

Supporting Information

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Total Synthesis of the Aspercyclides

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Methyl 2-bromo-6-methylbenzoate (7):^[1] A solution of NaNO₂ (1.76 g, 25.6 mmol) in H₂O (6 mL) was added to a cold (0 °C) solution of ester **6** (1.76 g, 10.7 mmol)^[2] in HBr (40 % in H₂O, 12 mL) at such a rate as to maintain the internal temperature ≤ 5 °C. After stirring for 20 min at this temperature, the resulting mixture was transferred via a Teflon tube into a suspension of CuBr (2.75 g, 19.2 mmol) in HBr (40 % in H₂O, 12 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred for 16 h at ambient temperature. *tert*-Butyl methyl ether (30 mL) was added, the organic phase was washed with aq. sat. NaHCO₃ and brine (10 mL each), dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated. Purification of the residue by flash chromatography (hexanes/*tert*-butyl methyl ether, 1/0 → 10/1) afforded the title compound as a yellow liquid (2.37 g, 97 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.40 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.15-7.14 (m, 2 H), 3.95 (s, 3 H), 2.33 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 168.4, 137.0, 135.9, 130.4, 129.9, 128.9, 119.1, 52.5, 19.7; IR (film): \tilde{v} = 3062, 2998, 2952, 1736, 1594, 1566, 1450, 1279, 774 cm⁻¹; MS (EI): m/z (%): 228 (47) [M⁺], 197 (100), 171 (21), 169 (21), 90 (40), 89 (40); HRMS (EI) calcd for C₉H₉BrO₂ [M⁺]: 227.9784, found: 227.9786; elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₉H₉BrO₂: C 47.19, H 3.96; found: C 47.06, H 3.87.

Methyl 2-(2-methoxy-6-vinylphenoxy)-6-methylbenzoate (9): A mixture of bromide **7** (0.98 g, 4.27 mmol), 2-methoxy-6-vinylphenol (**8**) (641 mg, 4.27 mmol), CuO (68.0 mg, 0.85 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (1.20 g, 8.54 mmol) in pyridine (10 mL) was stirred in a sealed tube at 130 °C for 24 h. After reaching ambient temperature, the mixture was poured into HCl (1.5 M, 50 mL), the aqueous phase was extracted with *tert*-butyl methyl ether (3 x 20 mL), the combined organic phases were washed with brine (30 mL), dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated, and the residue was purified by flash chromatography (hexanes/*tert*-butyl methyl ether gradient) to give the title compound as a pale yellow oil (701 mg, 55 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.23-7.14 (m, 2 H), 7.05 (t, J= 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.91-6.81 (m, 3 H), 6.26 (d, J= 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.76 (dd, J= 17.7, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 5.25 (dd, J= 11.1, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 3.95 (s, 3 H), 3.74 (s, 3 H), 2.36 (s, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 168.5, 155.3, 152.8, 140.4,

^[1] A. Gokhale, P. Schiess, Helv. Chim. Acta 1998, 81, 251-267.

^[2] R. B. Boers, Y. P. Randulfe, H. N. S. van der Haas, M. van Rossum-Baan, J. Lugtenburg, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2002**, 2094-2108.

136.7, 132.5, 130.5, 130.0, 125.7, 123.1, 117.9, 116.1, 112.1, 110.8, 95.6, 56.2, 52.2, 19.4; IR (film): $\tilde{v} = 3010$, 2951, 2838, 1732, 1586, 1461, 1440, 1273, 996, 956, 919, 771, 737 cm⁻¹; MS (EI): m/z (%): 298 (100) [M^+], 267(55), 251 (29), 238 (42), 223 (22), 195 (22); HRMS (ESI): m/z: calcd for $C_{18}H_{18}O_4Na$ [M^+ + Na]: 321.1095, found: 321.1097; elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{18}H_{18}O_4$: C 72.47, H 6.08; found: C 72.56, H 5.96.

