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We report the successful achievement of an asymmetric route to (-)-α-lycorane and (-)-zephyranthine as well as a formal total synthesis of (+)-clivonine. A pivotal intermediate, which serves as a potent precursor for the divergent syntheses of these natural products, was accessed by a diastereoselective Pd-catalyzed cinnamylation of an N-tert-butanesulfinyl imine.

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