **223** compounds includes  
**30** discrete molecular frameworks.



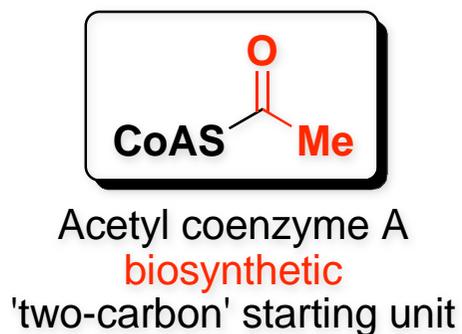
# Scaffold Hunter



JAVA-based software tool for the analysis of structure-related biochemical data.  
Available as open source software distributed free of charge under the GNU General Public License.

<http://scaffoldhunter.sourceforge.net/index.html>

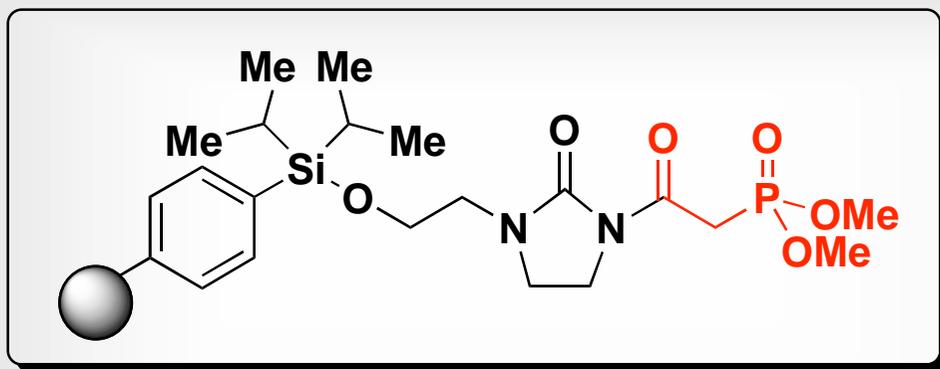
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



>20  
steps

fatty acids  
polyketides  
steroids  
terpenes

e.g.  
palmitic acid  
rapamycin  
cholesterol  
camphor



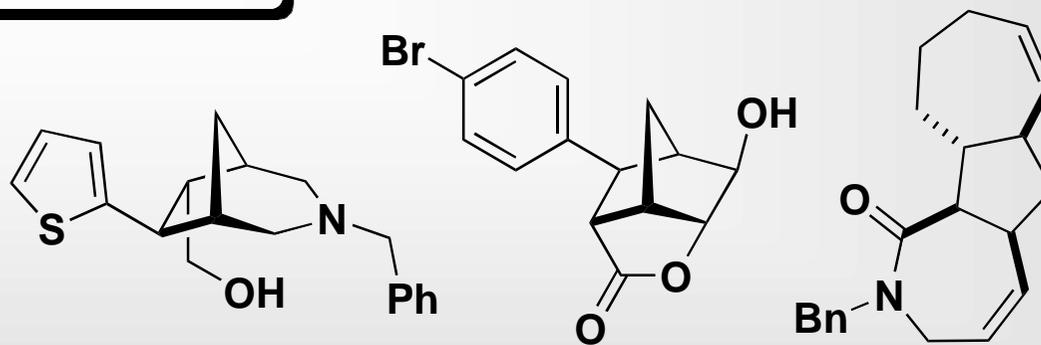
Solid phase phosphonate  
**diversity-oriented synthetic**  
'two-carbon' starting unit

 = Crosslinked polystyrene

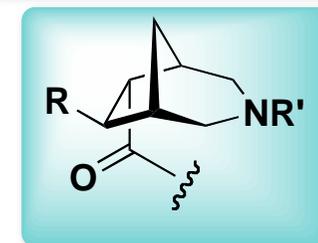
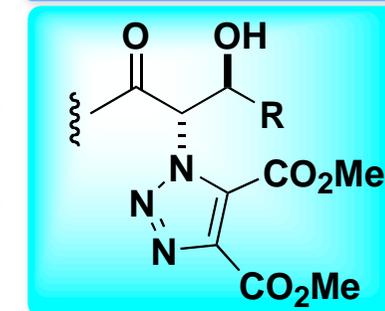
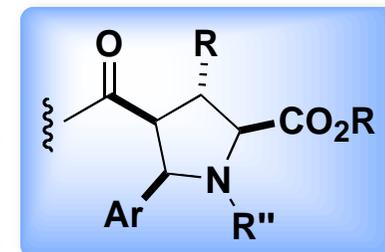
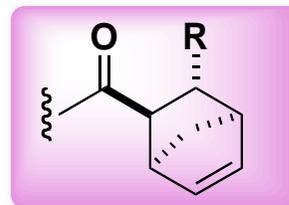
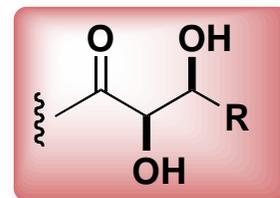
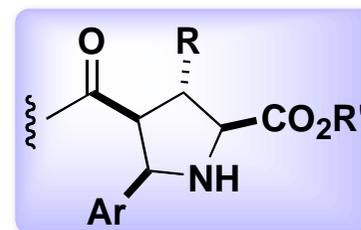
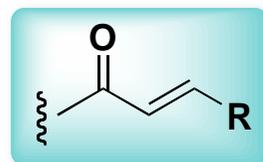
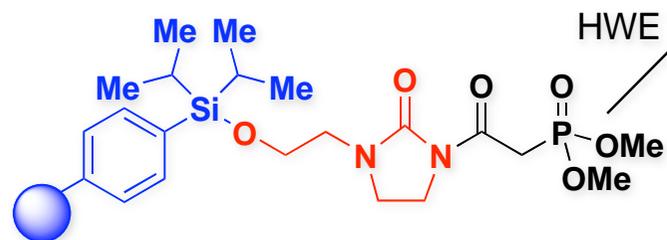
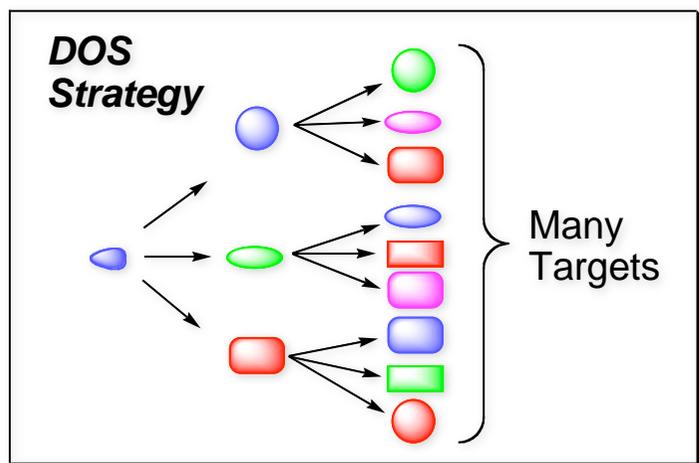
2-5  
steps

alkaloid scaffolds  
polycarbocyclic scaffolds  
terpene scaffolds  
**chiral centres**

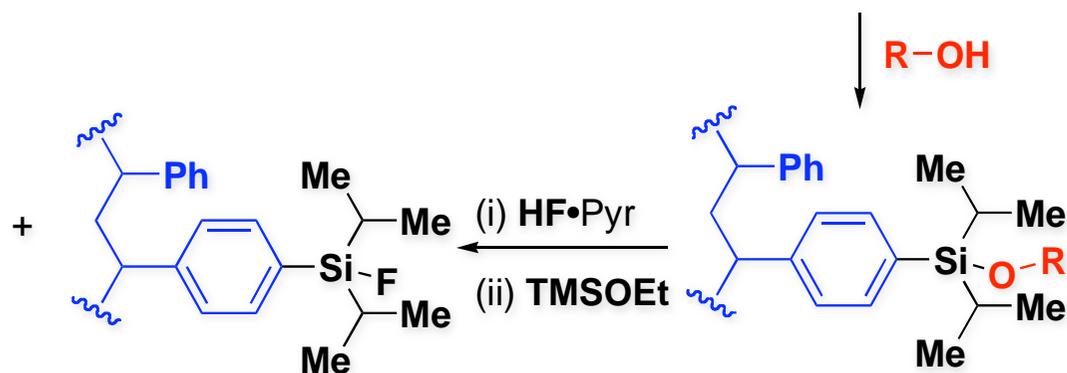
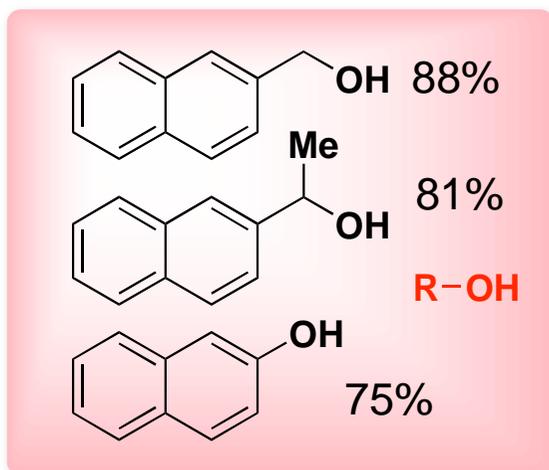
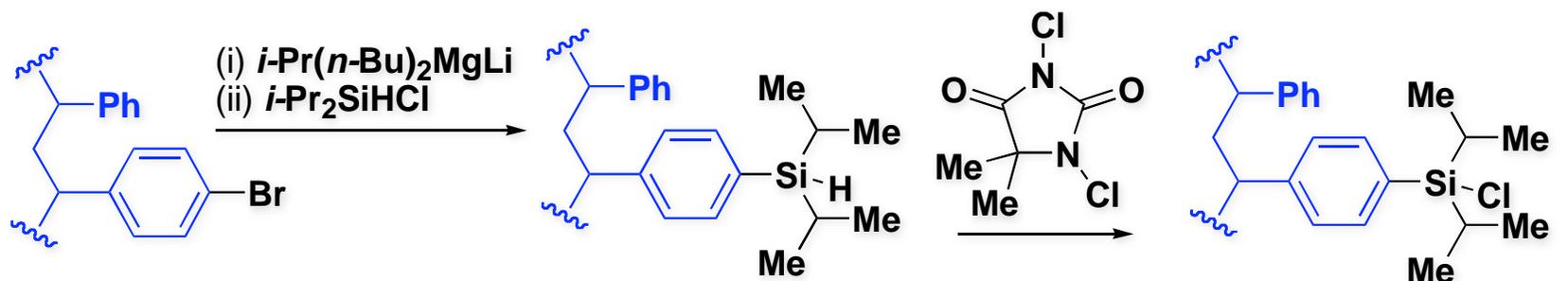
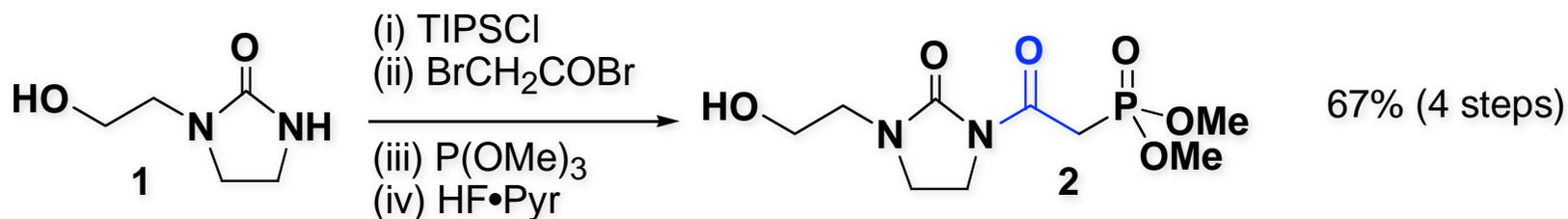
e.g.



