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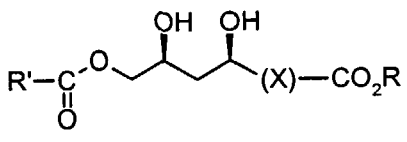
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF DIHYDROXY ESTERS AND DERIVATIVES THEREOF




(1)

(57) Abstract: A process is provided for the preparation of a compound of Formula (1) wherein R and R' represent optionally substituted hydrocarbyl groups and X represents a hydrocarbyl linking group. The process comprises either the stereoselective reduction of the keto group in a dihydroxy keto precursor followed by selective esterification of a primary hydroxy, or selective esterification of a primary hydroxy of a dihydroxy keto precursor followed by stereoselective reduction of the keto group.