Assessment on facile Diels–Alder approach of α-pyrone and terpenoquinone for the expedient synthesis of various natural scaffolds

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Abstract

The development of highly facile synthetic procedures for the expedient synthesis of complex natural molecules is always in demand. As this aspect, the Diels–Alder reaction (DAR) has a versatile approach to the synthesis of complex natural compounds and highly regio-/stereoselective heterocyclic scaffolds. Additionally, α-pyrene and terpenoquinone are two versatile key intermediates that are prevalent in various bioactive natural compounds for instance, (±)-crinine, (±)-joubertinamine, (±)-pancratistatin, (−)-cyclozonarone, and 8-epihippupehedione, etc. Hence, the current review summarizes the Diels–Alder reaction application of α-pyrene and terpenoquinone to the constructive synthesis of various natural products over the past two decades (2001–2021). Equally, it serves as a stencil for the invention and development of new synthetic strategies for high-complex molecular structured natural and heterocyclic molecules.

Keywords: α-Pyrene, Diels–Alder reaction (DAR), Marine natural compounds, Terpenoquinone, Total synthesis
1 Introduction

The development of innovative pharmaceutical agents from natural origin (like marine products) has played a tremendous role in the modern drug discovery. To date, a wide variety of complex marine natural products have been acknowledged as lead agents to ameliorate the triggers of various disease like diabetes, microbial infections, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, immune related problems and neurological disorders, etc. [1, 2]. In this regard, α-pyrones (syn. 2-pyrones) and terpenoquinone compromising marine compounds have received considerable attention in the medicinal chemistry. Since, they have exhibited wide-variety of pharmacological activities such as antibiotic, anticancer, antimicrobial, antimalarial, and neuroprotective tactics [3, 4]. In addition, the analogues of α-pyrones and terpenoquinones have been accredited as imperative bioactive-synthons in numerous complex natural products [5]. Therefore, the design and development of α-pyrones and terpenoquinone analogues have become an important strategy in current drug innovations through adaptive synthetic approaches [3, 6].

In this scenario, the Diels–Alder reaction is the most profitable approach for the facile synthesis of complex natural compounds with a pharmaceutical grade [7–9]. Furthermore, the DAR envisioned a highly-atom economical and creative transformation for the development of stereoselective novel drug agents [8, 9]. Likewise, the Diels–Alder reaction also has a wide choice of variety of industrial applications which includes hetero-DARs, intramolecular [4+2] cycloadditions, and catalytic reactions for the stereoselective transformations. Thus, the Diels–Alder cyclization has an amazing strategy in synthetic organic chemistry and medicinal chemistry applications.

Further, our efforts have continued towards in the Diels–Alder reactions [10–12], cycloadditions [13–15], and adeptness in the structural studies of bioactive natural products [16–20]. Therefore, the present appraisal aims to emphasize the role of Diels–Alder approach of α-pyrones and terpenoquinone in the constructive cycles of natural complexes. Equally, it highlights various Diels–Alder approaches for the design and development for bioactive natural compounds through medicinal chemistry approaches.
2 Diels–Alder approach of α-pyrene to the pragmatic synthesis of natural compounds

The chromophore α-pyrene serves as a versatile building block in numerous bioactive natural marine products such as albidopyrone (antidiabetic), salinipyrone A (anticancer), wailupemycin A (antimicrobial), tipranavir (anti-HIV), pyrenes I–II (anti-infective), and gombapyrone A (glycogen synthase kinase-3β inhibitor) (Fig. 1) [3, 21]. Therefore, there is considerable interest among researchers in drug innovation owing to the unique structural and pharmaceutical properties of α-pyrene marine compounds. In addition, the developments of highly efficient synthetic tactics are needed to access the versatile analogues of bioactive α-pyrones. Considering all these prominence, an assessment of Diels–Alder approach for the expedient synthesis of α-pyrones are summarized underneath.