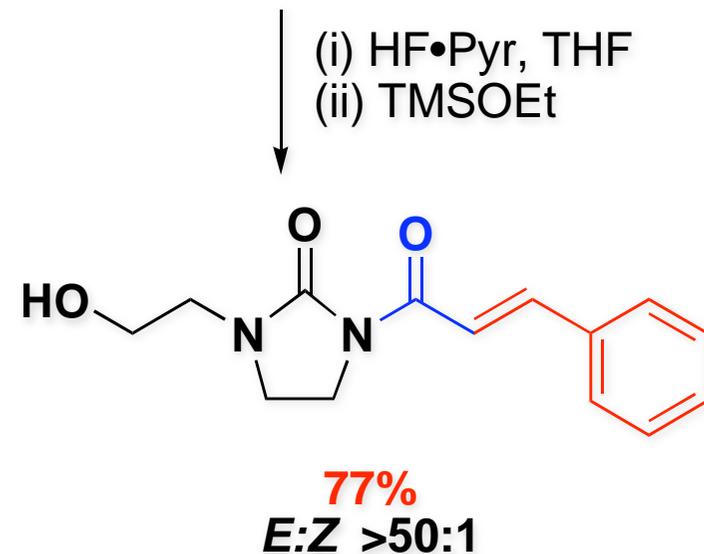
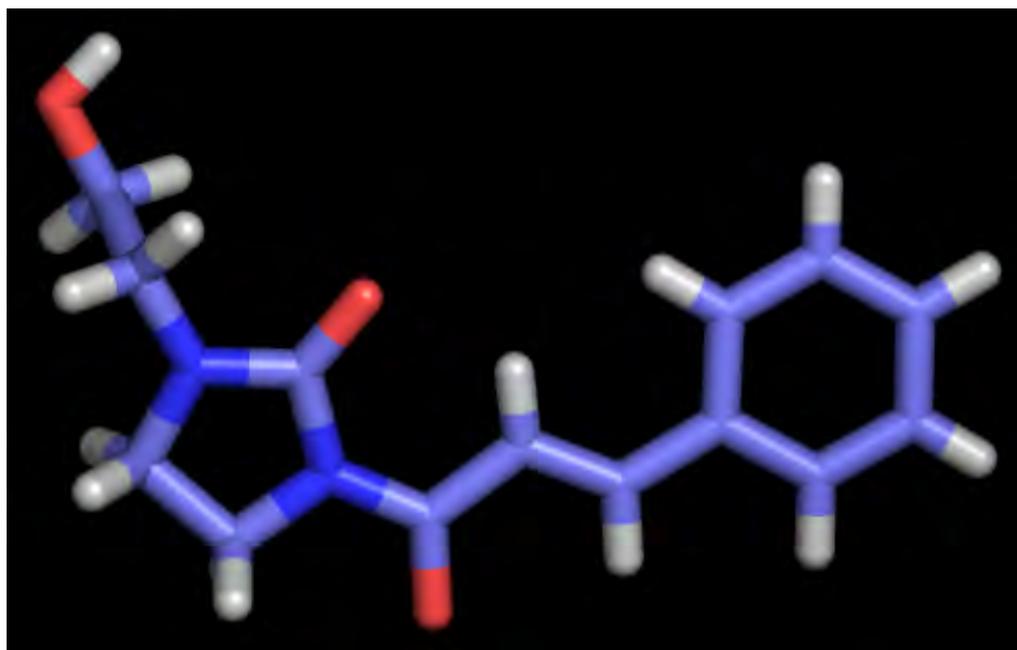
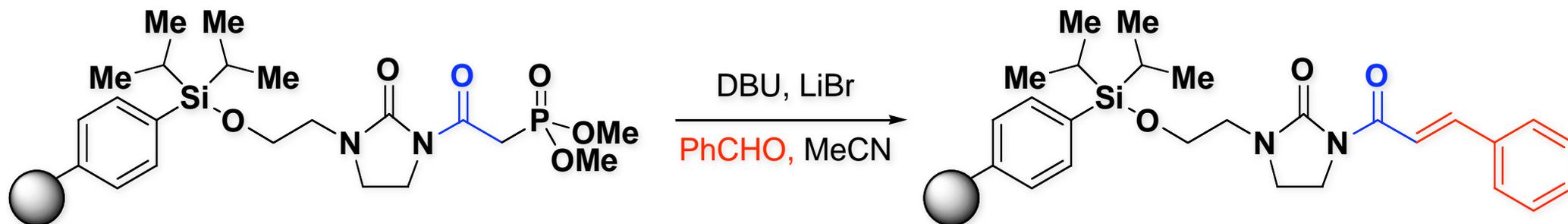
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



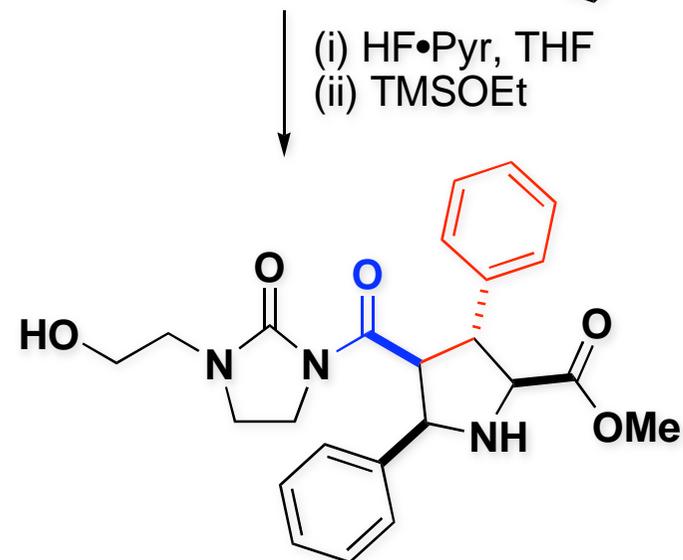
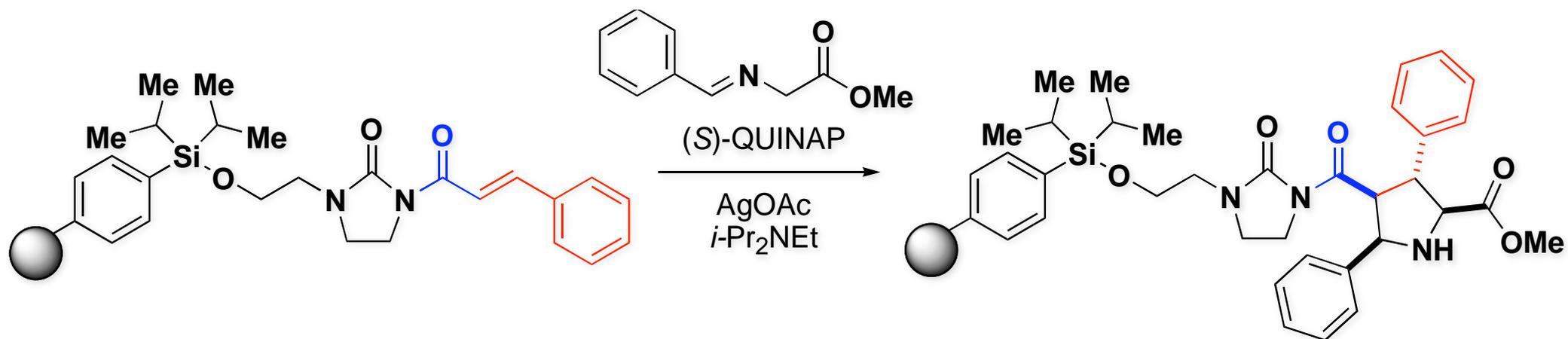
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



