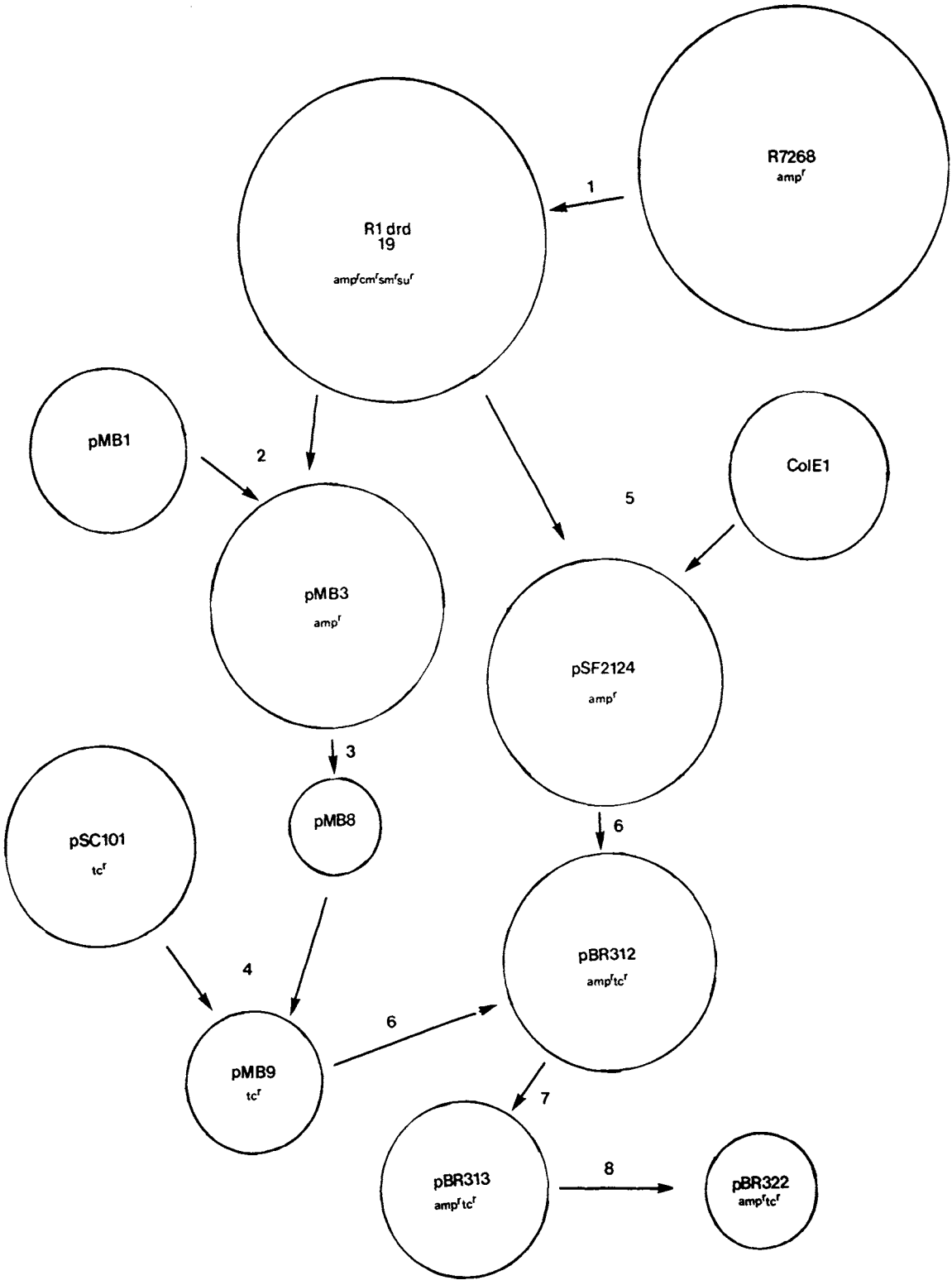

Figure 1. The ascent of pBR322. R7268 was isolated in London in 1963 (Datta and Kontomichalou 1965) and later renamed R1. (*1*) A variant, R1*drd*19, which was derepressed for mating transfer, was isolated (Meynell and Datta 1967). (*2*) The Ap transposon, Tn*3*, from this plasmid was transposed onto pMB1 to form pMB3 (Betlach et al. 1976). (*3*) This plasmid was reduced in size by *Eco*RI* rearrangement to form a tiny plasmid pMB8 (Rodriguez et al. 1976) which carries only colicin immunity. (*4*) *Eco*RI* fragments from pSC101 (Cohen and Chang 1977) were combined with pMB8 opened at its unique *Eco*RI site and the resulting chimeric molecule rearranged by *Eco*RI* activity to generate pMB9, a vector that has seen much service in the clone wars (Boyer et al. 1977). (*5*) In a separate event, the Tn*3* of R1*drd*19 was hopped to ColE1 to form pSF2124 (So et al. 1976). (*6*) The Tn*3* element was then transposed to pMB9 to form pBR312. (*7*) EcoRI* rearrangement of pBR312 led to the formation of pBR313 (Bolivar et al. 1977a), from which (*8*) two separate fragments were isolated and ligated together to form pBR322 (Bolivar et al. 1977c). During this series of constructions, R1 and ColE1 served only as carriers for Tn*3*. Material originally in pMB1 and pSC101 ended up in pBR322.