Baran and Burns demonstrated the constructive total synthesis of an important anti-cancer indeno-tetrahydropyridine analogue i.e., (+)-haouamine A (7) through a sequential reactions of Stille coupling of pyrone and Diel-Alder cyclization (Scheme 1) [22]. The introduction of α-pyrene chirality into the indeno-tetrahydropyridine intermediate 1 by the Still coupling procedure was an important strategy in the synthesis of haouamine A. As well, another synthetic challenge was the unusual macrocyclization achieved through the pyrone-alkyne Diels–Alder reaction of 5, which embedded leaving of CO₂ group by a pseudo-boat configuration 6 and subsequent aromatization of viable precursor to 7. Therefore, conferring to the biosynthetic origin the role of α-pyrene synthon was essential for the unusual oxygen pattern of highly strained macrocyclic analogue 7 presence.

Equally, Shin and co-workers reported a total synthesis of the anti-tumor agent, trans-Dihyronarciclasine 15 over a Diel-Alder cyclization (Scheme 2) [23]. An important strategy in the synthesis of phenanthridone 15 was the outline of ring B accomplished through a high selective endo-adduct 10 in 99% yield by the Diels–Alder cyclization of α-pyrene derivative 9 with styrene derivative 8. Further, the α,β-unsaturated cyclic adduct 10 was transformed into a methyl carbamate 13, and then ensuing Bischler-Napieralski reaction of it acylated derivative 13 resulted the targeted trans-phenanthridone 15. Later, Cho and his co-worker developed a more efficient route for large-scale production of 15 by enforcing the limitations of Bischler-Napisrealski cyclization reaction of the ester intermediate [24]. Therefore, from the total synthesis of 15, it has been expanded that α-pyrene synthon 9 plays an essential role in the biogenesis of trans-dihyronarciclasine.

Further, Tam and Cho demonstrated another interesting natural antitumor alkaloid i.e., (+)-crinine (19) by Still coupling and Diels–Alder cyclization approaches (Scheme 3) [25]. Primarily, the synthesis of alkaloid 19 involves the regioselective coupling of the α-pyrene analogue 9 and aryltin derivative 16 prompted to the required α-pyrene diene 17 in 72% yield. Subsequently, the Diels–Alder cyclization of 17 with TBS vinyl ether occasioned the mixture of endo/exo-bicyclolactones (18a/b) in a 2:1 ratio. Further, the sequential reactions

![Fig. 1 Structures of some nominated biologically potent α-pyrene marine compounds [3, 21]](image-url)
of *endo*-bicyclolactone 18a provide the total synthesis of tetrahydroisoquinoline alkaloid 19. Thus, from the stated synthetic approach, the regioselective pyrone-aryl tin coupling and Diels–Alder cyclization plays a title role in the synthesis of *endo*-bicyclolactone 18a, a key intermediate of (+)-crinine.

Likewise, an sceletium alkaloid (+)-joubertinamine (26) has been accredited an pharmaceutically important agent to treat psychological disorders, anxiety, depressive state, alcohol and drug addictive conditions, and neurological disorders [26, 27]. Further, Tam and Cho deliberated the facile total synthesis of joubertinamine (26) over a Still coupling and Diels–Alder cyclization strategies (Scheme 4) [26]. As similar to the crinine (19) synthesis, the regioselective coupling and Diels–Alder cyclization of α-pyrone 9 was facilitated the essential key cyclohexene
Subsequently, the PCC oxidation and then witting reactions accomplished the target compound, joubertinamine. Galanthamine is a biologically important cyclic tertiary amine class alkaloid used to treat the symptoms of Alzheimer disease. In this regard, Chang et al. demonstrated an efficient synthetic strategy for the total synthesis of galanthamine through tandem C3-selective Still coupling and IMDA approaches as described in Scheme 5. Essentially, the endo-tetracyclolactone adduct was achieved over a Stille coupling of α-pyrone with aryl stannane. Further, the ring-opening of a selective diastereomeric adduct and then, followed by hydroxyl protection, amination and carbamate erection occasioned the respective, MOM ether and ester functionalized compound. Then after, DIBAL reduction, Dess-Martin peroxidation (DMP) followed by Witting olefination caused in a diastereomeric mixture of enol ether derivative in 46% yield. Similarly, accompanying TFA hydrolysis, reductive amination provided the tetracycle-alkaloid derivative. Finally, the sequence reactions of DMP, debromination and the L-selectride

**Scheme 3** Synthesis of endo-bicyclolactone, a key intermediate of crinine by Still coupling and Diels–Alder cyclization methodologies

**Scheme 4** Synthesis of joubertinamine through Still coupling and Diels–Alder cyclization paths
reduction furnished galanthamine (32) in 48% yield. Therefore, the stereoselective tandem Still coupling/IMDA reaction of α-pyrone 9 was the key strategies to attain the endo-cyclic adduct 28 in the effective total synthesis of galanthamine.