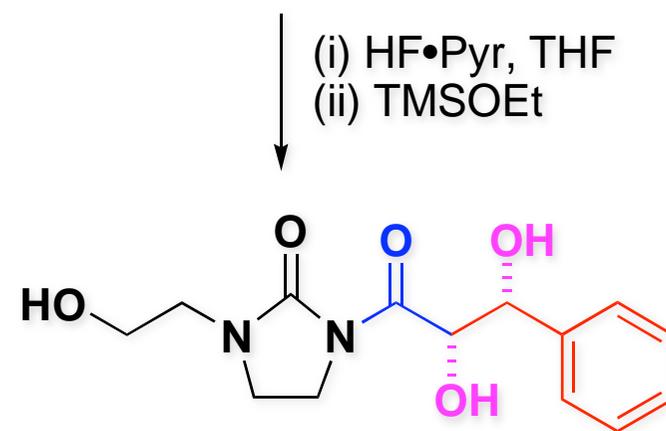
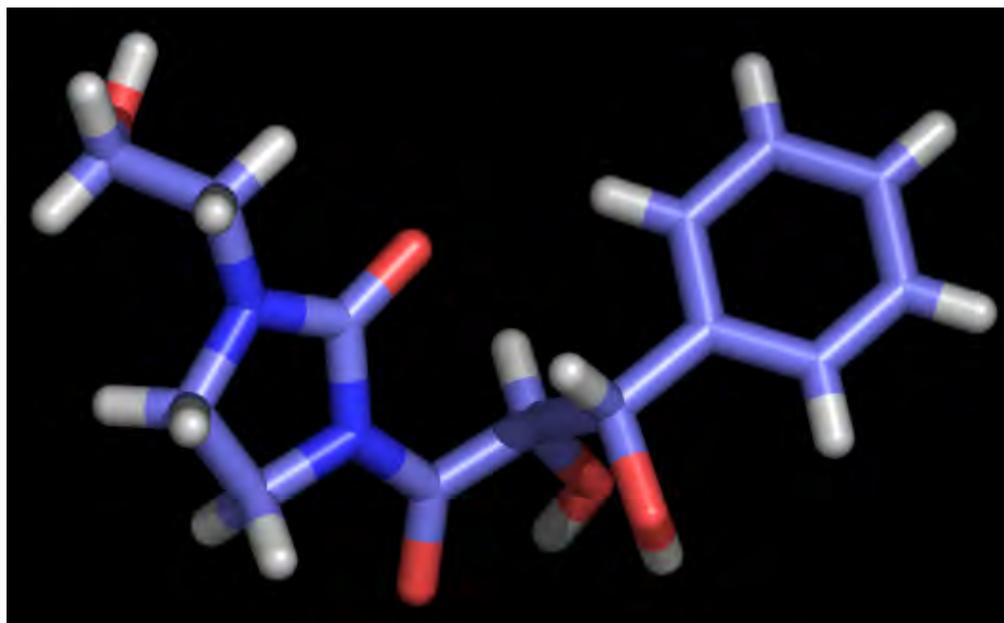
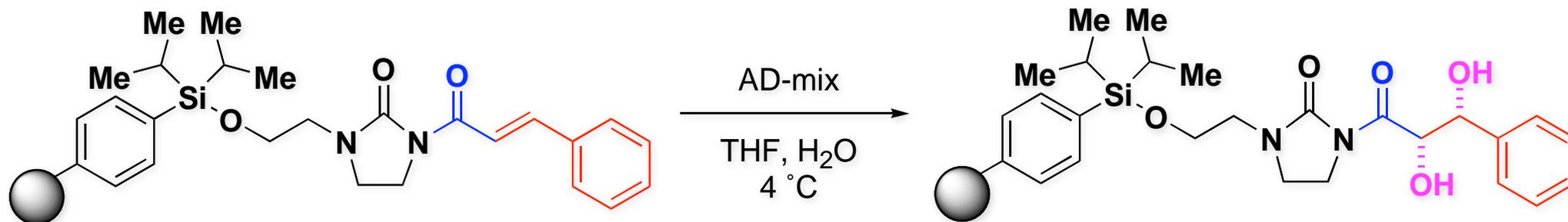
# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



**91%**  
endo:exo = 8:1  
endo ee: 70%

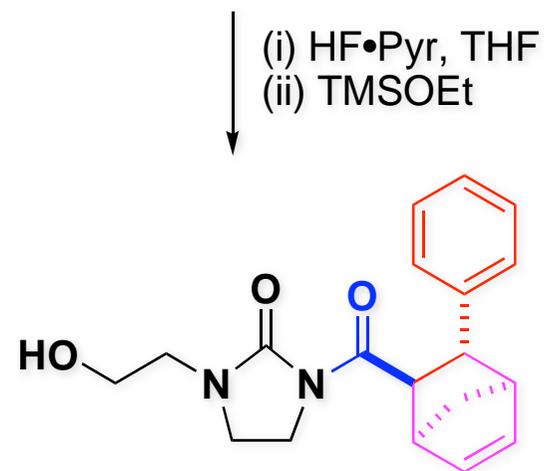
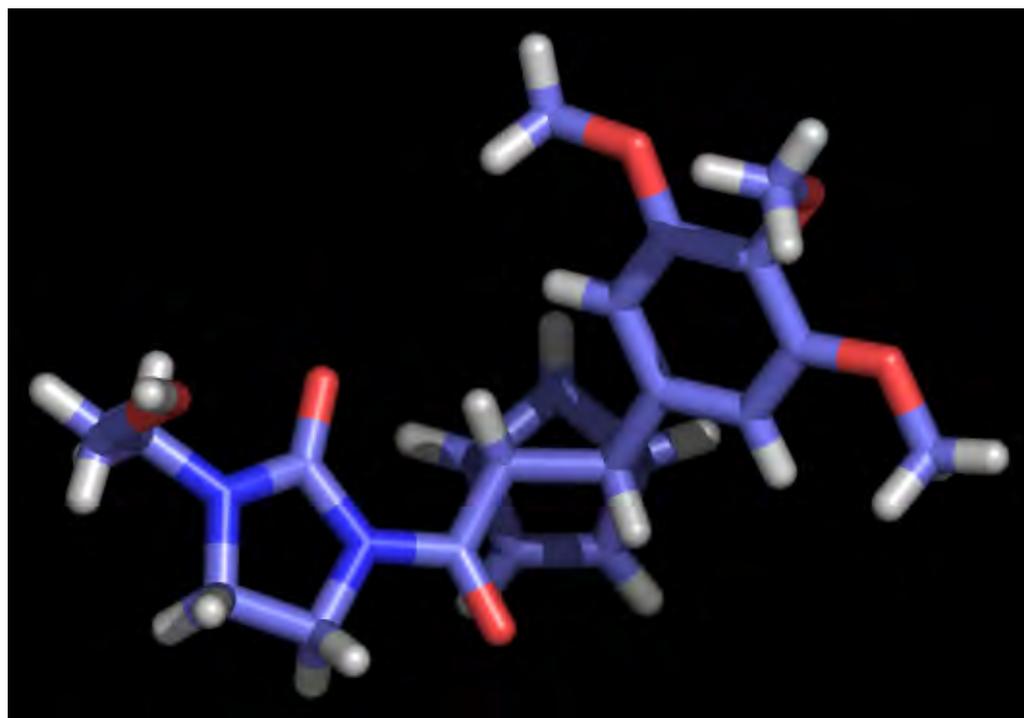
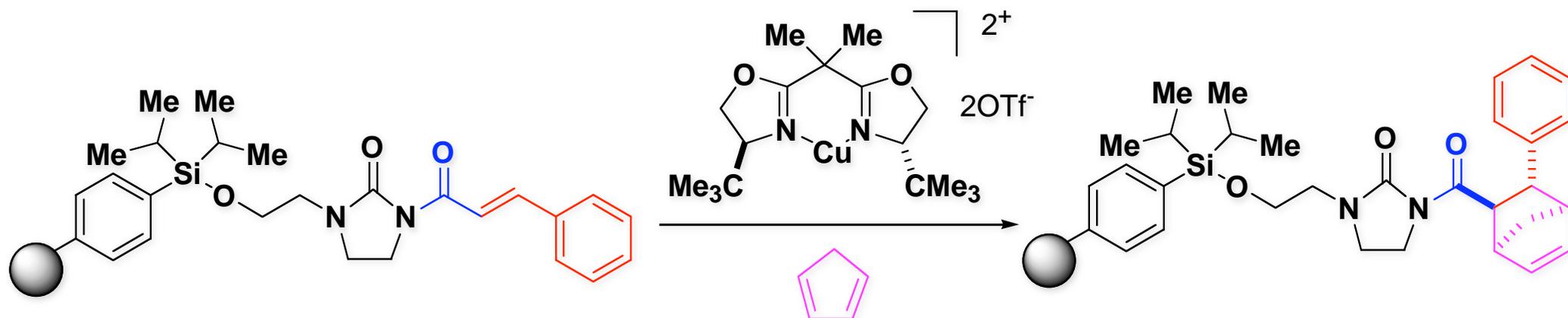


# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



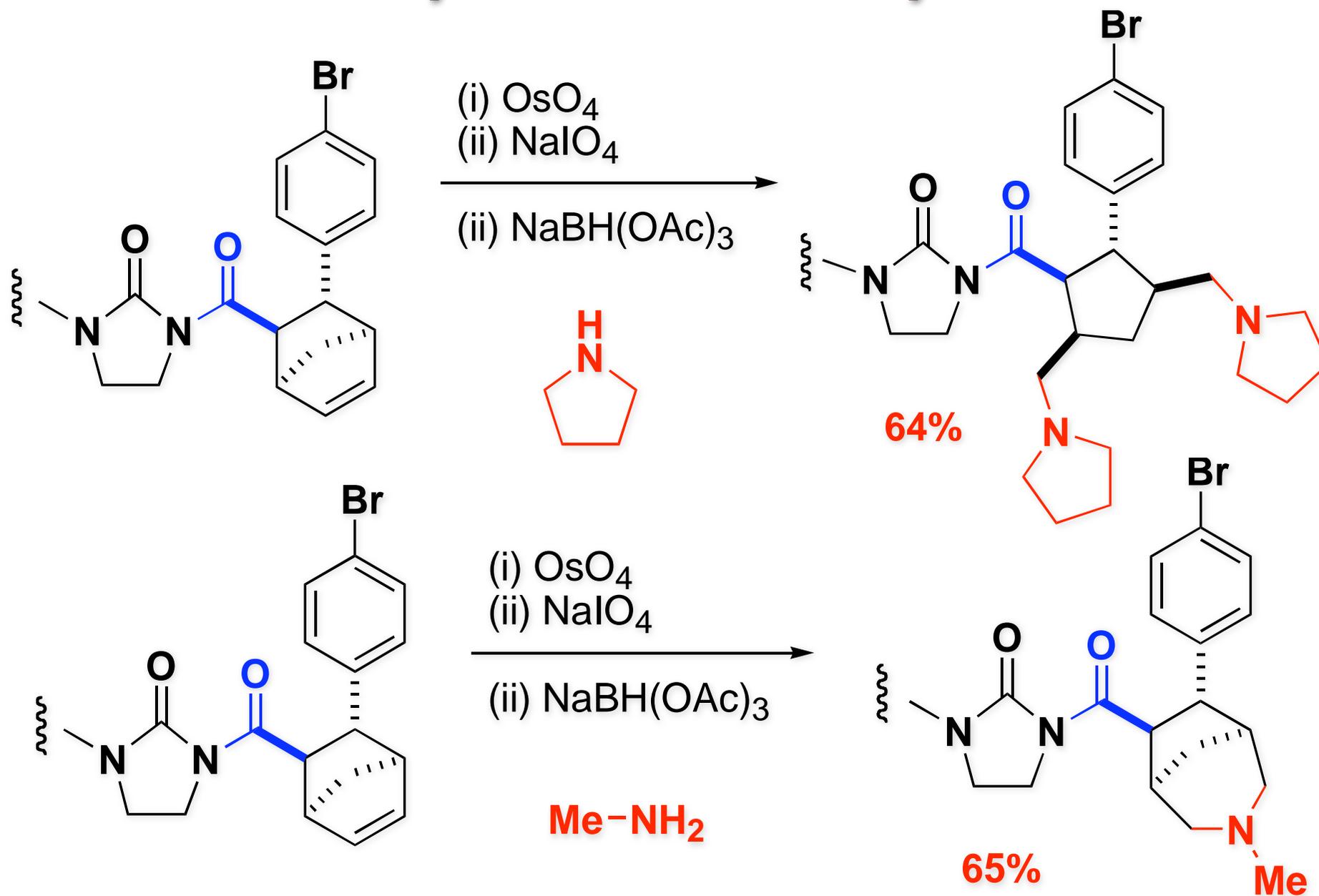
**> 75%**  
**ee  $\alpha$  = 90%**  
**ee  $\beta$  = 91%**

# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

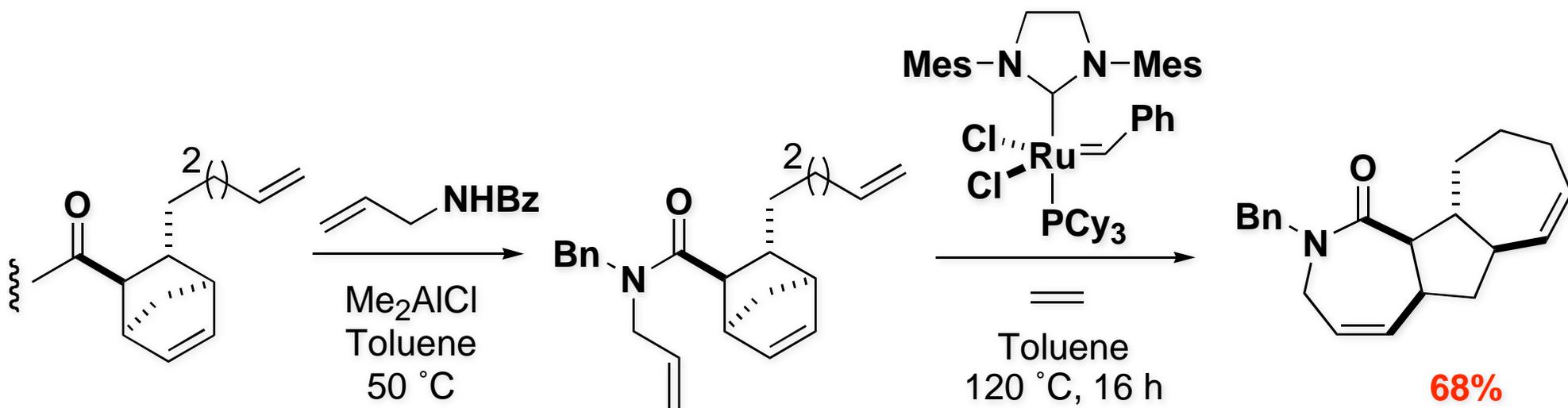
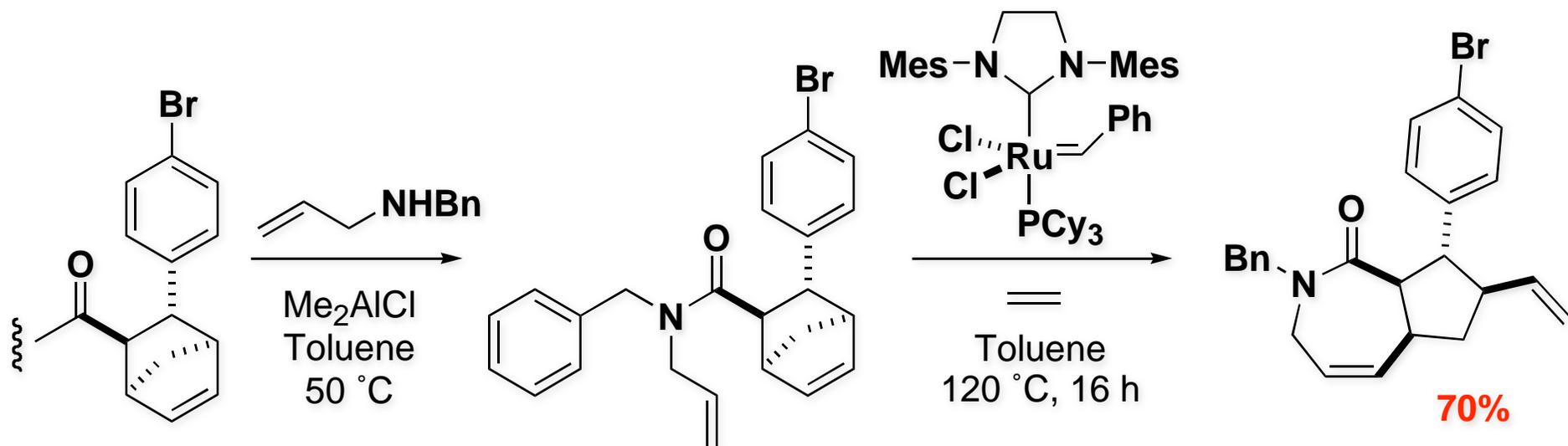


**77%**  
endo:exo = 87:13  
endo ee: 96%  
exo ee: 90%

# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

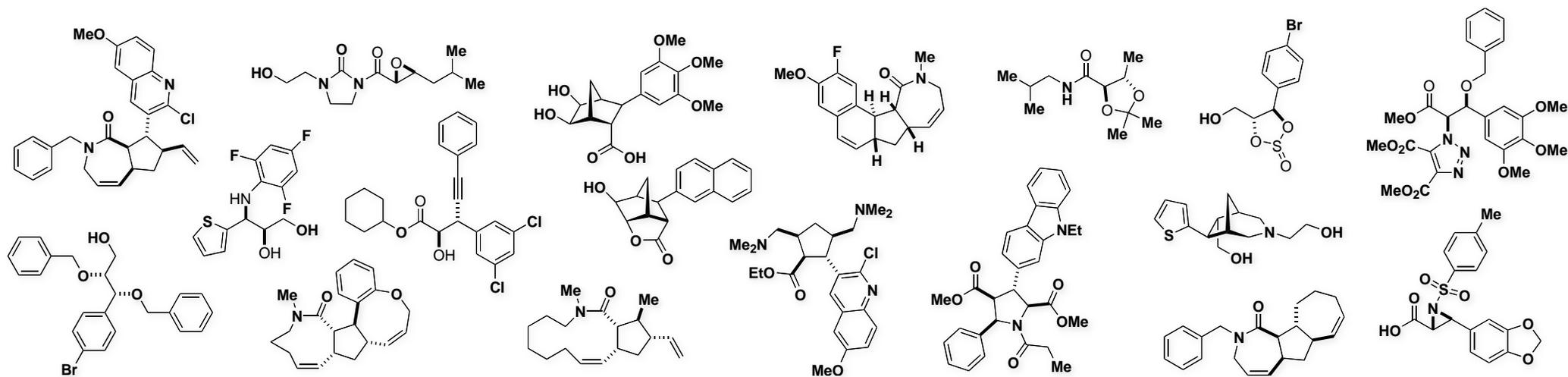
Parallel library synthesis of **261** compounds

quantity range **1-20 mg**

MW range **152-730**

purity > **80%**

molecular frameworks **25**



# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis

Assess physicochemical and topological diversity.

Calculate **184 molecular descriptors**, e.g.