2-(2-Methoxy-6-vinylphenoxy)-6-methylbenzoic acid (10): Compound 9 (183 mg, 0.61 mmol) was added to NaOH (2 M, 5 mL) in MeOH (5 mL) and the resulting mixture was stirred under reflux for 48 h. After reaching ambient temperature, the mixture was diluted with water (10 mL), the agueous phase was extracted with tert-butyl methyl ether (10 mL) and the organic layer was discarded. The remaining aqueous phase was acidified to pH ~ 1 with HCl before it was extracted with tert-butyl methyl ether (3 x 10 mL). The combined organic phases were washed with brine (10 mL) and dried over MgSO₄, and the solvent was evaporated to give acid **10** as a pale brown solid (173 mg, quant.). m. p. = 106-107 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.29-7.12 (m, 3 H), 6.94-6.87 (m, 3 H), 6.42 (d, J= 8.3 Hz, 1 H), 5.84 (d, J = 17.7 Hz, 1 H), 5.34 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, 1 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 2.55 (s, 3 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 167.4, 156.2, 151.4, 140.8, 140.1, 133.0, 131.2, 130.1, 126.1, 125.3, 121.6, 118.3, 117.1, 112.3, 111.8, 56.2, 20.7; IR (film): $\tilde{v} = 3073$, 2839, 2658, 2564, 1699, 1585, 1461, 1414, 1272, 1068, 994, 919, 779 cm⁻¹; MS (EI): m/z (%): 284 (100) $[M^{+}]$, 266 (50), 251 (19), 238 (27), 223 (16), 195 (19), 135 (81), 77 (29); HRMS (ESI): m/z: calcd for $C_{17}H_{16}O_4Na$ [M^+ + Na]: 307.0940, found: 307.0941; elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₁₇H₁₆O₄: C 71.85, H 5.67; found: C 71.66, H 5.61.

(3R,4S)-3-(4-Methoxyphenoxy)-1-nonen-4-ol (13): sec-BuLi (1.3 M in cyclohexane, 1.71 mL, 2.22 mmol) was slowly added to a solution of 1-(allyloxy)-4-methoxybenzene 11 (365 mg, 2.22 mmol) in THF (12 mL) at -78 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred for 40 min. The cold solution was then added via canula to a suspension of S,S-12 (1.57 g, 2.56 mmol)^[3] in Et₂O (5 mL) at -78 °C and stirring was continued for 3 h at this temperature. A solution of

^[3] A. Hafner, R. O. Duthaler, R. Marti, G. Rihs, P. Rothe-Streit, F. Schwarzenbach, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1992, 114, 2321-2336.

hexanal (171 mg, 0.21 ml, 1.71 mmol) in Et₂O (5 mL) was then slowly introduced and the resulting mixture stirred for 4 h at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was quenched with aq. sat. NH₄F (10 mL) and stirred for 16 h at ambient temperature, the aqueous phase was repeatedly extracted with *tert*-butyl methyl ether, and the combined organic layers were washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. Evaporation of the solvent followed by purification of the residue by flash chromatography (Combiflash[©], hexanes/*tert*-butyl methyl ether gradient) gave product **13** as a yellow oil (313 mg, 69 %, *anti:syn* > 95:5). [α]_D²⁰ = -9.1° (c = 1, CHCl₃); ee = 92 % (HPLC); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 6.88-6.79$ (m, 4 H), 5.88 (ddd, J = 17.4, 10.6, 6.8 Hz, 1 H), 5.34 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.32 (d, J = 17.3 Hz, 1 H), 4.45-4.43 (m, 1 H), 3.86-3.82 (m, 1 H), 3.76 (s, 3 H), 1.59-1.29 (m, 8 H), 0.90 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 154.3$, 151.9, 134.1, 119.5, 117.6, 117.6, 114.6, 114.6, 83.6, 73.3, 55.7, 32.2, 31.8, 25.5, 22.6, 14.0; IR (film): $\tilde{v} = 3438$, 3063, 2953, 2932, 1643, 1591, 1507, 1227, 1039, 994, 928, 824 cm⁻¹; MS (EI) m/z (rel. intensity): 264 (7) [M^+], 164 (11), 124 (100), 109 (12); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₁₆H₂₄O₃Na [(M^+ + Na] 287.1623, found: 287.1618; elemental analysis calcd for C₁₆H₂₄O₃: C 72.69, H 9.15; found: C 72.60, H 9.16.