Likewise, the continuing efforts of Tam and colleagues [30] have pronounced a unified approach to the total synthesis of various tetrahydroisoquinoline alkaloids such as (±)-crinine 19, (±)-crinamine 39, and (±)-6a-epicrinamine 40 (Scheme 6). Primarily, the key bicyclolactone intermediate 18a was achieved by Still coupling and Diels–Alder reaction of α-pyrone synthon 9 as described in Scheme 3. Further, the endo-bicyclolactone 18a was transformed into respective key cyclohexene derivatives 33–38 as illustrated in scheme 6. Further, diverse sequential reactions were transformed into respective, crinine-type alkaloids 19, 39, and 40. Therefore, α-pyrone analogue was an imperative enophile synthon in the biogenetic Diels–Alder approach of various complex natural compounds.

Lycorine, lycorane, and 1-deoxylycorine are the most attention-grabbing and pharmacologically important pyrrolo[de]phenanthridine natural alkaloids [31, 32]. The total synthesis of α-lycorane (46) initiated by the Diels–Alder reaction of the α-pyrone derivative 9 with a styrene dienophile 41 which motivated the 10:1 mixture of diastereomeric cyclic adducts [32]. Further, the reduction furnishing of nominated endo-cyclic adduct with Zn occasioned the desired bicyclic lactone 42. Subsequent, acid-catalyzed methylation and the Eschenmoser–Claisen rearrangement prompted the important cyclohex-3-ene carboxylate derivative 44. Consequent sequential reactions of Curtius rearrangement, lithium hydroxide treatment resulted in a bicyclic amide 45 as described in path A, Scheme 7. Further the amide 45 was imperative to Pictet–Spengler reaction; Pd/C hydrogenation and LiAlH4 reduction accomplish the total synthesis of α-lycorane (46).

Equally, the key intermediate cyclohex-3-ene carboxylate 44 was subjected to dihydroxylation with OsO4/NMO and the Curtius rearrangement motivated the diol lactam 48 in 51% yield [32]. Further, the protection of hydroxyl groups with TsOH/Me2CO and then, followed by carbonyl reduction with LiAlH4 led to the bicyclic pyrroliidine 49 as shown in path B, Scheme 7. The concomitant Bischeler–Napieralski reaction of bicyclic pyrroliidine 49 cyclized to tetracyclic amide analogue 50 in 76% yield. Finally, the amide derivative was subjected to a series of various 8 step-reactions such as protection; deprotection of hydroxyl, and reduction conditions were furnished the target derivative 1-deoxylycorine (51).

Likewise, Shin et al. [33] demonstrated the amended total synthesis of (±)-lycorine (62) with the provision of chiral bicyclolactone alcohol 54 through Diels–Alder cyclization of pyrone 9 and β-borylstyrene 52 (Scheme 8). Further, the hydroxyl lactone 54 was subjected to acidic methanalysis and followed by Eschenmoser–Claisen rearrangement occasioned the key intermediate cyclohex-3-ene carboxylate derivative 56. Subsequently, a sequence of reactions such as mCPBA epoxidation, Mitsunobu reaction, epoxide ring-opening, and Pictet-Spengler conditions afforded the tetracyclic lactam 61 in 70% yield.
Finally, the LiAlH$_4$ reduction of diacetate tetracyclic lactam 61 prompted the (±)-lycorine (62) at a yield of 41%.

Sato and co-workers [34] demonstrated the total synthesis of another important anti-tumor scaffold (+)-pseudodeflectusin (68) by Diels–Alder and lactonization methods (Scheme 9). Primarily, the base-promoted Diels–Alder cyclization of 7-hydroxy-α-pyrone analogue 63 with an alkyne 64, prompted the desired (-)-(R)-bromomellein 65 as an exclusively cyclic adduct in 78% yield. Further, the isochromanone adduct was adapted into tricyclic furanone intermediate 67 through the sequential reactions of alkylation with methyl bro-moacetate, lactonization with TMSSnBu$_3$/CsF in di-f-dent conditions. Therefore, cascade reactions of regioselective DAR and lactonization accomplished from 7-hydroxy-α-pyrone (63) are prominent in the synthesis of (+)-pseudodeflectusin 68.

