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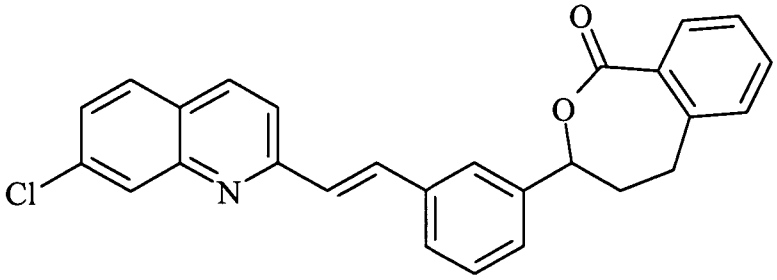

(II)

(57) Abstract: The tertiary alcohol α-[3-[(1*E*)-2-(7-chloro-2-quinolinyl)ethenyl]phenyl]-2-(1-hydroxy- 1-methylethyl)benzenepropanol, the (α*S*)-enantioner of which is an intermediate in the production of montelukast, is produced by reacting the novel lactone of formula (II) with a methylmagnesium halide in an ethereal solvent in the presence of lanthanum trichloride and lithium chloride. The lactone II can be prepared by reacting a corresponding hydroxyester with a Grignard reagent in the absence of a lanthanoid compound or with a strong base.

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