$\label{lem:methyl-5-vinyl-4} Methyl \ \ 2-(2,2-dimethyl-5-vinyl-4H-benzo[d][1,3]dioxin-6-yloxy)-6-methylbenzoate \ \ (22):$

A mixture of phenol **21** (1.12 g, 5.43 mmol), bromide **7** (500 mg, 2.71 mmol), 2,2,6,6-tetramethylheptane-3,5-dione (0.14 mL, 0.543 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (1.86 g, 5.70 mmol) and CuCl (26.9 mg, 0.271 mmol) in pyridine (14 mL) was stirred at reflux temperature in a sealed Schlenk tube for 3 d. The color of the mixture gradually turned from yellow to dark-black brown within the first hour of heating. For work up, the mixture was cooled to ambient temperature before water (50 mL) was added, the resulting light-brown aqueous phase was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 100 mL), the combined extracts were washed with brine (50 mL) and dried over MgSO₄, and the solvents were evaporated. The resulting brown-black residue was purified by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc, 20:1) to give product **22** as a pale yellow oil (490 mg, 51 %). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.13 (dd, J= 8.1, 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.87 (dt, J= 7.6, 0.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.86 (d, J= 8.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.73 (d, J= 8.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.54 (dd, J= 17.8, 11.7 Hz, 1 H), 6.48 (d, J= 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 5.59 (dd, J= 18.0, 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 5.49 (dd,

 $J = 11.8, 1.5 \text{ Hz}, 1 \text{ H}), 4.90 \text{ (s, 2 H)}, 3.90 \text{ (s, 3 H)}, 2.36 \text{ (s, 3 H)}, 1.57 \text{ (s, 6 H)}; ^{13}\text{C NMR} (100 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3): δ = 168.3, 155.2, 147.9, 146.7, 137.0, 130.2, 128.4, 127.0, 124.6, 123.8, 121.2, 120.8, 118.3, 117.1, 113.3, 98.8, 60.4, 52.2, 24.6; IR (film): <math>\tilde{v} = 3061, 2993, 2950, 1733, 1630, 1461, 1385, 1274, 1254, 971, 873, 827, 779 \text{ cm}^{-1}; \text{MS (EI): } m/z \text{ (%): 354 (18) } [M^+], 296 (100), 264 (94), 247 (13), 237 (77), 209 (17), 162 (37), 147 (12), 135 (24), 91 (29), 77 (27), 65 (19); HRMS (ESI): <math>m/z$: calcd for $C_{21}H_{22}O_5\text{Na}$: 377.1359, found 377.1359; elemental analysis (%) calcd for $C_{21}H_{22}O_5$: C 71.17, H 6.26; found: C 71.08, H 6.16.

2-[(2,2-Dimethyl-5-vinyl-4H-1,3-benzodioxin-6-yl)oxy]-6-methylbenzoic acid (23): A solution of compound 22 (27.8 mg, 0.08 mmol) and KOH (25 % in MeOH, w/w, 6 mL) in MeOH (3 mL) was stirred under reflux for 24 h. After reaching ambient temperature, the mixture was diluted with water (10 mL) and extracted with tert-butyl methyl ether (15 mL), and the organic layer was discarded. The remaining aqueous phase was acidified to pH 5 with HCl (3 M) before it was extracted with tert-butyl methyl ether (3 x 10 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine (10 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to give acid 23 as a pale brown solid (25.6 mg, 96 %). m. p. = 156-157 °C; 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.16 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.90 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.74 (d, J = 8.8 HzHz, 1 H), 6.57-6.47 (m, 2 H), 5.56 (dd, J = 18.0, 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 5.47 (dd, J = 11.8, 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 4.88 (s, 2 H), 2.49 (s, 3 H), 1.56 (s, 6 H); 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 170.4, 156.0, 148.3, 146.0, 138.8, 131.0, 128.3, 127.4, 124.5, 122.3, 121.5, 121.1, 118.4, 117.2, 113.2, 98.9, 60.3, 24.6, 20.3; IR (film): $\tilde{v} = 3415$, 3086, 1702, 1630, 1587, 1457, 1385, 1284, 1245, 832, 784 cm⁻¹; MS (EI): m/z (%): 340 (14) [M^{+}], 282 (72), 264 (31), 236 (23), 210 (8), 182 (5), 165 (9), 135 (100), 119 (7), 103 (20), 91 (14), 77 (23); HRMS (ESI): m/z: calcd for $C_{20}H_{20}O_5Na$ $[M^+ + Na]$: 363.1203, found: 363.1203; elemental analysis calcd (%) for $C_{20}H_{20}O_5$: C 70.57, H 5.92; found: C 70.50, H 6.08.

