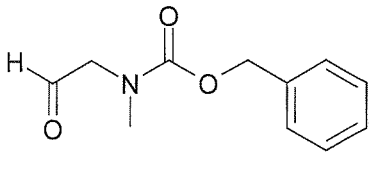
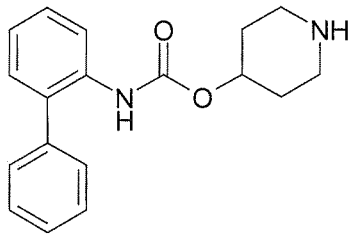
(a) reductive amination of a compound of formula 3:



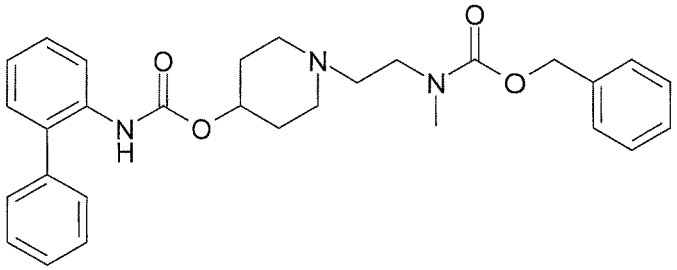
(3)

and a compound of formula 6:



(6);

in the presence of a reducing agent, to yield the compound of formula 7:



(7);

and

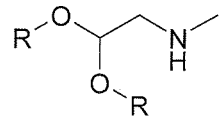
(b) debenzylation of the compound of formula 7 to yield the compound of formula 8; wherein step (a) and step (b) are conducted in the same reaction mixture without isolation of the intermediate from step (a); wherein steps (a) and (b) are conducted in methyltetrahydrofuran.

~~7. The process of Claim 6, wherein steps (a) and (b) are conducted in methyltetrahydrofuran.~~

8~~7~~. The process as claimed in ~~any one of~~ Claim~~s~~ 6 ~~to 7~~, wherein the reducing agent in step (a) is sodium triacetoxyborohydride.

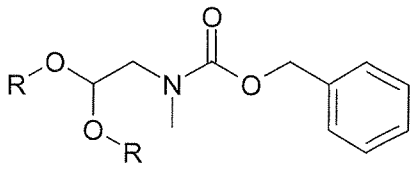
9~~8~~. The process as claimed in any one of Claims 6 to 8~~7~~, wherein the compound of formula 3 is prepared by the process comprising the steps of:

(i) carbobenzyloxy protection of a compound of formula 1:



(1),

where each R is independently $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl or are taken together to form a dioxane or dioxolane, to yield the compound of formula 2:



(2);

and

(ii) acetal deprotection of the compound of formula 2 to yield the compound of formula 3; wherein steps (i) and (ii) are conducted in methyltetrahydrofuran, and wherein step (ii) and step (a) are conducted in the same reaction mixture without isolation of the intermediate from step (ii).

~~10. The process of Claim 9, wherein step (ii) and step (a) are conducted in the same reaction mixture without isolation of the intermediate from step (ii).~~

~~11. The process of Claim 9, which is conducted in methyltetrahydrofuran.~~

~~12~~9. The process of Claim ~~9~~8, wherein step (i) comprises combining the compound of formula 1 and benzyl chloroformate.