Total Synthesis of (–)-Leuconoxine Featuring Mannich-type Intramolecular Cyclization and Chiral Phosphoric Acid-Catalyzed Desymmetrization

Kazuhiro Higuchi, Shin Suzuki, Reeko Ueda, Norifumi Oshima, Emiko Kobayashi, Masanori Tayu, Shigeo Sugiyama, Tomomi Kawasaki

Meiji Pharmaceutical University, Kiyose, Tokyo, Japan

We have accomplished the asymmetric total synthesis of (–)-leuconoxine (2). In the presence of a chiral phosphoric acid catalyst (VAPOL-PA), the desymmetrization of prochiral diester produced highly-enantioenriched lactam (75% ee) in excellent yield. Ring construction steps featuring the N-acyliminium mediated intramolecular piperidine cyclization with Tf2O and subsequent the one-step pyrrolidone formation using Bestmann's ylide were achieved successfully.