Size

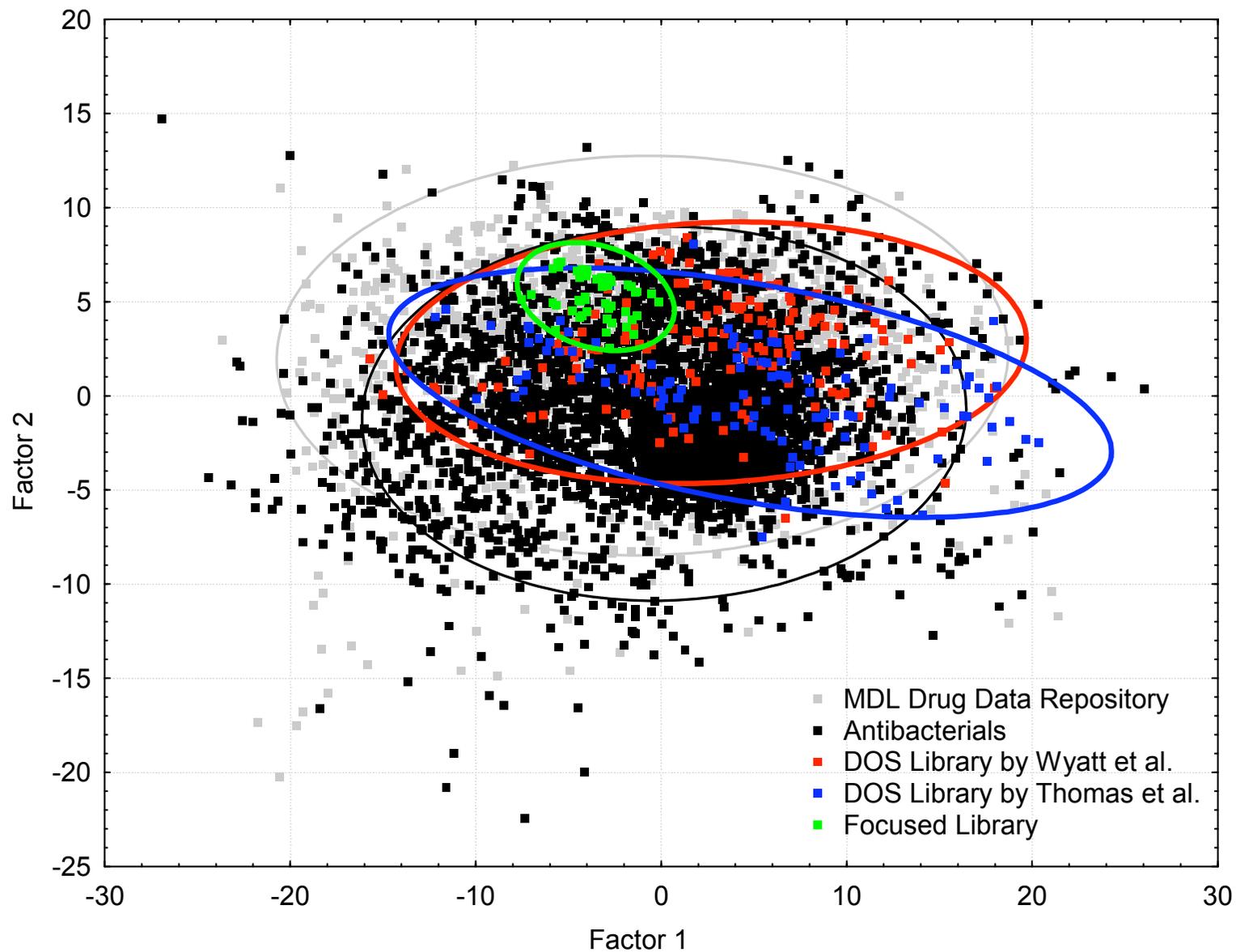
Polarity

Charges

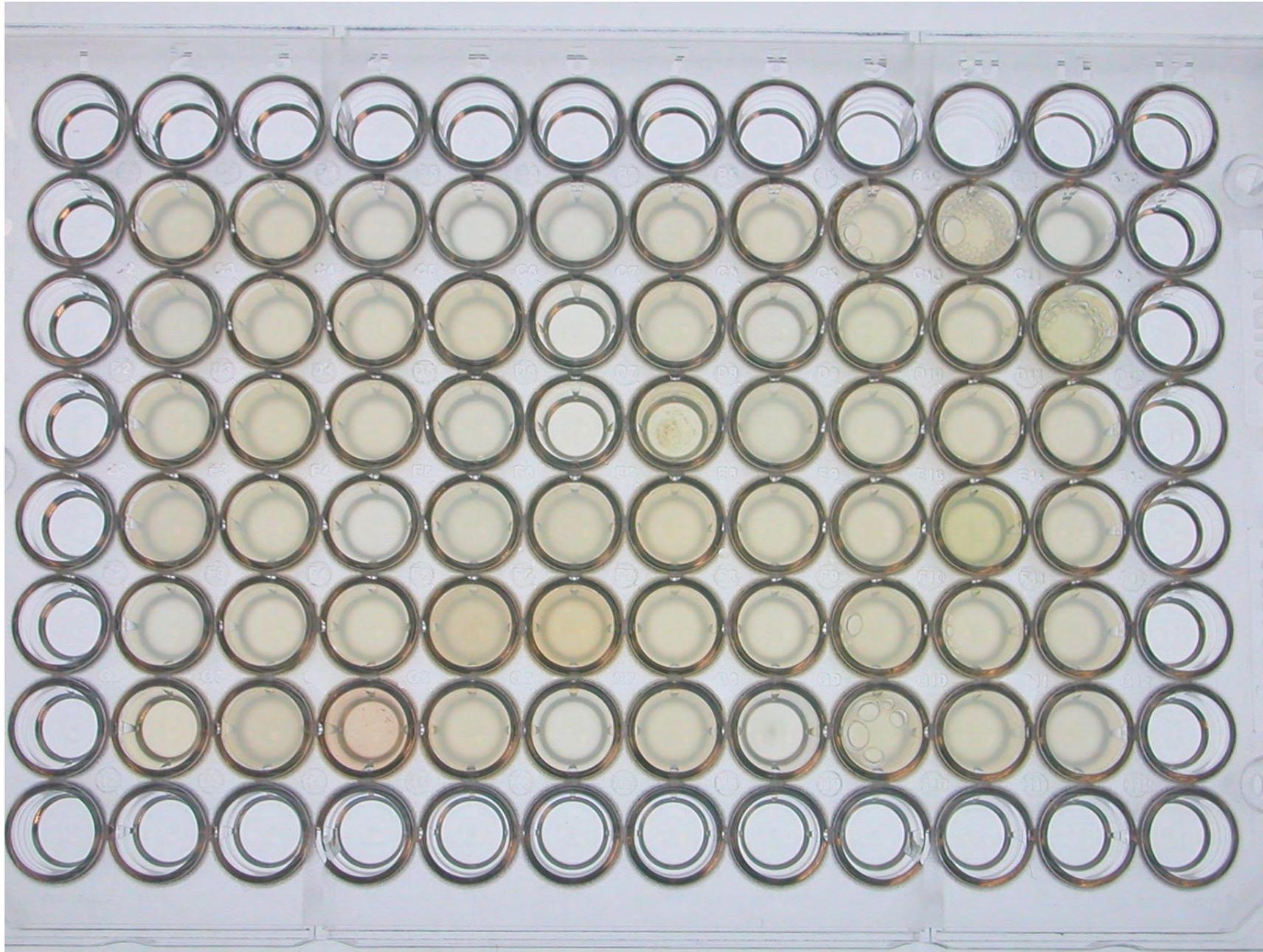
Degree of Branching...

Use **principal component analysis** to visualize.

# Diversity-Oriented Synthesis



# Antibacterial Screening





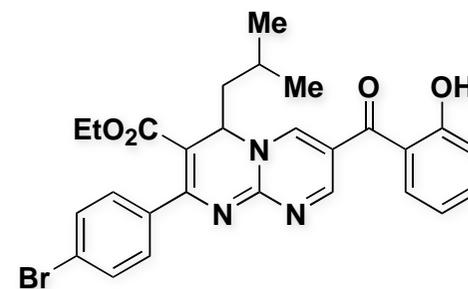
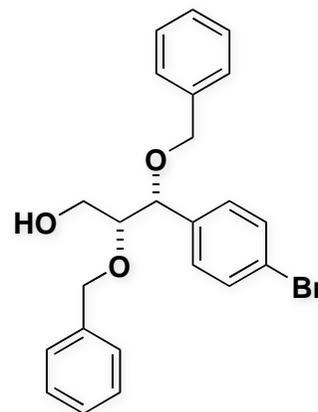
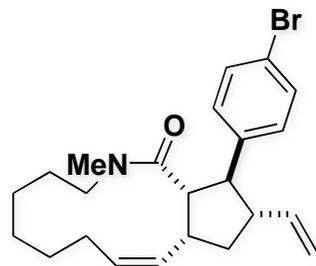
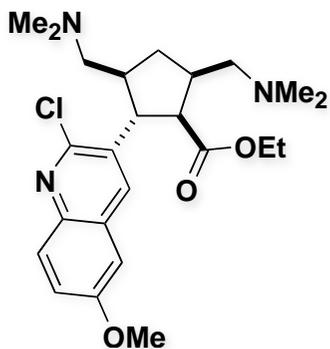
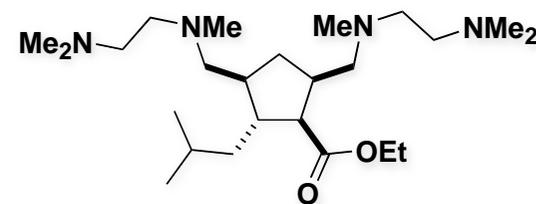
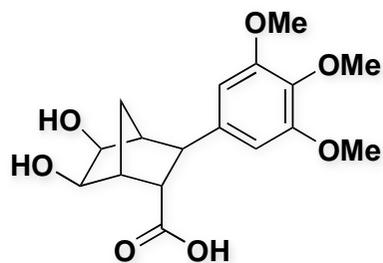
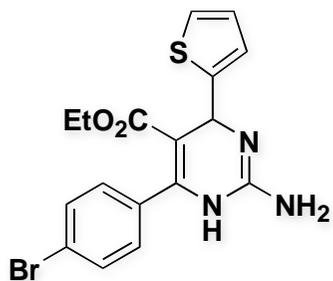
# Antibacterial Screening