Compound 24: 2-Chloro-1-methylpyridinium iodide (91.2 mg, 0.35 mmol) was added to a solution of acid **23** (80.2 mg, 0.24 mmol), alcohol **13** (31.0 mg, 0.12 mmol) and NEt₃ (48 mg, 0.5 mmol) in MeCN (1.4 mL), and the resulting mixture was stirred under reflux for 4 d. A standard extractive work up followed by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc, 15:1)

furnished ester **24** as a colorless oil (33 mg, 49 %). $\left[\alpha\right]_D^{20} = +3.1^\circ$ (c = 1.2, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.09$ (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.83 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.79-6.76 (m, 3 H), 6.72-6.66 (m, 3 H), 6.52-6.39 (m, 2 H), 5.90 (ddd, J = 17.1, 10.6, 6.2 Hz, 1 H), 5.52 (dd, J = 18.0, 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 5.43-5.28 (m, 4 H), 4.87 (s, 2H), 4.74-4.72 (m, 1 H), 3.73 (s, 3 H), 2.33 (s, 3 H), 1.87-1.66 (m, 2 H), 1.56 (s, 6 H), 1.53-1.13 (m, 6 H), 0.79 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 167.7$, 155.3, 154.0, 152.0, 147.9, 146.6, 136.9, 134.2, 130.0, 128.5, 127.1, 125.0, 123.7, 121.1, 121.0, 119.1, 118.1, 117.2, 117.1, 114.3, 113.0, 98.8, 80.8, 76.2, 60.4, 55.6, 31.6, 29.2, 25.2, 24.7, 24.6, 22.5, 19.3, 14.0; IR (film): $\tilde{v} = 2955$, 1729, 1507, 1461, 1384, 1254, 1146, 1038, 992, 971, 874, 825, 778 cm⁻¹; MS (EI): m/z (%): 586 (14) [M^+], 528 (65), 513 (3), 463 (12), 405 (53), 323 (3), 265 (100), 237 (17), 209 (8), 173 (15), 123 (15); HRMS (ESI): m/z: calcd for C₃₆H₄₂O₇Na [$M + Na^+$]: 609.2833, found: 609.2825; elemental analysis calcd (%) for C₃₆H₄₂O₇: C 73.70, H 7.22; found: C 73.64, H 7.18.

(*S,E*)-1-Oxoheptan-2-yl 2-(2-(2-iodovinyl)phenoxy)-6-methylbenzoate (54): Prepared as described for compound 43 in the main text; colorless oil (41 mg, 82 %). $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -8.1$ (c = 0.83, CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 9.52$ (s, 1 H), 7.67 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.40 (dd, J = 8.0, 1.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.18-7.25 (m, 2 H), 7.10 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1 H), 7.03 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1 H), 7.02 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 6.67 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 5.19 (dd, J = 8.3, 4.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.48 (s, 3 H), 1.67-1.84 (m, 2 H), 1.11-1.40 (m, 6 H), 0.86 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 198.5$, 167.3, 154.3, 153.7, 139.6, 138.4, 131.3, 131.2, 129.7, 129.1, 127.7, 125.8, 124.2, 119.3, 116.1, 79.7, 79.4, 31.6, 29.0, 24.8, 22.5, 19.8, 14.1; IR (film): $\tilde{v} = 3059$, 2955, 2929, 2860, 2871, 1734, 1603, 1582, 1463, 1451, 1256, 1195, 1111, 1074, 957, 755 cm⁻¹; MS (EI): m/z (%): 493 (9) [$M^+ + 1$], 492 (35) [M^+], 368 (39), 364 (14), 363 (82), 253 (6), 238 (14), 237 (55), 236 (30), 235 (100), 221 (11), 209 (19), 208 (18), 207 (12), 181 (21), 118 (19), 95 (10), 89 (8); HRMS (EI): m/z: calcd for C₂₃H₂₅O₄I: 492.0798, found 492.0795.