Likewise, Gan et al. [35], established an efficient and expedient intramolecular pyrone Diels–Alder cyclization approach for the synthesis of Amaryllidaceae alkaloids viz., garcilamine (70), Δ$^7$-mesembrenone (73) and mesembrine (74) as described in Scheme 10. The adeptness and regioselectivity of the [4+2] cyclization depends on the substrate α-pyrone amide-tethered intermediate I (63) and II (71), which are readily accessible through augmented studies. Further, the sequential reactions of the Diels–Alder cyclic adduct (i.e. indole derivatives) were renovated to corresponding derivatives such as garcilamine, mesembrine and Δ$^7$-mesembrenone. The success of the stated intramolecular Diels–Alder cyclization of α-pyrone analogues 63 and 71 have yielded diverse indole and hydroindole group alkaloids in a low step-count methodology.

Likewise, (±)-pancratistatin (81) and (±)-1-epi-pancratistatin (83) are two important anti-cancer Amaryllidaceae tricyclic alkaloids of natural origin [36]. Initially, Jung and co-workers [37] demonstrated the total synthesis of (±)-pancratistatin (81) by the cascade reactions of Diels–Alder cyclization, Curtius rearrangement and Bischler-Napieralski procedures. Later, the Cho group developed an advance synthetic procedure for both the (±)-pancratistatin (81) and (±)-1-epi-pancratistatin (83), by identical reaction procedure with same starting materials of β-borylstyrene 75 (Scheme 11) [38]. Primarily, the dienophile β-borylstyrene undergoes DAR cyclization with α-pyrone (9, as diene) occasioned the

![Scheme 6 Synthesis of crinine-type alkaloids through an important enophile α-pyrone synthon derived Diels–Alder approach](image-url)
endo-bicyclolactone 76 exclusively in 86% yield. Subsequent oxidation with sodium perborate stemmed the desired biclolactone alcohol 77 in 81% yield, and then the debromination, methanolsysis primes to the key intermediate i.e., cyclohexene-diol 78. Further, the Curtius rearrangement and Bischler-Napieralski reactions of corresponding tetraol intermediates occasioned the targeted alkaloids 81 and 83, respectively. Therefore, the stated total synthesis of 81 and 83 became worthwhile with the formation of endo-cyclicadduct 76 in the inverse electron demand Diels–Alder cyclization of the α-pyrone derivative 9 with β-borylstyrene 75.

Further, conformationally chiral molecule cavicularin 87 has been reported to attract the attention of researchers due to its unique molecular architecture and interesting biological activities [39, 40]. As a result, Zhao and Beaudry [40], demonstrated a facile synthetic strategy for chiral macrocyclic bis(bibenzyl) derivative, cavicularin (87) by a controlled regiochemical approach of intramolecular Diels–Alder reaction as described in Scheme 12. Initially, the appropriate key Diels–Alder substrate of vinyl sulfonyl and α-pyrone substituted phenanthrene analogue 84 was achieved by a sequential reactions like Claisen-like condensation and Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons reaction procedures. Further, the intramolecular Diels–Alder cyclization of cascade substrate under microwave conditions occasioned the cavicularin 87 in 80% yield and its regioisomer 88 at a yield of 58%, respectively. Therefore, the pyrone Diels–Alder substrate 84 is essential for the construct of conformationally macrocyclic bis(bibenzyl) natural metabolites.

