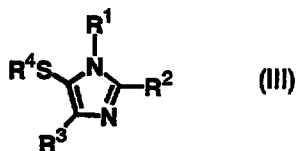
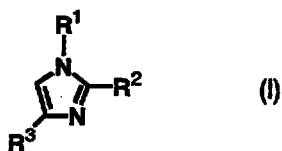


ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a process for producing a compound of the formula (III):



- 5 wherein R¹ and R³ are independently hydrogen or an organic group; R² is an organic group; and R⁴ is an optionally substituted aryl,
by reacting the compound of formula (I):



wherein R¹, R², and R³ are as defined above, with the compound of formula (II):

- 10 R⁴-S-Hal (II)

wherein R⁴ is as defined above and Hal is halogen, in the presence of base.