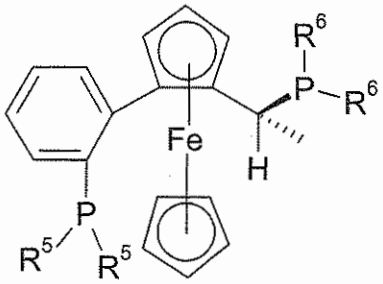
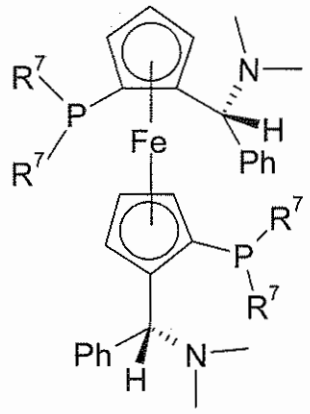


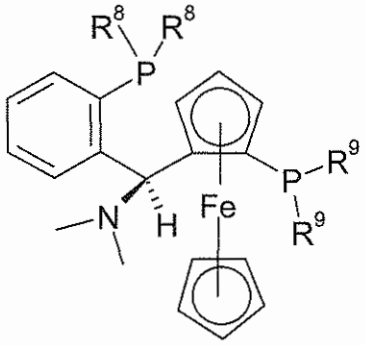
(IV);



(V);



(VI); or



(VII);

wherein

R^3 is alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl;

R^4 is cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl;

R^5 is cycloalkyl or aryl;

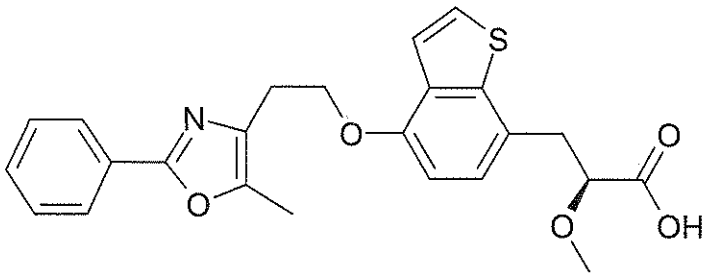
R^6 is cycloalkyl or aryl;

R^7 is cycloalkyl or aryl;

R^8 is cycloalkyl or aryl; and

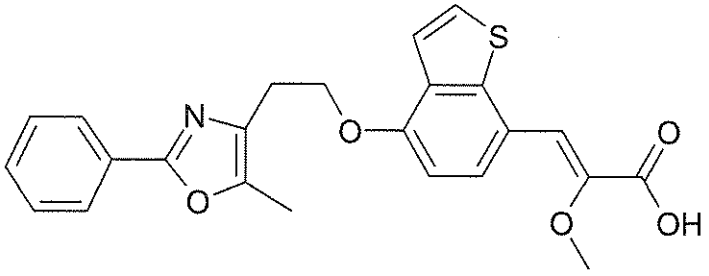
R^9 is cycloalkyl or aryl.

In a first aspect, there is provided a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)



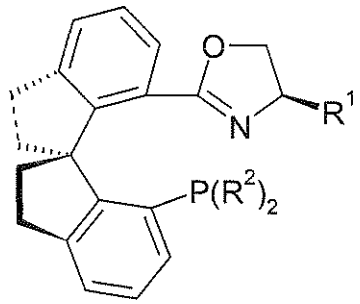
(I)

or a salt thereof, wherein a compound of formula (II)



(II)

or a salt thereof is hydrogenated in the presence of a catalyst comprising iridium and a compound of formula (X)



(X)

wherein

R^1 is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl; and

R^2 is aryl.

The compound of formula (I) is known in the art and is described for example in international application WO 02/092084. It is especially useful for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of diabetes mellitus type I and II.

In a second aspect, there is provided the use of a catalyst as defined above for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined above.

The process according to the ~~invention~~disclosure allows the synthesis of the compound of formula (I) with high enantiomeric excess. It can be performed in dichloromethane and the use of complex solvent mixtures can be avoided. The