Addendum

After this thesis was submitted for examination, an article was published by Moses *et* al^1 detailing the biomimetic synthesis of (±)-*syn* tridachiahydropyrone. The spectral data of the synthesised racemate was found to match that of the natural product, thus indicating that the stereocentres in the true structure of tridachiahydropyrone are indeed *syn*.

¹ Sharma, P., Griffiths, N., Moses, J. E. Org. Lett. 2008, 10, 4025-7