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(DE). **SKUBALLA, Werner** [DE/DE]; Mattersbörger Weg 12, 13465 Berlin (DE).

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(71) **Applicant** (*for all designated States except US*): **SCHERING AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT** [DE/DE]; Müllerstrasse 178, 13353 Berlin (DE).

(72) **Inventors; and**

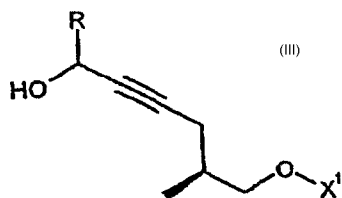
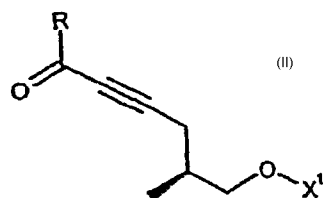
(75) **Inventors/Applicants** (*for US only*): **PLATZEK, Johannes** [DE/DE]; Grottkauertrasse 55, 12612 Berlin (DE). **PETROV, Orlin** [DE/DE]; Friedrichhaller Strasse 7b, 10439 Berlin (DE). **WILLUHN, Marc** [DE/DE]; Ueckermünder Strasse 6, 10439 Berlin (DE). **GRASKE, Klaus-Dieter** [DE/DE]; Steglitzer Damm 72, 12169 Berlin

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(54) **Title:** CHIRAL HEPTYNE DERIVATIVES FOR THE PREPARATION OF EPOTHILONES AND PROCESSES FOR THEIR PREPARATION



(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to a new synthetic process for the production of key intermediates useful in the synthesis of epothilones or epothilone derivatives, to certain compounds used to produce these key intermediates and to a process to produce said compounds. The intermediates used are represented by formulae II and III, wherein R is selected from H, alkyl and substituted alkyl and X₁ is an oxygen protecting group.

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