Basiliolide and transtaganolides are pharmacologically important natural metabolites with a novel framework of oxabicyclo[2.2.2]octene core derivatives [41]. Thus, the concise strategies and stoichiometric reagents are required to accomplish the total synthesis of unusual complex tricyclic substrates on an industrial scale. As this aspect, Larsson et al. [42] proposed a strategic synthesis for transtaganolides E (90) and F (91) that were potentially beneficial as analogue synths for basiliolides and transtaganolides. Initially, a geranylated α-pyrone Diels–Alder substrate 88 was imperiled to Ireland–Claisen rearrangement to attain a rearranged α-pyrone acid derivative 89. Further, the high pressure 1.5 GPa/50 °C conveys an IMDA cyclization accomplished the 2:1 diastereomeric mixture of transtaganolide E and F in 61% yield as illustrated in Scheme 13.
Further, Gordon et al. [43] shortened the total synthesis of transtaganolide and basiliolide class-compounds through Ireland-Claisen rearrangement (ICRA) and Diels–Alder cascade approaches as described in Scheme 14. Initially, the pyrone Diels–Alder substrate 92 with electron donating groups was achieved by Negishi cross-coupling, and the subsequent one-pot tandem ICRA and Diels–Alder sequence reactions resulted in...
Scheme 10 An efficient and expedient intramolecular α-pyrone-Diels–Alder cyclization approach for the synthesis of Amaryllidaceae alkaloids

Method A

α-pyrone amide-tethered intermediate I (63)

64 ► 65 ► 66

Intra-DAR

α-pyrone amide-tethered alkene intermediate II (71)

68 ► 69 ► 70

Intra-DAR

Method B

α-pyrone amide-tethered alkene intermediate III (74)

Scheme 11 Synthesis of (±)-pancratistatin and (±)-1-epi-pancratistatin form Diels–Alder cyclization of β-borylstyrene with α-pyrone
2:1 diastereomeric mixture of transtaganolides C (95) and D (96). Equally, the acrylated α-pyrene Diels–Alder substrate 92 under Ireland-Claisen condition provided a 1:2 mixture of C8 diastereomeric 97 in 65% yield. Further, the diastereomeric mixture was transformed into corresponding tricyclic silyl esters 98, and then palladium driven [5+2] annulation caused the basiliolide C (99) and epi-basiliolide C (100), respectively. Thus, the α-pyrene Diels–Alder template 92 and its electron-donating methoxy alkynyl group play a key role in the facile synthesis of the structurally complex transtaganolides and basiliolides.

Similarly, vinigrol (109) is another interesting natural molecule with a complex molecular framework and is prominent as a potent antihypertensive and antitumor agent [44]. To the expedient synthesis of continuous stereogenic tricyclic triterpenoid 109, Xu et al. [45], proposed a facile transannular Diels–Alder cyclization procedure as illustrated in Scheme 15. Primarily, the key Diels–Alder template of α-pyrene analogue 102 was achieved over a Boger’s lactonization procedure of highly strained cyclodec-5-enone 101 with dimethyl methoxymethylenemalonate. The subsequent epimerization reaction of the (−)-α-pyrene analogue 102 in DBU/toluene at 100 °C occasioned the expected (−)-α-pyrene derivative 103. Further, conducting the transannular Diels–Alder cyclisation of epimerized pyrone derivative 103 in DCB/mW at 200 °C procured the strained tricyclic ester 104 as major product. Succeeding, selective epoxidation by 1O2, reductive cleave peroxide linkage, and directive

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**Scheme 12** The microwave accustomed intramolecular Diels–Alder cyclization approach for expedient synthesis cavicularin

**Scheme 13** An IMDA cyclization of a geranylated α-pyrene Diels–Alder substrate for the facile synthesis of transtaganolides E and F
Burgess’s reaction conditions are the sequence reactions concerning to the completion of the total synthesis of \((-\text{)}\)-vinigrol \((109)\). Therefore, the epimerized product \((-\alpha\text{-})\)-pyrone analogue \(103\) synthesis and transannular Diels–Alder reaction are the key targets in the synthesis of highly strained tricyclic diterpenoid i.e. \((-\text{)}\)-vinigrol.

Another interesting biologically active oxygenated cyclohexene epoxide, eutipoxide B \((120)\) was widely produced by phytopathogenic fungus *Eutypa lata* [46]. Consistently, Shimizu et al. [47] projected the total synthesis of eutipoxide B \((120)\) through the base cinchonine promoted asymmetric Diels–Alder cyclization of 3-hydroxy-2-pyrone \(110\) with electron deficient dienophile \(111\) convinced the optically active cyclic adduct \(112\) at a yield of 74% (Scheme 16). Consequent reactions such as methylation, reduction of silyl ether derivative and oxidative cleavage, followed by epoxidation and Swern oxidation were prompted the chiral epoxy cyclohexane-3-carbaldehyde \(117\). Further, treatment with 2-methylpropenyl Grignard reagent and deprotection of TBS ether resulted in a 94% yield of the desired \((-\text{)}\)-eutipoxide B \((120)\). Though, the base catalyst cinchonidine used rather than cinchonine, the Diels–Alder reaction results the \((-\text{)}\)-cyclic adduct with 82% yield and > 95% diastereomeric excess, and the succeeding sequence reactions occasioned the \((+\text{-})\)-eutipoxide B. Therefore, the efficient and regioselectivity of asymmetric Diels–Alder reaction of 3-hydroxy-2-pyrone with dienophile presents a key role in the synthesis of chiral oxygenated cyclohexene epoxide metabolites.

