

## Contents

<i>Abstract</i> .....	vi
<i>Abbreviations</i> .....	viii
<b>Introduction</b> .....	1
The Total Synthesis of Natural Products.....	2
Steroids.....	3
Steroid Biosynthesis.....	4
The Synthesis of Steroids.....	9
A Free Radical Cascade Approach to the Steroids.....	15
Ring-D Aromatic Steroids.....	17
<b>Results and Discussion: Part 1. A Cascade Radical-Mediated Approach towards Nicandrenone</b> .....	21
The Development of a Radical Cascade Strategy towards Ring-D Aromatic Steroids.....	23
A Radical-Mediated Macrocyclisation-Transannulation Cascade.....	28
A Ring-D Aromatic Model System.....	33
Syntheses of the Sulfone <b>122</b> and the Aldehydes <b>121a,b</b> .....	36
Syntheses of the Iododienynones <b>117a-d</b> .....	39
The Proposed Radical Cascades from the Precursors <b>117a-d</b> The Radical Cascades from the <i>Z</i> -Iododienynones <b>117a,c</b> .....	41
The Radical Cascades from the <i>E</i> -Iododienynones <b>117b,d</b> .....	45
<b>Results and Discussion: Part 2. A Cascade Radical-Mediated Approach towards Veratramine</b> .....	54

A Ring-D Aromatic Model System.....	57
A Model Stille Coupling Reaction using Vinylcyclopropyl Stannanes.....	59
Retrosynthetic Analysis of the Precursor <b>161</b> .....	65
Synthetic Routes to the Radical Precursor <b>193</b> .....	66
Synthesis of the Radical Cascade Precursor <b>193</b> .....	70
The Macrocyclisation-Transannulation Radical Cascade from the Seleno Ester <b>193</b> .....	76
<b>Experimental</b> .....	85
General Details.....	86
Experimental Details.....	89
Procedures for Compounds <b>117</b> to <b>155</b> .....	89 to 132
Procedures for Compounds <b>168</b> to <b>248</b> .....	132 to 166
<b>References</b> .....	167
<b>Appendix 1</b> X-Ray Crystallographic Data for Compound <b>147</b>	
<b>Appendix 2</b> Cascade radical-mediated cyclisations with conjugated ynone electrophores. An approach to the synthesis of steroids and other novel ring-fused polycyclic carbocycles, G. Pattenden, D. A. Stoker, N. M. Thomson, <i>Org. Biomol. Chem.</i> 2007, <b>5</b> , 1776-1788.	
<b>Appendix 3</b> <sup>1</sup> H and <sup>13</sup> C NMR Spectra for Compound <b>194b</b>	

## Abstract

The work presented in this Thesis describes several new and novel radical macrocyclisation-transannulation cascade reactions directed towards the single step construction of ring-D aromatic steroid ring systems.

The **Introduction** introduces the steroid class of natural products, their biosynthesis and previous literature strategies towards their construction. The ring-D aromatic steroids, together with their possible total synthesis *via* a novel free-radical cascade strategy, are then discussed.

The **Results and Discussion** Chapter summarises the radical cascade strategies towards ring-D aromatic steroid ring systems that have been investigated. It is divided into two sections:

**Part 1** describes the evolution of our current radical cascade approaches relating to the iododienynone precursors **117a-d** (Schemes 26-29). We proposed that the precursors **117a-d** would lead to the 6,6,6,6 ring-D aromatic steroid ring system (such as that found in the natural product nicandrenone **67**), *via* a cascade of radical ring-forming reactions. However, the proposed radical cascade from the *Z*-iododienynones **117a,c** halted at the macrocyclisation stage producing the macrocycles **137a,b**, whilst a radical cascade from the *E*-iododienynones **117b,d** instead led to the unusual bridged tricyclic structures **148a,b** and **155** (depending on whether benzene or heptane was

used as the solvent), rather than the anticipated linear tetracycles **116a,b**. A rationale for these outcomes is given.

**Part 2** discusses an approach to 6,6,5,6 ring-D aromatic steroids *via* a macrocyclisation-transannulation radical cascade from the vinylcyclopropyl seleno ester precursor **193**. A synthesis of the radical precursor **193** was first examined using a novel aryl-vinylcyclopropane Stille reaction coupling protocol (the development of which is discussed), as well as several alternative routes. A practical, albeit more lengthy, synthesis of the precursor **193**, was then developed. The proposed radical cascade from the vinylcyclopropyl seleno ester **193** led to the desired ring-D aromatic steroid ring system **194a** (with the correct *trans*, *anti*, *trans* stereochemistry) together with the methyl epimer **194b**. Also isolated from the product mixture was the macrocycle **232**, together with the products of reduction and decarbonylation of the acyl radical intermediate **235**, *i.e.* **231** and **230**, and the dioxolane **233**.

The **Experimental** section describes all the procedures used to synthesise the precursor compounds **117a-d** and **193** and the products of their radical mediated cascade cyclisations. Full NMR, and other spectroscopic data, alongside mass spectrometry data are also given.

The **Appendices** include some relevant X-ray and NMR spectroscopic details.