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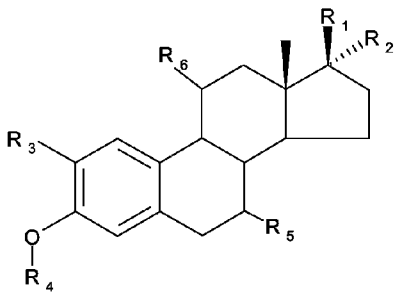
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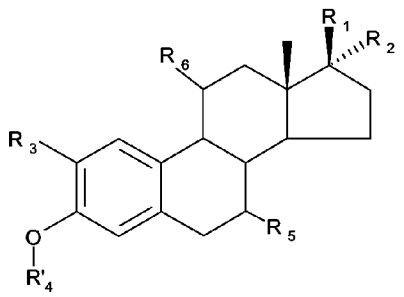
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(54) **Title:** PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ESTRONE AND/OR ESTRADIOL-DERIVATES



(I)



(II)

(57) **Abstract:** Process for the preparation of a compound of general formula (II) wherein R_1 and R_2 independently are hydrogen or a hydroxy- or hydrocarbyl group; or wherein R_1 and R_2 together are a double bonded oxygen; R_3 is hydrogen; R'_4 is a nitrobenzophenone group; and R_5 and R_6 independently are hydrogen or a hydroxy- or hydrocarbyl group; from a compound of general formula (I) wherein, R_1, R_2 R_3, R_5 and R_6 are as defined above and R_4 is hydrogen; wherein the compound of formula (I) is reacted under alkaline conditions with 2-chloro-5-nitrobenzophenone in the presence of an alkanolic solvent and the compound of formula (II) is directly crystallized from this alkanolic solvent. Complex of an alkanol and a compound of general formula (II) obtainable from the above process and processes wherein the above process or complex are used.

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