*Gemma Thomas, Emma Wyatt, Suzanne Fergus*

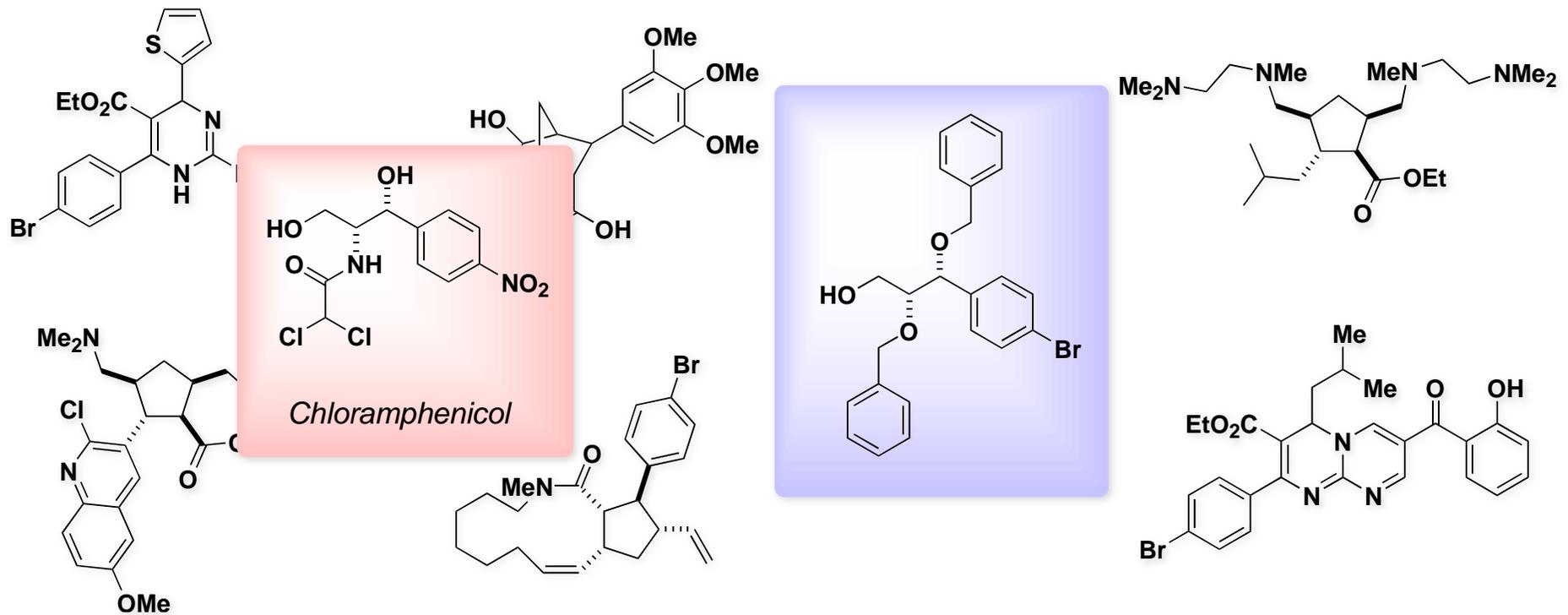
# Antibacterial Screening

*20 hits at 100  $\mu$ M concentration, e.g.*

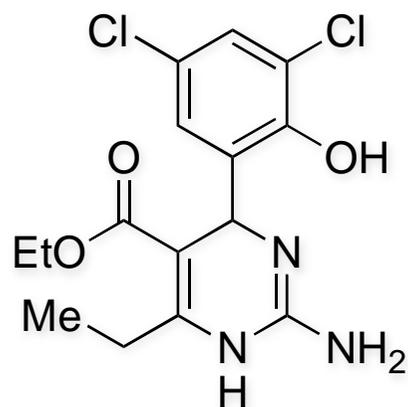


# Antibacterial Screening

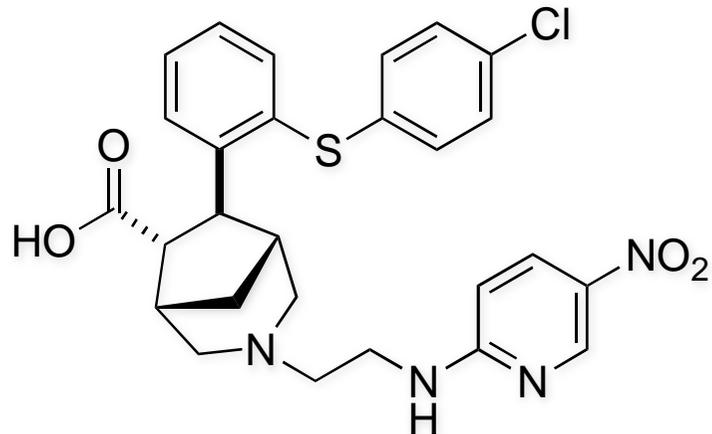
20 hits at 100  $\mu\text{M}$  concentration, e.g.



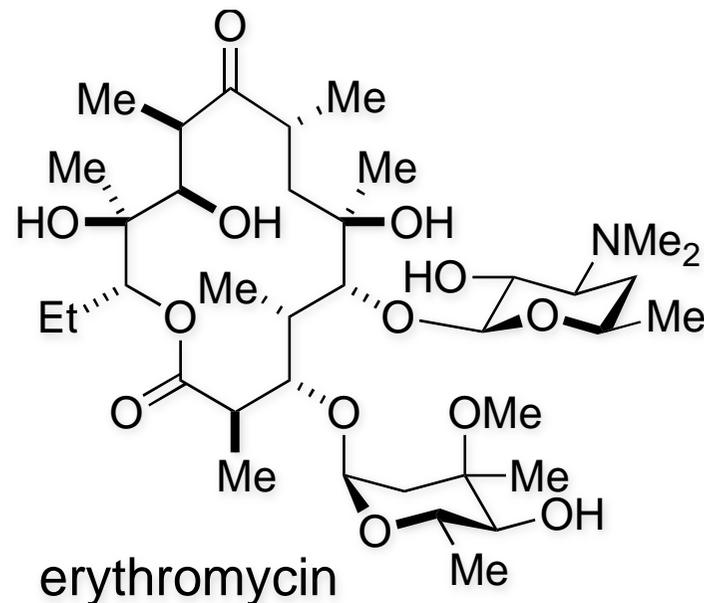
# Antibacterial Screening



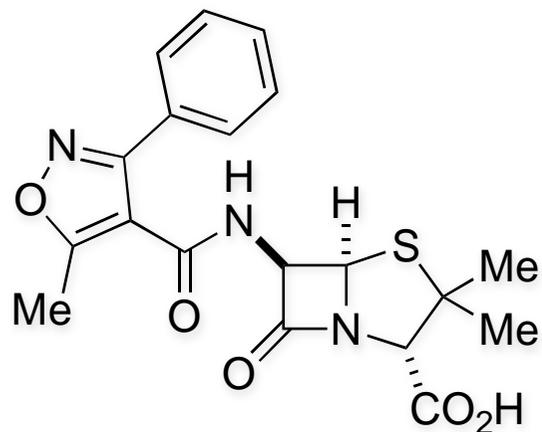
emmacin



(-)-gemmacin



erythromycin

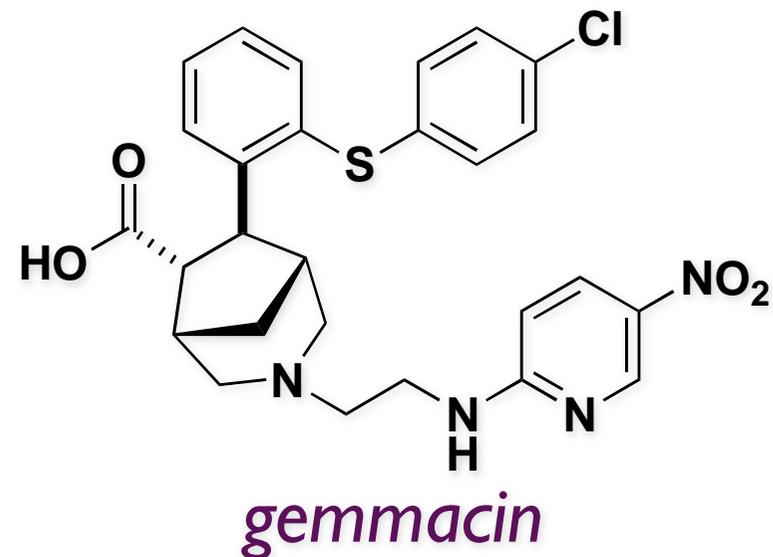
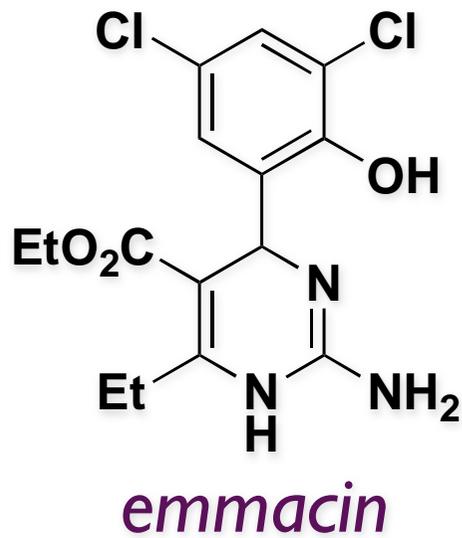


oxacillin

	MIC <sub>50</sub> (μg ml <sup>-1</sup> )		
	MSSA	EMRSA 15	EMRSA 16
emmacin	2	9	9
(-)-gemmacin	2	8	16
erythromycin	0.5	>64	>64
oxacillin	0.5	>32	>32