Similarly, Tam et al. [48] demonstrated an efficient strategic synthetic approach for the pentacyclic enone intermediate \(131\) towards biologically imperative *Aspidosperma* alkaloid \(132\) (Scheme 17). The synthesis was commenced with the attainment of *endo*-bicyclolacone \(122\) in 37% yield by the Diels–Alder cyclization of 3-(2-nitrophenyl)-5-bromo-\(\alpha\)-pyrone \(121\) with silyl vinyl ether. Further, the chronological reactions counting methanolysis, hydroxyl protection, and the peroxide oxidation, and Zn-reduction were driven the indole ester derivative \(125\) construction. Subsequently, the Still coupling with vinyl stannate, ester-group reduction, and followed by van Leusen TosMIC homologation conditions were prompted the nitrile analogue \(128\) in 61% yield. Likewise, reduction of nitrile, and then heating with aqueous formaldehyde impinged the imino-Diels–Alder cyclization prompted the formation of important pentacyclic enone derivative \(131\). Therefore, the \(\alpha\)-pyrone Diels–Alder cyclization plays a key role.
Scheme 15 A facile transannular Diels–Alder cyclization route for the synthesis of (−)-vinigrol

Scheme 16 The total synthesis of eutipoxide B through the base promoted asymmetric-Diels–Alder cyclization of α-pyrone approach
role in pentacyclic enone intermediate synthesis for the proposed *Aspidosperma* alkaloid.

Equally, (+)-iso-A82775C (141) is a fascinating diastereomeric cyclohexene epoxide derivative, deliberated an important biosynthetic intermediate of various drugs for instance chloropupukeananin, pestaloficinols, and pestalofones, etc. [49]. Further, it displays an essential role in the biosynthesis of chloropupukeananin (142), a potent inhibitor of HIV-1 replication and human tumor cells pathogenesis [50]. Given the importance of fungal metabolite A82775C, Suzuki et al. [51] commenced its total synthesis through enantioselective Diels–Alder cyclization, Stille coupling and cross-metathesis approaches as described in Scheme 18. Principally, the Diels–Alder reaction of 4-bromo-3-hydroxy α-pyrone (133) with methyl 2-chloroacrylate (134) occasioned the optically active endo-cyclic adduct (37%) at 67% ee with the presence of cinchonine base. Further, the sequential reactions such as TES protection, DIBAL reduction, Criegee oxidation by Pb(OAc)₄ occasioned the cyclohexanone derivative (136) in 43% yield. Afterwards, the diastereoselective reduction of ketone derivative with NaBH(OAc)₃ followed by TES protection of hydroxyls ensued the 1,3-diol (137). Likewise, the Stille coupling with allylSn(n-Bu)₃ and Cross-metathesis by Grubb’s catalyst (II) were prompted the prenylcyclohexene (138). As well, the consecutive reactions like Dess-Martin oxidation, Seyferth-Gilbert homologation, and VO(OEt)₃/TBHP epoxidation gave the exclusive diastereomer (140). Finally, anti-selective copper facilitated S_N2’ reaction of diastereomeric epoxide (140) and the TBAF deprotection reactions succeeded the (+)-iso-A82775C (141) synthesis in 30% yield. Therefore, the intermolecular Diels–Alder reaction of α-pyrone (133) and the sequential metalation reactions are the prominent strategies to achieve the (+)-iso-A82775C of chloropupukeananin (142) synthesis.

