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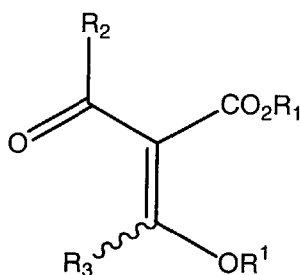
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION AND PURIFICATION OF 2-(ALKOXYALKYLIDENE)-3-KETOALKANOIC ACID ESTERS FROM 3-KETOALKANOIC ACID ESTERS



(3)

(57) Abstract: In its several embodiments, this invention discloses a novel process to prepare the compounds of Formula 3, wherein R¹ is lower alkyl, and R² and R³ can be the same or different, each being independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl and aralkyl; said process being carried out in a suitable solvent with at least one tert-amine carboxylate salt catalyst. The compounds of formula 3 are chemical intermediates useful for the synthesis of various heterocyclic compounds. These heterocyclic compounds are in turn useful precursors for diverse pharmaceutical, herbicidal and insecticidal agents. In particular, these intermediates are useful precursors to a variety of CCR5 inhibitors.

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