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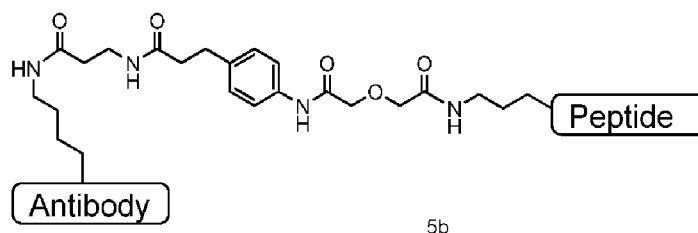
Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to the identity of the inventor (Rule 4.17(i))
- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
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- without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report (Rule 48.2(g))
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(54) **Title:** IMPROVED PROCESSES FOR PREPARING PEPTIDE CONJUGATES AND LINKERS



(57) **Abstract:** The present invention provides a process for preparing a compound of Formula 5b, as well as intermediates thereof, and novel classes of compounds useful in process for preparing these and similar compounds.