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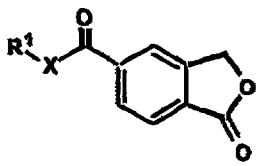
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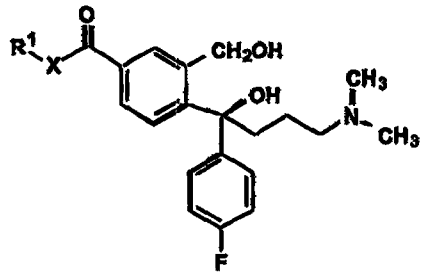
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF CITALOPRAM



(IV)



(V)

(57) Abstract

A method for the preparation of citalopram comprising the steps of reacting a compound of Formula (IV) wherein R^1 is C_{1-6} alkyl and X is O or NH, successively with a Grignard reagent of 4–halogen–fluorophenyl and a Grignard reagent of 3–halogen–N,N–dimethyl–propylamine, respectively, effecting ringclosure of the resulting compound of Formula (V) wherein R^1 and X are as defined above, and converting the resulting 1,3–dihydroisobenzofuran compound to the corresponding 5–cyano derivative, i.e. citalopram.