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On the Road to (+)-Obafluorin

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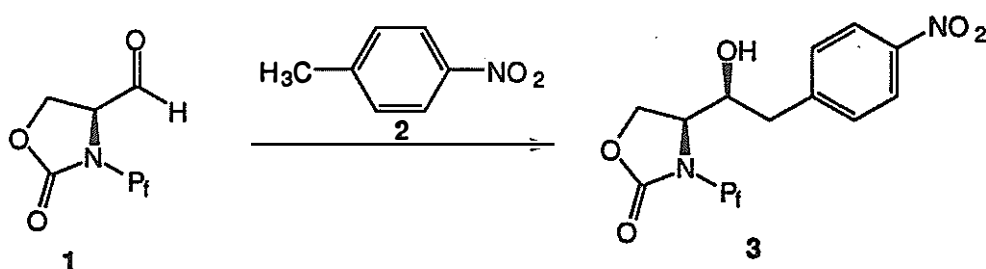
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ON THE ROAD TO (+)-OBAFLUORIN

Michael Busse and Dr. Jeff Frick*, Department of Chemistry, IWU

In the continuing search for different antibiotics, the β -lactone antibiotic (+)-obafluorin has been isolated from strains of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* bacteria. In the process of our proposed novel synthesis of this compound, the following step (Equation 1) is required: addition of the anion of *p*-nitrotoluene 2 to the protected amino aldehyde derivative 1.

Equation 1



Model studies involving the addition of nitrobenzyl magnesium-bromide (4) to benzaldehyde and the addition of the *p*-nitrotoluene anion (5) to select electrophiles (Equation 2) is being explored. The results of these experiments will be presented.

Equation 2

