Project Title: Studies on Chemical Synthesis of Polyketide-Derived, Biologically Active Complex Natural Products

Keisuke Suzuki
(Tokyo Institute of Technology, School of Science, Department of Chemistry, Professor)

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Research Area: organic chemistry
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Purpose and Background of the Research
Even by the cutting-edge organic synthesis that provides now facile access to various useful compounds in scientific and industrial fields, certain classes of compounds remain inaccessible, due to the skeletal, functional, and stereochemical complexity. A typical example is the complex architectures derived from the type-II polyketide biosynthesis, constituting an attractive class of compounds with potential bioactivities. In this five-year project, we will address synthetic studies of such natural products by focusing on the development of new synthetic strategies and tactics, hoping eventually to achieve the total syntheses.

Research Methods
We sought a hint from natural biosynthesis and considered how the complexity and diversity of natural product structure evolved, recognizing three factors, 1) modification of the basic building unit A within itself, giving analogues A1, A2, A3…, 2) oligomerization, in particular dimerization, of A, and 3) hybridization with other biosynthetic constructs B, C, giving A–B–C. Centering attention to the type-II polyketide biosynthesis, intensive study will be carried out on the chemical synthesis of biologically active complex natural products.

Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance
This project will explore new synthetic strategies and tactics that will allow access to complex structures that are unavailable from natural source or through conventional organic synthetic methods.

Publications Relevant to the Project

Term of Project: FY2016-2020

Budget Allocation: 141,800 Thousand Yen

Homepage Address and Other Contact Information
http://www.chemistry.titech.ac.jp/~org_synth