As well, a resorcyclic acid lactone (−)-neocosmosin A (146) was isolated from the fungus Neocosmospora sp., and has been shown to have strong binding properties with cannabinoid receptors and human opioid [52]. As this aspect, Lee and Cho [53], demonstrated an efficient and rapid access to neocosmosin A through IMDA and cycloreversion approaches as described in Scheme 19. The target synthesis was motivated by the achievement of chiral-IMDA α-pyrone substrate (143) by various optimized studies. Consequently, the IMDA reaction of α-pyrone bromopropiolate substrate (143) gave the corresponding dibromobenzo macrocyclic lactone (144) in 64% yield. Further, on exposed to Miyaura reaction and then followed by oxidation of borate derivative prompted
Scheme 18  The intermolecular Diels–Alder reaction of α-pyrone assisted prominent strategies for the synthesis of (+)-iso-A82775C, a key intermediate of chloropupukeananin

Scheme 19  The IMDA cyclization α-pyrone approach to the expedient synthesis of (−)-neocosmosin A
the (−)-macrocyclic resorcinol 145 in 71% yield. Finally, the perceptive methylation of less-hindered hydroxyl with MeI/K₂CO₃ accomplished the (−)-neocosmosin A (146) in 78% yield. Therefore, the intramolecular Diels–Alder reaction of the α-pyronesubstrate to achieve the macrolides like neocosmosin A is an efficient synthetic strategy.

3 Diels–Alder approach for the expedient terpenoquinone arbitrated natural compounds

As well, terpenoquinone is another interesting stencil found in numerous marine natural products like sesquiterpene benzoquinones, meroterpenes, merosesquiterpenes, norsesquiterpenes, and tetracarbocyclics, etc. [54–56]. Therefore, the substantial attention has been paid to the terpenoquinone cohesive natural compounds due to its extensive pharmacological properties [6, 56]. In this regard, various studies have revealed that certain marine sponges were richest source of bioactive terpenoquinones that imperative as antibacterial, anticancer, antitumor, antimalarial, and anti-HIV therapeutic agents [6, 56–59]. Therefore, some examples of isolated terpenoquinones and their pharmacologically significance are appended in Fig. 2. Considering the structural diversity and biological prominence of the natural terpenoquinone, the standing review emphasized the application of Diels–Alder cyclization approach to its expedient synthesis. In addition, the terpenoquinones are resourceful dienophiles that triggered lavish DAR approaches to the constructive complex natural products. Further, the Diels–Alder reaction was a facile synthetic approach for the quick generation of regio- and steroselective complex products with creditable yields.

From this aspect, a bioactive sesquiterpene quinone i.e. cyclozonarone (152) was widely distributed in marine algae Dictyopteris undulata [60], and it absolute configuration was (−)-(5R,10R)-cyclozonarone revealed by Cortes et al. [61] over an enantioselective synthesis. Later, Schroder et al. [62] demonstrated the fruitful total synthesis of (−)-cyclozonarone through an expedient Diels–Alder cyclization approach as illustrated in Scheme 20. Initially, the dehydration reaction of (+)-albicanol 147 with Tf₂O/pyridine occasioned the drima-(8,12), (9,11)-diene 148 in 68% yield, which then subjected to Diels–Alder reaction with benzoquinone 149 resulted a mixture of enolization-oxidation cyclic adducts 150 and 151 in 75–89% yield. Subsequently, on oxidation of cyclic adduct mixture with DDQ primes to (−)-cyclozonarone 152 in 92% yield. Whereas, the targeted sesquiterpene quinone 152 was achieved in 35% yield on extending

![Fig. 2](image-url) Some examples of terpenoquinone articulate bioactive natural molecules [6, 56–59]
the Diels–Alder reaction time to 36 h without subsequent DDQ oxidation. Therefore, the pragmatic synthesis of 152 was achieved through a controlled Diel–Alder cyclization of diene derivative with benzoquinone over a static reaction period as described in Scheme 20.

