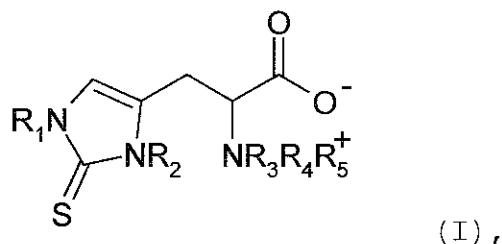
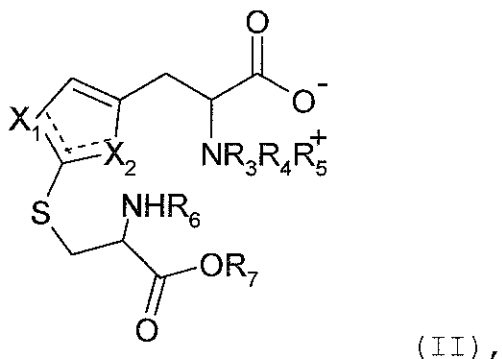


ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a method for synthesizing
 5 ergothioneine or one of the derivatives thereof of
 following formula (I):



or a physiologically acceptable salt, a tautomer, a
 stereoisomer or a mixture of stereoisomers in all
 10 proportions thereof,
 from a compound of betaine type of following formula (II):



or a physiologically acceptable salt, a tautomer, a
 stereoisomer or a mixture of stereoisomers in all
 15 proportions thereof,
 by cleavage reaction in the presence of a thiol, at a
 temperature above or equal to 60°C.

The present invention also relates to compounds of formula
 (II) and the method of synthesis thereof.