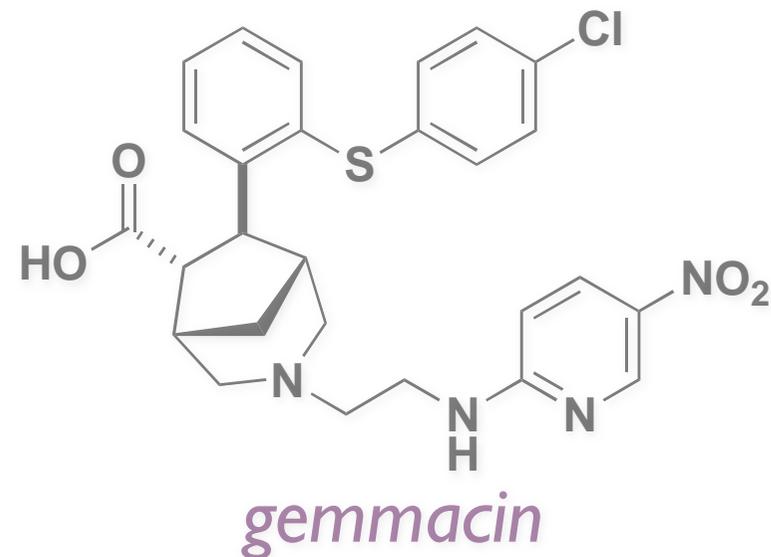
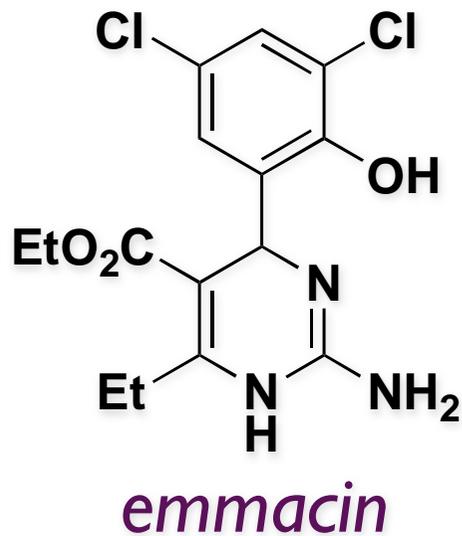
# Antibacterial Screening

*Emmacin & gemmacin only affect cell growth of **human** epithelial cells at concentrations above 250  $\mu\text{M}$ .*



# Antibacterial Screening

*Emmacin & gemmacin only affect cell growth of **human** epithelial cells at concentrations above 250  $\mu\text{M}$ .*