Compound 52: Prepared as described for compound **44** in the main text, using compound **51** as the substrate; colorless solid (12.2 mg, 58 %, *anti:syn* = 3:1). [α]_D²⁰ = +65.4 (c = 0.43, CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, resolved signals of the minor isomer are marked *): δ = 7.24-7.34 (m, 6 H), 7.00-7.07 (m, 4 H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 5.97-6.14 (m, 4 H), 5.43* (ddd, J = 8.0, 5.7, 1.5 Hz, 1 H), 5.20 (td, J = 9.4, 2.6 Hz, 1 H), 4.70* (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1 H), 4.62* (d, J = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (s, 2 H), 4.08-4.12 (m, 2 H), 1.69-1.96 (m, 4 H), 1.53* (s, 6 H), 1.52 (s, 6 H), 1.22-1.49 (m, 12 H), 0.93 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3 H), 0.91* (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.5, 166.3, 152.5, 152.4, 143.1, 142.5, 138.3, 130.5, 126.0, 125.5, 123.5, 122.2, 117.3, 116.0, 93.6, 93.2, 78.0, 76.8, 60.0, 59.4, 31.2, 31.2, 25.0, 24.8, 24.6, 24.3, 23.9, 22.2, 20.7, 13.8, 13.7; IR (film): \tilde{v} = 3440, 2962, 2932, 2850, 1740, 1705, 1601, 1465, 1448, 1373, 1279, 1214, 1128, 964, 873, 748 cm⁻¹; MS (EI): m/z (%): 439 (2) [M⁺ + 1], 438 (8) [M⁺], 380 (26), 280 (44), 279 (11), 263 (11), 262 (10), 251 (100), 235 (24), 160 (24), 159 (12), 121 (15); HRMS (ESI): m/z: calcd for C₂₆H₃₀O₆Na: 461.1935, found 461.1939.

Compound 55: Prepared as described for compound **44** in the main text; colorless oil (17.4 mg, 59 %, *anti:syn* = 10:1). [α]_D²⁰ = +138.1 (c = 1.54, CH₂Cl₂); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.18-7.41 (m, 4 H), 7.11 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.86 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1 H), 6.32 (d, J = 15.9 Hz, 1 H), 6.03 (dd, J = 15.9, 9.4 Hz, 1 H), 5.25 (td, J = 9.8, 2.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.09 (t, J = 9.2 Hz, 1 H), 2.37 (s, 3 H), 2.09 (dddd, J = 12.1, 9.5, 7.0, 2.3 Hz, 1 H), 1.86 (br s, 1 H), 1.72 (dddd, J = 14.2, 9.8, 9.5, 5.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.27-1.57 (m, 6 H), 0.93 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 168.2, 154.5, 153.2, 137.8, 135.6, 132.4, 130.4, 129.9, 128.24, 128.17, 125.3, 125.1, 124.3, 122.5, 113.7, 77.4, 77.3, 32.0, 31.8, 25.5, 22.7, 19.6, 14.2; IR (film): \tilde{v} = 3420, 3068, 3024, 2954, 2927, 2860, 1732, 1602, 1582, 1573, 1484, 1463, 1445, 1253, 1239, 1190, 1106, 1071, 1036, 959, 774, 747 cm⁻¹; MS (EI): m/z (%): 366 (1) [M⁺], 267 (13), 266 (69), 248 (14), 238 (26), 237 (100), 220 (8), 195 (14), 194 (6), 165 (6); HRMS (ESI): m/z: calcd for C₂₃H₂₆O₄Na: 389.1723, found 389.1721.