(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
9 October 2003 (09.10.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2003/082895 A3

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: C07J 1/00

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/007793

(22) International Filing Date: 21 March 2003 (21.03.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

60/366,784	22 March 2002 (22.03.2002)	US
60/411,874	19 September 2002 (19.09.2002)	US
60/425,596	12 November 2002 (12.11.2002)	US

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **PHARMACIA & UPJOHN COMPANY** [US/US]; 301 Henrietta Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **PEARLMAN, Bruce, Allen** [US/US]; 3411 Willow Lake Drive, #308, Kalamazoo, MI 49008 (US). **PADILLA, Amphlett, Greg** [US/US]; 10137 South Westnedge, Portage, MI 49002 (US). **HAVENS, Jeffrey, L.** [US/US]; 22570 - 6th Avenue, Mattawan, MI 49071 (US). **MACKEY, Sonja, S.** [US/US]; 9138 East ML Avenue, Galesburg, MI 49053 (US). **WU, Haifeng** [US/US]; 3681 Fawn Cove #3, Portage, MI 49024 (US).

(74) Agent: **COLLINS, Catherine**; Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart, LLP, 2851 Charlevoix Drive, S.E., Suite 207, P.O. Box 888695, Grand Rapids, MI 49588-8695 (US).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
22 April 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2003/082895 A3

(54) Title: PROCESS TO PREPARE EPLERENONE

(57) Abstract: The present invention involves novel intermediates, including a 7α-substituted steriod (II), and various novel processes which are used to prepare known intermediates useful in the production of eplerenone, a pharmaceutical agent.