***But what are the mode of actions?***

# Target Identification

*Mode of action assays (>20):*

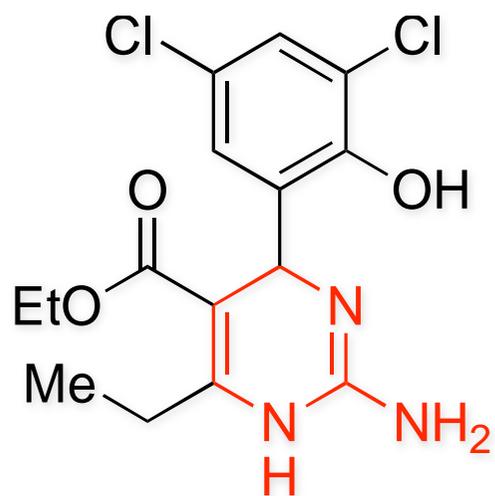
*ATP synthesis uncoupling*

*protein synthesis inhibition*

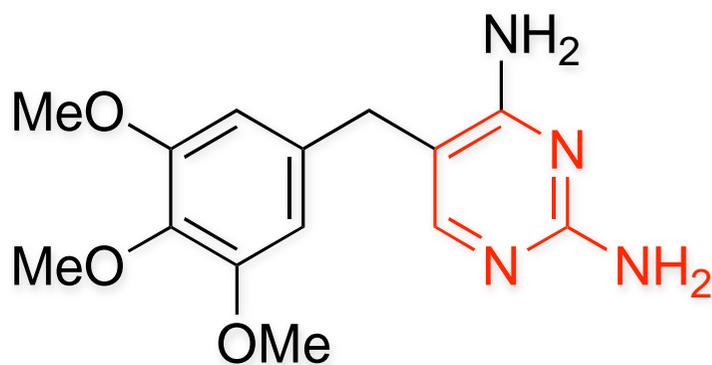
*generation of reactive oxygen species*

***Emmacin: non-toxic, selective for bacteria...?***

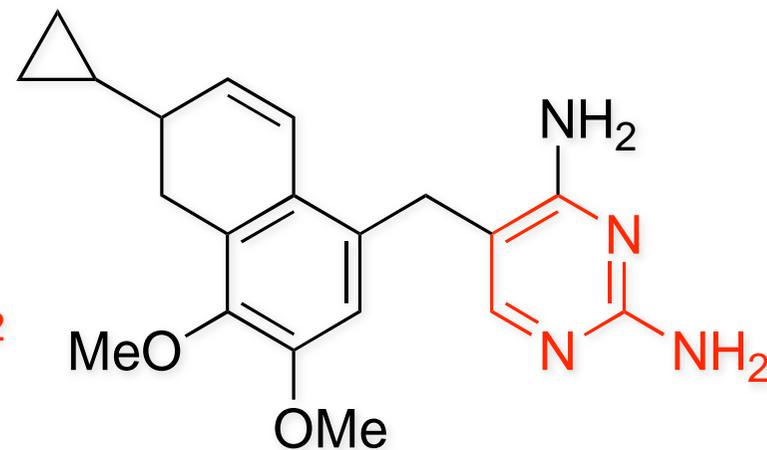
# Target Identification



emmacin



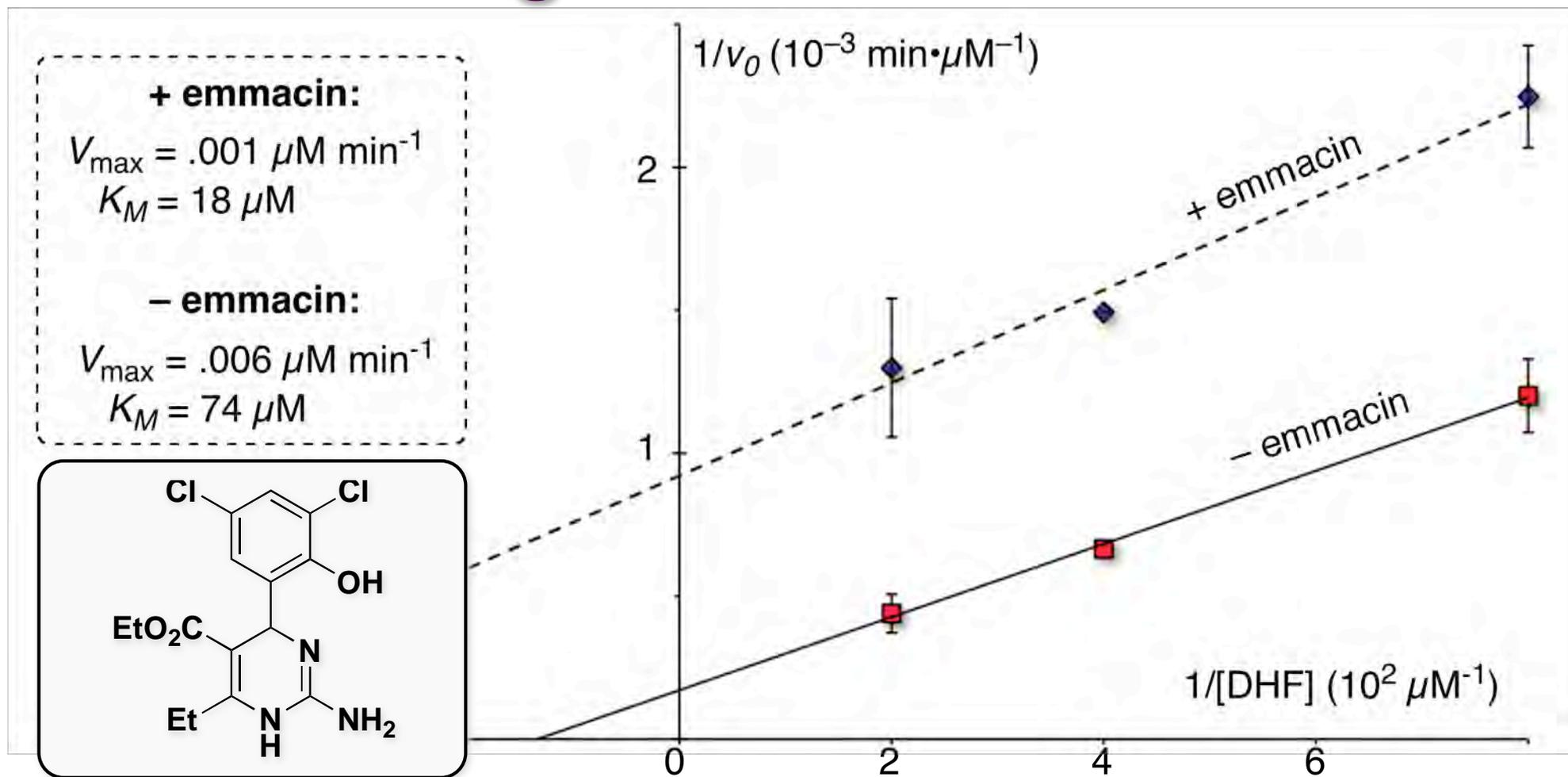
trimethoprim



iclaprim

*Structural similarities to known  
bacterial DHFR inhibitors*

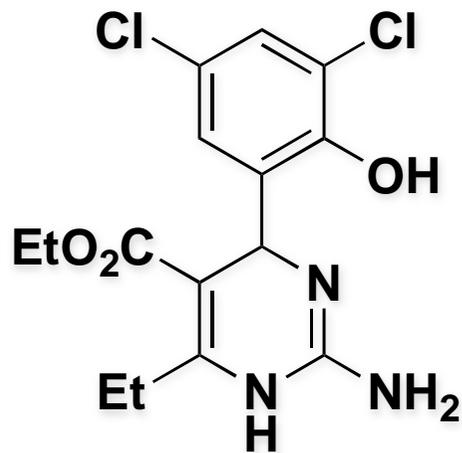
# Target Identification



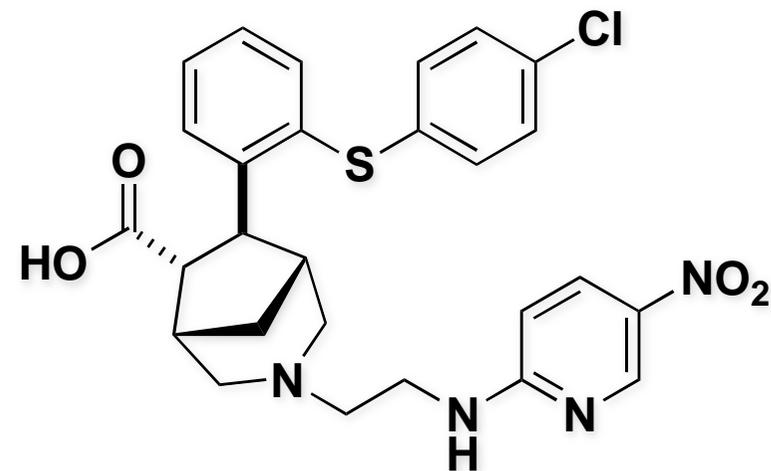
**Emmacin** represents a new structural sub-class of bacteria-selective DHFR inhibitors

# Antibacterial Screening

*Emmacin & gemmacin only affect cell growth of **human** epithelial cells at concentrations above 250  $\mu\text{M}$ .*



*emmacin*

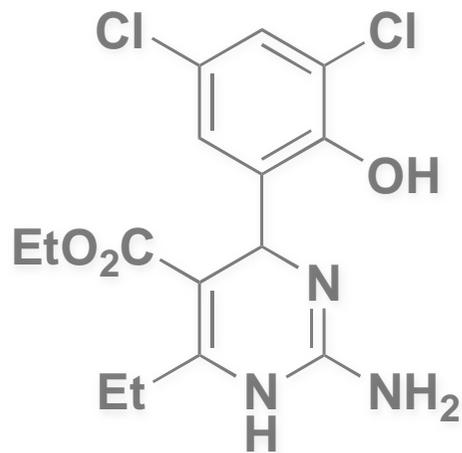


*gemmacin*

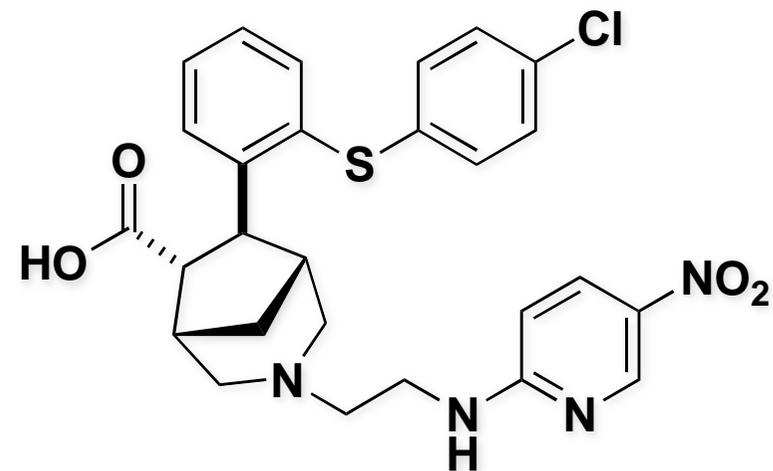
***But what are the mode of actions?***

# Antibacterial Screening

*Emmacin & gemmacin only affect cell growth of **human** epithelial cells at concentrations above 250  $\mu\text{M}$ .*



*emmacin*



*gemmacin*

***But what are the mode of actions?***

# Target Identification

*Mode of action assays (>20):*

*ATP synthesis uncoupling*

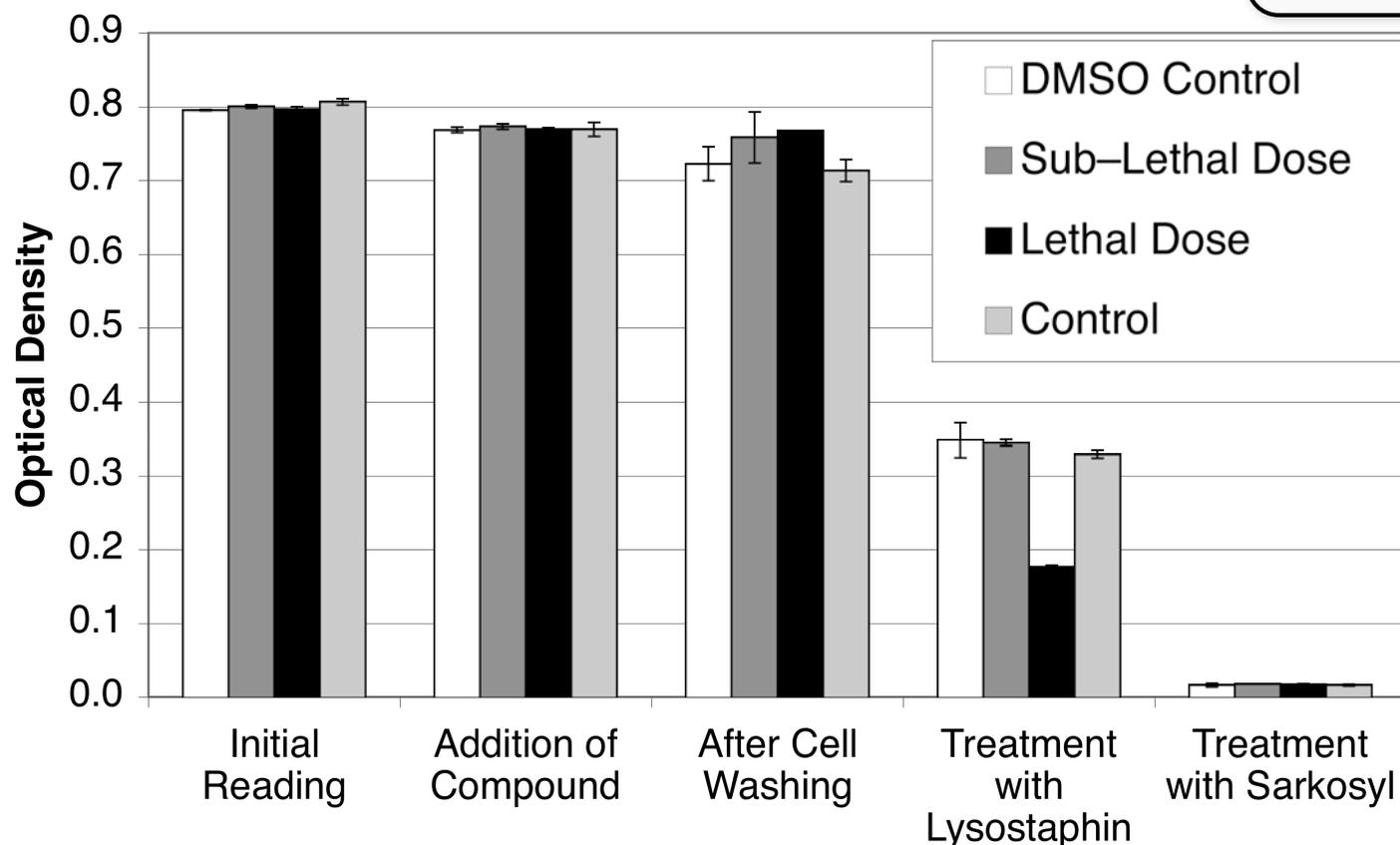
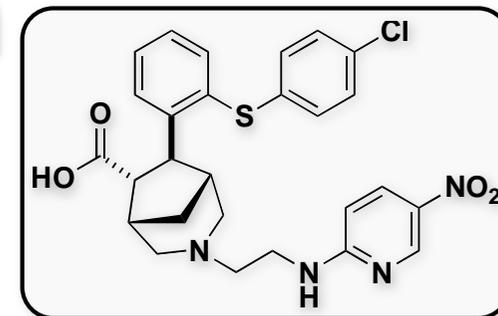
*protein synthesis inhibition*

*generation of reactive oxygen species*

***Gemmacin: positive for ROS generation***

# Target Identification

*Membrane disrupter of MRSA.*



*Lysostaphin cleaves pentaglycine bridges in the cell walls of staphylococci.*

# Summary

*Diversity-oriented synthesis  
(~500 compounds; ~50 scaffolds)*

*Antibacterial screening  
(EMRSA-15 & EMRSA-16)*

*Discovery of two new antibacterial molecules  
(emmacin & (-)-gemmacin)*

*Mode of action & target identification  
(bacteria selective mechanisms)*

# Acknowledgements



*Andreas Bender, Martin Welch, Clare Bryant, Jodi Lindsay,  
Derek Brown, Olivier Loiseleur, Mark Ladlow*

*EPSRC, BBSRC, MRC, Frances and Augustus Newman Foundation  
Wellcome Trust, GSK, AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Syngenta, Lilly, UCB*

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