Likewise, Miguel del Corral et al. [63], demonstrated the facile Diels–Alder cycloaddition procedure for sesquiterpenoid quinones/hydroquinones with interesting antineoplastic properties (Scheme 21). Primarily, the cycloaddition reaction of three labdanic diterpenoids 153 with p-benzoquinone 149 occasioned the corresponding hydroquinones 155 together with autoxidized quinones 156 and 157 as described in method A, Scheme 21. Further, the oxidation of hydroquinones 155 with DDQ was stemmed to the respective naphthohydroquinone 158. Also, the Diels–Alder reaction of myrceocommic

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**Scheme 20** Diels–Alder reaction approach for the synthesis of (−)-cyclozonarone

**Scheme 21** The facile Diels–Alder cycloaddition procedure for the synthesis of sesquiterpenoid quinones/hydroquinones
derivatives 153 with naphthoquinone 159 was stimulated the respective diterpenyl anthraquinone 160 and hydroxyanthraquinone 161 as illustrated in method B, Scheme 21. In addition, the stated diterpenylquinones (156–158) and diterpenylhydroquinones (160 and 161) have been found to be substantial cytotoxic in 0.1–21 µM against various human tumor cells such as lung carcinoma (A-549), colon carcinoma (HT-29), murine leukemia (P-388), and malignant melanoma (MEL-28).

Likewise, another marine anti-leukemia sesquiterpene 8-ephipuupehedione 171 was found to be a potent inhibitor of cell-proliferation and associated cancer-pathogenesis paths [64]. As the aspect, Alvarez-Manzaneda et al. [65], demonstrated an facile Diels–Alder cyclization procedure for the synthesis of aldehyde intermediate 166, an essential key synthon for the formation of marine metabolites like ent-chromazonarol 168 and 8-ephipuupehedione 171 as shown in Scheme 22. Primarily, the tricyclic pyran diene fragment 162 was synthetized from sclareol oxide, which then cycloaddition with α-chloroacrylonitile (dienophile) by DAR procedure provided the regioselective cyclic adduct 163 in 70%. Afterwards, the successive treatments of cyclic adduct with DBU/C₆H₆, DDQ/dioxane and DIBAL/ THF stemmed the essential key aldehyde intermediate 166 in 71% yield. Therefore, the Diel-Alder cyclization was the static approach that ensued 166 in persuasive yields. Subsequent, Baeyer–Villiger oxidation of 166, saponification, and DDQ oxidation were motivated the 8-ephipuupehedione metabolite 171.

As well, the halenaquinone (179), a marine penta cyclic polyketide metabolite with unusual molecular structure, has been acknowledged as a potent antimicrobial agent [66]. Further, Kienzler et al. [67], demonstrated the asymmetric total synthesis of (−)-halenaquinone 179 through inverse-electron demand Diels–Alder cyclization (IEDDAC) approach as labelled in Scheme 23. Primarily, the vinyl furyl carbinal 174 was achieved in 92% yield through C–C functionalized organometallic coupling of pre-prepared [65, 68] furanocyclohexanol 172 and aryl vinyl stannane 173. Succeeding desilylation, oxidative demethylation, and metal oxidation of secondary hydroxyls occasioned the highly stable key intermediate vinyl quinone of 176. Auxiliary, the high-pressure 10 kbar driven intramolecular IEDDAC resulted in the respective tetracyclic adduct 178 at rt, and the subsequent oxidization with MnO₂/PhH afford the aromatized (−)-halenaquinone (179) in 60% yield.
4 Conclusions

In essence, the Diels–Alder reaction is a versatile synthetic approach to construct the highly complex molecular structures of bioactive natural compounds for clinical and therapeutic applications. Further, the existing assessment highlighted the role of α-pyrone and terpenoquinone in the synthesis of important bioactive natural compounds by Diels–Alder approach. Moreover, the present review may be beneficial as a template for the future development of new therapeutic leads, and as a key appliance for their drug discovery challenges.

Abbreviations
AIBN: Azobisisobutyronitrile; BHT: Butylated Hydroxytoluene; DAR: Diels–Alder reaction; DBU: 1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene; Dibal: Disobutylaluminium hydride; DMAP: 4-Dimethylaminopyridine; DPPA: Diphenylphosphoryl azide; HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus; IEDDAC: Inverse electron demand Diels–Alder cyclization; NaHMDS: Sodium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide; NMO: N-Methylmorpholine-N-oxide; TABF: Tetrabutylammonium fluoride; TBSCl: Tert-butyldimethylsilyl Chloride; TBDPSCI: Tert-butyldiphenylsilyl Chloride; TPAP: Tetrapropylammonium perruthenate; TMSSnBu3: Trimethylsilyltri-n-butyltin.

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Declarations
Competing interests
All the authors declare that there is no competitive interest related to this work.

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