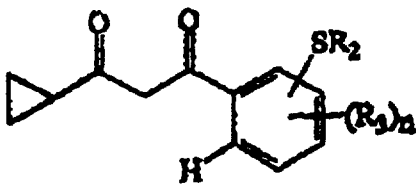




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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING DIKETONE COMPOUNDS  (I) (II) $-(CR_5R_6)_q-SR_2$ (57) Abstract The invention relates to a process for preparing compounds of formula (I), wherein R₂ is lower alkyl; or phenyl optionally substituted by from one to five groups which may be the same or different selected from lower alkyl, lower haloalkyl, halogen and -SR₄; R₃ is halogen, lower alkyl, lower haloalkyl, lower alkoxy, lower haloalkoxy, -S-alkyl, cycloalkyl having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms in the ring, alkenyl or alkynyl having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms, or -(CR₅R₆)_q-SR₂ wherein q is one or two; R₄ is lower alkyl; R₅ and R₆ independently represent hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower haloalkyl; and n is zero or an integer from one to three; to intermediate compounds used in preparing compounds of formula (II), and processes for preparing such compounds.		