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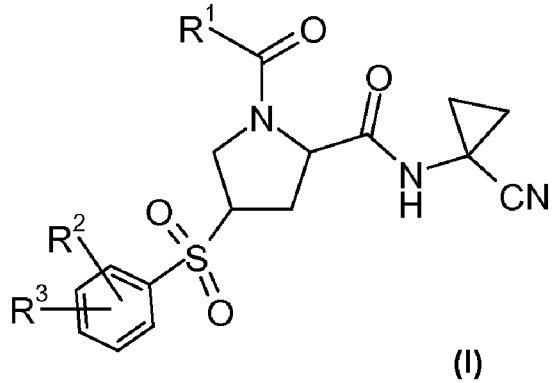
(54) **Title**: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF 1-ACYL-4-PHENYLSULFONYLPROLINAMIDE DERIVATIVES AND NEW INTERMEDIATES



(I)

(II)

(57) **Abstract**: A novel process for the preparation of proline derivatives of formula (I) wherein,R^1 is selected from C_{1-7}-alkyl or from formula (II) wherein R^4 is selected from C_{1-7}-alkyl, halogen-C_{1-7}-alkyl or from phenyl which is optionally substituted by halogen; R^2 is selected from halogen or halogen-C_{1-7}-alkyl; and R^3 is selected from hydrogen, halogen, halogen-C_{1-7}-alkyl, C_{1-7}-alkoxy, halogen-C_{1-7}-alkoxy or from a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or two nitrogen atoms, the ring which is optionally substituted by C_{1-7}-alkyl or halogen is described. The proline derivatives of the formula I are preferential inhibitors of the cysteine protease Cathepsin S and are therefore useful to treat metabolic diseases like diabetes, atherosclerosis, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and diabetic nephropathy.

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