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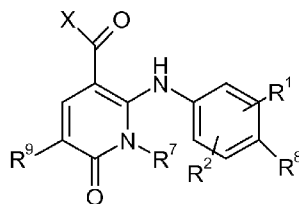
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(I)

(57) Abstract: A route for preparing a compound of formula (I), where X, R¹, R², R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ are as defined in the specification, is described. Process steps used in the route and novel intermediates prepared during the route are also described and claimed. Compounds of formula (I) are used in the preparation of pharmaceutical compounds, in particular inhibitors of MEK, useful in the treatment of hyperproliferative disease such as cancer and inflammatory conditions.

