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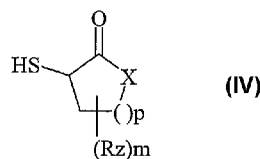
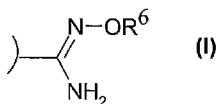
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING PROTECTED AMIIDINES



(57) Abstract: A process for preparing a protected amidine group of formula (I): wherein R^6 represents, for example, C_{1-10} alkyl (optionally substituted), aryl, C_{1-3} alkylaryl or C_{1-3} alkyloxyaryl; which comprises reacting a nitrile containing compound with an oxyamine of formula (II): R^6ONH_2 wherein R^6 is as defined above for (I); in the presence of a thio-keto activating agent of formula (III): $HS-R_y-C(O)-Z$ wherein Z is $-(1-4C)alkyl$, $-OH$, $-O-(1-4C)alkyl$, $-SH$, $-S(1-4C)alkyl$, $-NH_2$, $-NH(1-4C)alkyl$ or $-N[(1-4C)alkyl]_2$; R_y is $(1-2C)alkyl$ (optionally substituted); or Z and R_y are linked so as to form a 5- or 6-membered ring of formula (IV): wherein X is $-CH_2-$, $-O-$, $-NH-$ or $-N(1-4C)alkyl$; p is 1 or 2; m is 1 or 2 and R_z is independently selected from H, $(1-4C)alkyl$, halo and amino.